

Alumni Gazette

WESTERN'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE SINCE 1939



ARE WE **ALONE?**

OUR INTERSTELLAR EXPERTS TACKLE THE BIG QUESTIONS

FALL | 2019

A NIGHT LIKE THIS

Dance/electronic duo Loud Luxury – Andrew Fedyk, BA'15, (Political Science), and Joe Depace, BA'14 (Popular Music Studies) – met through a DJ club at Western in 2012. Just six years later, their song *Body* (feat. Brando) was a smash hit, capturing the 2018 Much Music Video Award for 'Best Song of the Summer' and topping charts around the world. In March, they opened the Juno Awards in London, alongside the Western Mustang Band and Western Mustang Cheerleaders, and nabbed four nominations, winning 'Dance Recording of the Year.' Aug. 29 saw the pair kick off their first-ever headlining North American tour, *Nights Like This*, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

(FRANK NEUFELD PHOTO, BLOCK PARTY MUSIC FESTIVAL, LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 14, 2018)



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STAY AWHILE

Following major renovations to the interior of University College, the laneway in front has been refreshed and repurposed to prioritize pedestrians. The greener space provides seating for socializing, outdoor learning and promotes health and wellness.

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(PHOTO BY STEVEN ANDERSON)



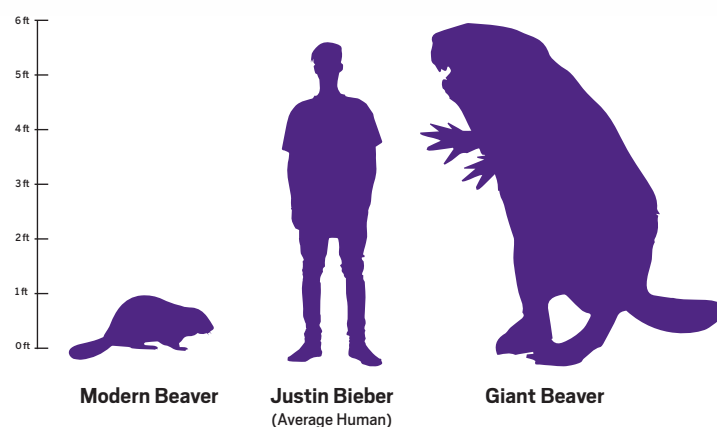
ON THE COVER: (Left to right) Matthew Cross, PhD'17, Csilla Orgel, Melissa Battler, PhD'13, and Hans Van t' Woud simulate a Mars landing mission in the Utah desert. Battler was supervised by Institute for Earth and Space Exploration Director Gordon 'Oz' Osinski during the Mars Desert Research Station project. (Photo by Jim Urquhart/Reuters)



A GIANT BEAVER TALE OF EXTINCTION

About 10,000 years ago, giant beavers roamed the North American continent, along with now-extinct woolly mammoths and mastodons. Now, for the first time, a study led by Western researcher and alumna Tessa Plint, BA'12, MSc'17, has uncovered a possible reason the giant beaver also went extinct at the end of the last Ice Age: its vanishing food source. The research shows these enormous rodents, weighing as much as 100 kilograms, ate submerged aquatic plants but did not eat wood – a distinct (and perhaps deadly) divergence from its dentally endowed descendant.

The study attracted international media coverage, including *The Daily Mail*, *PBS News*, *The New York Post* and *Smithsonian* magazine.



NEW POST-SURGERY PROTOCOL CUTS OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS IN HALF

Deaths from opioid overdoses have become one of the most common injury-related deaths in North America, home to the highest per capita rate of opioid prescription in the world. Recognizing the role opioid prescribing plays in the national opioid crisis, a team of researchers at Western and Lawson Health Research Institute has developed a new clinical protocol called STOP Narcotics. The Standardization of Outpatient Procedure (STOP) protocol includes patient and health-care provider education and emphasizes non-opioid pain control. Results show providers were able to reduce the overall amount of opioids prescribed after general surgery by 50 per cent while still adequately treating a patient's post-operative pain.



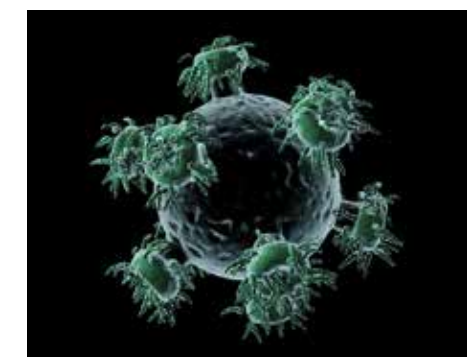
REPORT ADVOCATES FOR ADOPTIVE PARENT LEAVE

An Argument in Favour of EI Attachment Benefits, a new report led by Philosophy and Women's Studies & Feminist Research professor Carolyn McLeod, makes the case that Canada should offer the same paid leave to adoptive parents – 15 weeks at a rate of 55 per cent of average weekly earnings – as received by women after giving birth. While the report highlights the needs of adoptive parents to bond with their children, its main intent is to draw attention to children's need to attach to their new families.



SMOKE-FREE CAMPUS

As of July 1, Western became smoke-free, a milestone marking the final step in a three-phase, 18-month plan to create a healthier, cleaner campus. The first step created a 10-metre smoke-free space around all buildings, while step two limited smoking to designated areas. Western continues to offer supports to campus community smokers looking to quit.



MAKING AN IMPAKT

Unique in North America, Western's new Imaging Pathogens of Knowledge Translation (ImPaKT) facility officially opened in July. The facility houses a cutting-edge suite of imaging equipment within a high-level containment environment allowing researchers unprecedented ability to investigate infectious pathogens like HIV, Staph A and Zika Virus.

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Moments

EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS

On Oct. 19, Western celebrated the close of Be Extraordinary, the University's largest ever fundraising campaign, which raised more than \$805 million (\$55 million over goal), with the most significant portion of funds directed to student programming and awards.



GIFT HONOURS FORMER PRESIDENT

In October, former Western Chancellor Jack Cowin (left), BA'64, LLD'00, and his wife Sharon, BA'64, donated \$5 million to support Western Engineering, and to name the Amit Chakma Engineering Building in honour of their friend and the university's 10th President (right).



MUSTANGS ROCK THE JUNOS

On March 17, more than 125 Western Mustang Band members and cheerleaders joined alumni duo Loud Luxury and Sarah McLachlan to open the 2019 Juno Awards, broadcast live from London.



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

A new podcast hosted by Western's inaugural Alice Munro Chair in Creativity and award-winning novelist Nino Ricci features faculty who demonstrate creativity lies at the heart of innovation. Find *Who Do You Think You Are?* on Apple Podcasts, Google Music, Spotify or at uwo.ca/podcasts/who-do-you-think-you-are.



WESTERN'S 23RD CHANCELLOR

Linda Hasenfratz, BSc'89, MBA'97, LLD'19, Linamar Corporation CEO, has been named Western's 23rd Chancellor. She will be officially installed on Oct. 22.



MARVEL-LOUS NEWS FOR IVEY GRAD

Simu Liu, HBA'11, is set to star in Marvel Studios' *Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*, coming to theatres in 2021. The former accountant's acting career gained momentum through his successful roles on CBC's *Kim's Convenience* and NBC's *Taken*.



WIZARD OF WORDS

By Keri Ferguson

(PHOTO BY FRANK NEUFELD)

Will Nediger is a puzzling guy. Obsessed with solving crosswords

at an early age, he created his first puzzle at 10. “I’m sure it was pretty terrible,” Nediger said, recalling the scores of graph paper ruined, as he erased away his penciling early on, honing his craft.

But practice paid off.

At 16, the *New York Times* – home of the world’s most famous crossword – accepted one of his puzzles. By 18, and in his second year at Western, six of his puzzles had made the cut. Pretty impressive, considering the paper receives 75-100 submissions each week.

Nediger, BA’11 (Linguistics), has always been fascinated by language. “Crosswords, Scrabble, anything word-related,” he said. “All the time, whenever I hear something, I’m shuffling letters around in my head, thinking of ways I could play with that.”

To date, the 29-year-old has made it into the *New York Times* approximately 30 times, challenging more than 500,000 digital crossword subscribers, as well as those who prefer puzzling it out in print, such as former president and avid NYT crossword-solver Bill Clinton.

“It’s funny to think many thousands of people are doing my crosswords, including some famous ones,” Nediger said. “They don’t know who I am at all, which is fine. Crosswords are weird in that way because they’re so ubiquitous, but people don’t often think about their creation, or, they think (NYT crossword editor) Will Shortz just writes them all.”

Nediger’s work has also been featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *GAMES* magazine and a number of crossword books, including *Penguin Classics Crosswords* and *144 Crossword Puzzles That Prove It’s Hip to Be Square*.

Praised by solvers and reviewers for his wit and clever surprises,

“THERE’S NO SUCH THING AS CHEATING AT CROSSWORDS, BECAUSE YOU’RE COMPETING AGAINST YOURSELF AND WHATEVER YOUR GOAL IS.”

one of Nediger’s early *LA Times* Sunday puzzles, titled *Watch the Birdie*, featured ONE under PAR in 10 different places.

But he’s most proud of the independent crosswords he constructs for his blog, bewilderingly, found at blog.bewilderinglypuzzles.com, recently recognized as one of the top 100 puzzle venues to follow in a virtual subculture of thousands.

“You can do things in different sizes online, whereas in standard newspapers, there are two: 15-by-15 squares, the most common, and the Sunday version, 21-by-21. There is just so much more freedom to try out different stuff,” he said.

That includes a puzzle in the shape of the board game, Clue, with different sections of the grid resembling each room. “The names of the people and the words of the weapons were hidden in those rooms. Solvers had to figure out which ones were missing,” he explained.

Constructing the grid is “the fun part” for Nediger, and comes before he writes the clues – a trickier venture, with the words constrained by how they interact with each other, and the challenge to come up with a hint that hasn’t been overused.

“That’s the hardest part, especially if you write as many crosswords as I do,” he explained. “You end up using the same words a lot, because some words – short ones, with lots of vowels – are more useful than others. You don’t want to use the same clue all the time so you have to think of it from a different angle.”

While easy to chalk up the combinations of letters in crosswords to functionality, Nediger is also influenced by both the population of people solving, and constructing, the puzzles.

“One example is the word ‘Eid’, a very important Muslim holiday. It has only appeared in the *New York Times* twice. The first was in January of this year, despite being a three-letter word with two vowels, precisely the sort of word you would expect to see in crosswords all the time,” he said.



TEST YOUR SKILLS AGAINST PUZZLE MASTER WILL NEDIGER, BA'11 (LINGUISTICS), BY ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE A CUSTOM CROSSWORD HE DESIGNED JUST FOR WESTERN ALUMNI. (ANSWERS, P. 58)

“I do imagine a lot of solvers aren't familiar with 'Eid,' but it is the sort of thing you might want to be familiar with, to be a generally culturally aware person. If 'WASPS' are constructing crosswords with a sort of tacit assumption the solvers are the same sort of demographic as them, they might not necessarily think to include things like that.”

With pencil, eraser and graph paper long-abandoned, Nediger uses software to create his grids. He also maintains a master word list, to keep every subject from politics to pop culture current, and his content, fresh.

“Issa Rae, the creator of the TV show *Insecure*, is very popular these days,” he said. “We've had ways to clue 'Rae' before – we've had Carly Rae Jepsen and Norma Rae from decades ago. Issa Rae, we could not have done until the last few years, when she became popular.

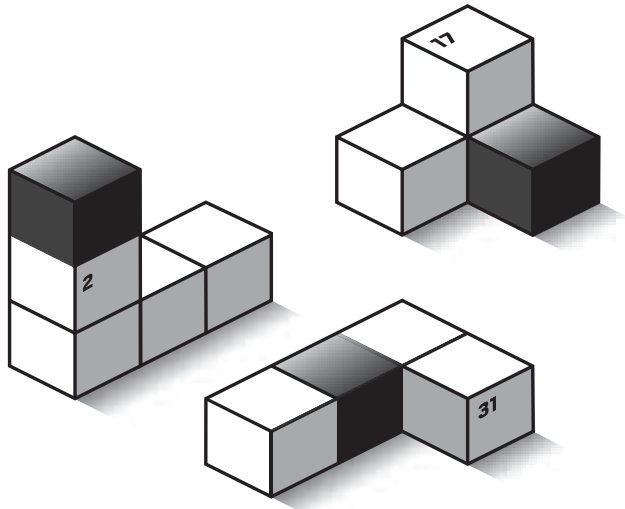
“And, there was no one famous with the first name, 'Issa' until she came along,” Nediger added. “She's been a total godsend for crossword constructors. It's especially nice she's a woman of colour, and to work in representation that was not common in the past.”

To ensure more diversity in the field itself, he co-founded The Crossword Puzzle Collaboration Directory, with an aim to match aspiring creators in under-represented groups with experienced constructors. “Crosswords are going to be poorer if the group of people who construct them isn't diverse, just like any sort of creative endeavour.”

While times change, what draws people to crosswords remains the same. The quest that's made it a popular daily ritual since the puzzle's debut in 1913.

“It's the goal-oriented thing,” Nediger said. “Any type of puzzle that has a solution is satisfying.”

For a lot of people, that means getting it



done without any outside help, but he asserts “there's no such thing as cheating at crosswords, because you're competing against yourself and whatever your goal is. If you want to complete it using Google, that's totally fine.”

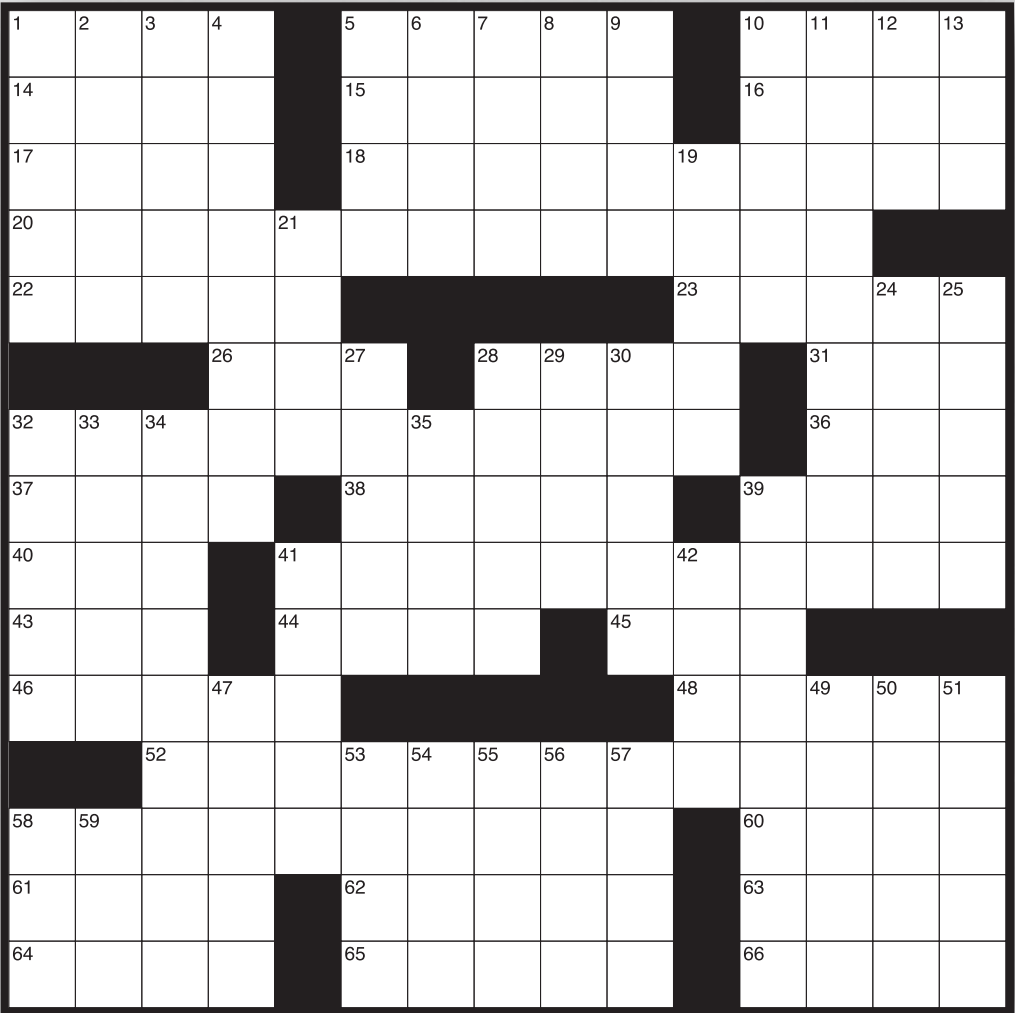
Nediger, who can solve a daily crossword in about seven minutes, knows well the rush of the 'right' response. A veteran of academic quiz competitions, his high school Reach for the Top team won both the 2007 provincial and national championships, and his Western Quizbowl team took the second place Division II title at the 2008 National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) in Chicago. While earning his PhD in Linguistics at the University of Michigan, he led his team to capture the 2017 Chicago Open, extending their reign from the previous year.

He's still very much connected to the Quizbowl community today, contracted by NAQT as a “high-volume writer” of questions for the many weekly tournaments taking place across the United States, Canada and now, Asia. Working from his hometown of London, Ont., the job provides a steady source of income, allowing him to freelance, creating crosswords for mainstream venues, paid subscribers to his blog, and those looking to give a highly personalized gift.

“Custom crosswords are some of my favourites because I'm writing for one instead of thousands,” he said. Either way, he's happy at work, playing with words. “I'm very lucky to get paid to do something I love.”

ACROSS


- Season-long storylines, often
- Words before a deadline
- Lyft alternative
- Pump bottom
- Words to a kidder
- Home of many Picassos, informally
- Dart around
- Publisher's faux-Latin placeholder text
- Getting a great start [CBC host Carol]
- Get ready to use again
- “Love is blind,” e.g.
- Unhoped-for answers, usually
- Like many Olympic races
- Still in the box, say
- University in Dayton, Ohio [Composer and musician Don]
- Late lunchtime for many
- Simple homes
- Victorian novelist Charles with an apt-sounding last name
- Assert categorically
- Key often pushed frantically
- “The Tin Drum” novelist [OB/GYN Jennifer]
- “What's your ____?” (text to someone who's running late)
- Ambulance crew, for short
- Descartes' conclusion
- Truss who wrote “Eats, Shoots & Leaves”
- Freeze over
- The people featured in this puzzle's theme entries, in both a literal and a directional sense
- No-strings-attached announcement?
- Game delayer
- Settled, as the tab
- Kevin of “A Fish Called Wanda”
- Lo-cal
- Bohemian
- Soothes
- Conveyance for Calvin and Hobbes



DOWN

- When it comes to
- John who married Pocahontas
- Place for some hangers
- Display options, e.g.
- Blockhead
- “This doesn't look good!”
- Brontë's governess
- Namesake of two late 19th-century wars
- “3:10 to ____” (classic western)
- Worked from home?
- “The Girl from Ipanema” genre
- It lays a big egg
- Aries animal
- Start of Caesar's boast
- “But then again,” in a text
- Contents of some pools
- Wide-mouthed jugs
- Casually play some chords
- 55-Down and others
- Get one's ankles wet
- Wombs
- Revolutionary invention, in two senses
- Needing practice
- “Not right now”
- On its way
- Bicep strengtheners
- V components
- Influential journalist Sheehy
- Like a stereotypical D&D player
- It might carry a virus
- Band together
- Yearned
- Opinion that might be hot
- Mai or Fitzgerald of music
- Hank Aaron's 2,297
- ____ of the above
- Pro votes
- Hoppy quaff
- Deface

See answers on page 58.



ALLIES ANCHOR ARSENAULT

By Keri Ferguson

Adrienne Arsenault has never been in it alone. Whether sharing *The National* anchor desk with three other hosts, or as part of a crew covering stories from the four corners of the globe, a strong sense of comradery has helped her get – and get through – the tougher stories she’s faced as one of the country’s top correspondents.

“For me, the beauty of what we do is that we do it in teams. I love, love, love to write, but I would not have been very good in print.

“You talk stuff out on the road. These people I go out with – the shooters and the producers – I think of them as my brothers and sisters. I would do anything for them. We know all each other’s secrets – blood types, medications, when you need to eat, when you really shouldn’t be eating, how much sleep you need. We know everything about each other. A lot of that enables you to be able to look at somebody and say, ‘Hey, are you okay? What part of that got to you?’”

Hired as an editorial assistant for *The National* – after getting lost on her way to an interview with *As It Happens* – Arsenault, BA’90, MA’91, LLD’13, has risen to become an award-winning senior correspondent and one of four anchors who replaced veteran newscaster Peter Mansbridge, LLD’08, in 2017.

Hosting CBC’s flagship newscast was never her driver. In fact, she was “thunderstruck” when Editor-in-Chief (and fellow Western grad) Jennifer McGuire, BSc’85 (Biology), asked if she’d consider having her name put forward.

“We talked about how I would never stop being a reporter first. As long as that was OK, then what crazy person would say ‘no?’”

Two weeks later while on holidays, Arsenault maneuvered her kayak to receive a cell signal and word she’d been chosen to host a revamped newscast, alongside Rosemary Barton, Andrew Chang and Ian Hanomansing.

(PHOTO BY GEOFF ROBINS)


Arsenault had worked with Hanomansing before when she was as a researcher and then reporter at CBC Vancouver. In an even earlier encounter, working an overnight shift in Toronto in 1992, the young editorial assistant answered a call from Hanomansing from a phone booth in L.A., as riots erupted under the not guilty verdict delivered in the death of Rodney King.

"This was all before smart-phones," Arsenault laughed. "I had an atlas out and remember saying, 'OK, it seems to be at the intersection of Florence and Normandie, and you're where?' Ian was so kind and gracious to me. He knew I was just some kid on the other end of the phone."

From Hanomansing's perspective, that 'kid' "was so smart, and instantly understood what we needed. One of the things she said to us was, 'I'll be on the other end of the phone for you all night.' That's Adrienne," he explained.

A senior correspondent for *The National* since 1999, Arsenault has covered some of the biggest breaking and investigative stories in Canada and around the world, earning several Gemini and Canadian Screen Awards, and an International Emmy for her coverage of the Ebola crisis in 2015.

With the virus sweeping Monrovia, the West African capital of Liberia, the CBC was one of few networks willing to go. Arsenault was all in. Before departing, a clinical disease specialist helped her, producer Stephanie Jenzer and videographer



Arsenault became one of four anchors when *The National* relaunched in November 2017, with the peace of mind she'd still be in the field, covering stories "that matter" to Canadians.

(PHOTOS BY GEOFF ROBINS)

"IT WAS STRANGE TO BE IN A PLACE WHERE YOU COULDN'T SEE THE ENEMY, BUT YOU COULD SEE ITS DESTRUCTION EVERYWHERE."

Jean-François Bisson understand the course and symptoms of the disease, and how to avoid infection.

For eight days, they shared one room, eating packaged rations, vigilantly wearing gloves and bleaching down the handles of their vehicle, cameras and phones. Maintaining a physical distance to keep safe from infected fluids was "counter-intuitive," Arsenault said.

"You want to be close enough to people so you can have an intimate conversation and feel like you're with them. They need that, too. The entire country of Liberia is such a warm place – an embrace and hug in their culture is such a big deal. But people weren't touching each other – not even a fist-bump."

Also striking, was the silence.

"A lot of disasters – whether it is conflict or a natural or man-made disaster – they are loud, chaotic. There's a cacophony, sometimes, of agony and fear. But this felt like a silent disaster. People were so sick; they were so quiet and so slow. It was strange to be in a place where you couldn't see the enemy, but you could see its destruction everywhere."

An outbreak of another kind awaited their return home. A wave of 'fear-bola'

spreading south of the border had sparked some irrational apprehension and negative comments in Canada, painting Arsenault and her team as a potential risk to public health.

Though they were never exposed to or in contact with infected fluids, and recorded and reported their temperatures twice a day, these fears kicked "an abundance of caution" into play.

"We knew the perception of danger and risk. We didn't want to enflame anybody's panic. We could see it was happening in the United States. They were hysterical. We did not need that to happen here, even though we *knew* we had been careful and lucky and had not been exposed."

For 21 days, the trio worked in a condo across from the CBC and away from their homes, filing stories "from the confines of our little place – going crazy."

"I don't like to be penned in," Arsenault added.

She has held posts in Washington, D.C., Jerusalem and the United Kingdom, and reported from a long list of countries including Pakistan, Zimbabwe and Syria, where she packed syringes and special gauze for arterial wounds while shooting the award-winning *Ruins of Raqqa*.

Despite the risks and precautions, she "absolutely has a crush" on a job that puts her in places others would not venture.

"I welcome being pushed and challenged," she explained. "I want to feel sharp and acute all the time. I'm unnerved by the concept of comfort in my work."

Good thing, since the anchor desk came with somewhat of a hot seat when *The National* relaunched in November 2017. The concept of replacing one host with four – part of a larger format change to keep pace with how a broader audience



Whether reporting from around the world, or working in the newsroom, teamwork has been a vital and consistent part of Arsenault's career. Here, she works with producer Meg Banks.

consumes its news – brought mixed reaction from core viewers and "relentless" scrutiny from other media.

"For sure, we felt – and feel – huge pressure. We feel a responsibility. To the audience. To each other. To our beautiful team. These are the nicest people and they care so damn much. These are people who, when something happens, and they're on their days off, they come in anyway. They stay late; they come in early. We feel a responsibility to them, too."

Packaging content to work across a variety of digital platforms and offering fewer stories with more in-depth analysis beyond headlines that are a constant click away, is not a radical approach.

"But, we're held to a different standard – as we should be as the public broadcaster. We take that on, that's OK. People have every right to ask questions and to push."

In a world where 'fake news' is both a slur and a reality, Arsenault believes "there's a lot we can do, not just with adults, but in schools, reteaching media literacy, urging people to take the time to figure out where they are getting their information, asking questions about sourcing, asking questions about accountability and realizing that it is on them as much as it is on us."

She loves interacting with viewers on social media, taking their questions, learning what matters most in their daily lives and pushing for answers – from panelists to politicians – on their behalf. "It feels like a service and the right thing to do."

"I believe strongly in public broadcasting as a duty to go and do stories that aren't always the most popular or ratings-driven – but instead matter. They matter sometimes to people in this country who don't have the same voice and the same exposure. So damn it, we're going to do it."

"People deserve better than just getting a summary of what they may already know at the end of the day. That's why we keep pushing. We're all on this ride together that's for sure." ♥

Left to right: Western Space Associate
Directors Jayshri Sabarinathan and
Jan Cami; Western Space Director
Gordon 'Oz' Osinski. (PHOTO BY FRANK NEUFELD)

ARE WE **ALONE?**

OUR INTERSTELLAR EXPERTS TACKLE THE BIG QUESTIONS

By Parshati Patel, MSc'12, PhD'16 (Astronomy and Planetary Science)

For thousands of years, humans have looked to the sky. From hunting and farming to exploring and learning, stars have propelled the course of human evolution. Yet, one constant question remains central to human curiosity: *Are we alone?*

It's a singular question potentially considered in various ways: Are we unique? What makes Earth an ideal place for life? What would life be like on other planets? How would we even know if there's life out there?

To start probing such questions, Western University has assembled an interstellar team of all-star astronomers, explorers, scientists and engineers to do just that.

Officially launched this year, the Institute for Earth and Space Exploration at Western – known as Western Space – builds on the university's decade-long track record as Canada's leader for space research, technology development and student training. The Institute brings together 61 researchers from 18 different departments across campus to answer big questions for government, industry and everyday Canadians, including ours: *Are we alone?*

* * *

We have one single data point when it comes to life – that's life on Earth. The more we know about the origins of life on the Pale Blue Dot, the more we can blueprint beyond our atmosphere as to what, and more importantly how, to look for in extraterrestrial life.

To use the single data point, a strong understanding of biodiversity is essential. Earth sits in a habitable zone, a zone around a star that has a warm enough temperature for liquid water to exist. In addition to water, or some kind of solvent, a nutrient source and an energy source are also required.

Water was never a problem for Earth. The question remains, however, if we always have the nutrients and the energy required to actually bring life into being or not.

While many theories exist of how life on Earth first came to be, the theory that microorganisms may have traveled to Earth aboard meteorites or comets is one of the most intriguing. These microorganisms would have carried the essential nutrients; the energy released as the result of the meteorite impact would have provided more than enough energy to start the process. We know the universe is full of nutrients we can find here on Earth. What we don't know for sure is if they were brought here or they were already here.

As far back as he can remember, Western Space Director Gordon 'Oz' Osinski has looked to the stars in awe wondering 'What is out there?' And his research today into impact craters continues to look for his answer.

"Hydrothermal systems within craters, in general, are incredibly exciting for astrobiology as these are the environments where we think life began on Earth," said the Earth Sciences professor. "It's also where life may have begun on

other planets such as Mars."

Impact events also transform the rocks in other ways to create unique habitats that provide a shield for the intense radiation that would have existed in the early history of Earth. This continues to exist today on the surface of Mars. Recognized as one of the world's eminent planetary geologists, Osinski studies these craters from the Canadian Arctic to the Australian Outback. Close to 200 craters have been found on Earth and there are countless thousands of others on solid celestial bodies throughout the Solar System.

"We're still just at the early stages of learning about the beneficial effects of meteorite impacts, but based on what we know so far, such events could have played a fundamental role in the origin of life here on Earth and elsewhere in the universe," Osinski explained.

* * *

While asteroid and comet impacts provide ideal conditions and a safe haven for life, meteorites (the leftover material of asteroids and comets found at the impacts) hold highly complex molecules.

According to Western Space Associate Director Jan Cami, "Some meteorites are known to contain more than 70 kinds of amino acids, while all life on Earth require only 20 kinds of amino acids."

An astrochemist, inspired since childhood by the comic adventure series Tintin's *Destination Moon* and *Explorers on the Moon*, Cami studies chemistry in the universe. The Physics and Astronomy professor spends much of his time researching complex molecules in regions between stars and the surroundings of dying stars to understand how they originate, evolve and thrive in such environments.

Amino acids are complex organic compounds that combine to form proteins, which in turn, become the building blocks of life. What's exciting for researchers like Cami is amino acids have been found in space.

'Buckyballs' – soccer-ball-shaped carbon molecules – can be found there, too. Cami discovered their existence in 2010, an exciting finding as they have unique properties, making make them important players for a myriad of physical and chemical processes. If those processes can happen in space, it's not difficult to connect the dots – or stars – to conclude that the asteroids and comets that bombarded Earth in its early history may have brought the necessary water and other organic molecules home to *terra ferma* to spark life.

"It's all chemistry," Cami said. "When the ingredients are present and the conditions are right, the reaction will occur. The ingredients required for life are widespread in the universe."

* * *

Are we alone? The potential is certainly there for life to originate in space. In our Solar System, Mars, Saturn's moon Titan,



Physics and Astronomy professor Sarah Gallagher, first-ever Science Advisor to the President of the Canadian Space Agency

(PHOTO BY FRANK NEUFELD)

and Jupiter's moons Europa and Enceladus are excellent possibilities. Geysers of water have been detected on Enceladus; scientists believe there is an ocean under the sheet of ice on Europa. The hunt for an ideal location for life in our system continues with a number of new missions underway to explore these potentially habitable celestial objects.

To date, more than 4,000 exoplanets have also been discovered. Exoplanets, or extrasolar planets, are planets orbiting other stars. Just as stars have a habitable zone, galaxies also have a similar zone, which would be away from any supernovae and massive black holes. They'd also require the chemical ingredients necessary to form planets. This sweet spot – the galactic habitable zone – would harbor ideal conditions for stars to host hospitable planets.

Physics and Astronomy professor Sarah Gallagher, the first-ever Science Advisor to the President of the Canadian Space Agency (CSA), studies black holes. These majestic objects, which many believe are created in the death throes of the most massive stars, are regions of space where gravity is so extreme that it prevents the escape of everything – even light. Supermassive black holes, like the ones Gallagher examines, are found at the centres of large galaxies.

"Winds from black holes affect the immediate vicinity of black holes, making the area not-so-habitable for planets, and for life on such planets," Gallagher said. "Studying the properties of the winds, as well as the extent of their effects on stars and gas, allows us to gauge the start of a habitable zone."

Black hole winds could help trigger star formation and sometimes blowing the material away actually shuts down the birth of stars. The amount of elements (that are heavier than hydrogen and helium) in these scenarios has

huge implications on the types of the planets that form around the stars. The winds from the black holes also push higher amounts of metals away from its core and into the galactic habitable zone.

While Gallagher studies black holes – some of the most mysterious objects in the universe – she also ponders the philosophical side of the universe as an adjunct professor in Western's Rotman Institute of Philosophy.

"Scientific experiments are also philosophical as they're based on assumptions that are philosophical choices that we make," Gallagher said. "The question 'Are we alone?' leads to other questions about the formation of the universe and even the existence of multiple universes. If there is only one universe, is it a fluke? Or would we have wound up with this universe no matter how it started exactly?"

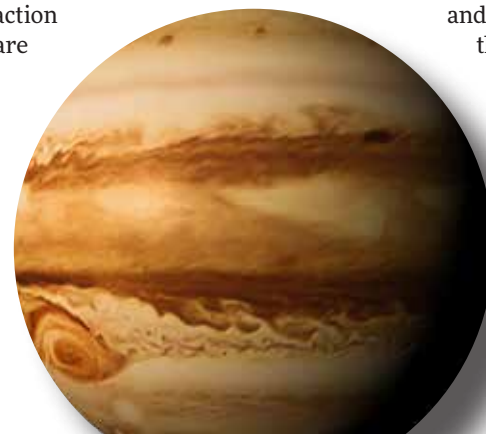
* * *

To understand when and where life could thrive in the universe, the need to build sensitive instruments to detect such life becomes vital. Western Space Associate Director Jayshri Sabarinathan builds multispectral cameras, which have a number of applications beyond space including agriculture, resource mapping and remote sensing. These cameras take snapshots at various wavelength bands including visible, ultraviolet and near infrared. When these images are combined together, they form data cubes, which present a wealth of information for scientists studying Earth and space.

For example, to look for water on other planets, data is required at multiple



Sabarinathan



different wavelengths. It is important for engineers like Sabarinathan to know what scientists are looking for specifically in order to design and customize the instruments to meet those requirements.

She recalls being interested in space early on. “As a kid, I spent hours on our apartment terrace trying to observe Haley’s comet with a telescope my parents bought me. I’d discuss space topics with my dad all the time. All through my undergraduate and graduate education, I’ve always stayed interested in all things space”.

An expert in photonic instrumentation and sensor development, the Electrical and Computer Engineering professor is building new camera technologies for space at Western that are not only small in size, but also retain the high quality and strength required for proper imaging in harsh environments, in addition to meeting the low-mass and low-power usage requirements essential in space applications.

Sabarinathan is also the principal investigator for the Western University – Nunavut Arctic College CubeSat project, which is one of 15 CubeSats across Canada funded by the CSA and scheduled to be launched from the International Space Station in 2022. This project offers a unique opportunity for Western and Nunavut Arctic students to take part in a real space mission by designing, building, and operating their own miniature satellite. This student-driven project allows current and future Earth and space explorers a unique opportunity to conduct a flight test with an imaging system that provides an out-of-this-world virtual reality experience.

* * *

We are just now scratching the surface of the sky. New technologies. New ideas. New vantage points. All that combines at Western to create a new outlook on the universe. But in the end, Western Space researchers understand that at the heart of questions about life ‘out there’ are questions about life ‘down here.’

“Perhaps it is ironic in that the farther out we can see, the more personal the questions become about ourselves, our origins and our place in the cosmos,” Osinski said. “We deal in such huge distances, sizes, even time scales that the awe-inspiring vastness of space itself often distracts from why we are looking up and out in the first place.

“It is important to remember the biggest questions we are seeking answers to have the most personal possible answers. ‘Are we alone?’ Think what a definitive answer to that would mean to you.”

SPACE MATTERS

Western’s new Institute for Earth and Space Exploration (Western Space) is a veritable culmination of more than a decade of research and training excellence.

Western hosts Canada’s only graduate program in planetary science and also offers a minor at the undergraduate level. Several national networking and collaborative initiatives are also led by Western faculty, most notably the Canadian Lunar Research Network – a member of the NASA Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute.

Here are just a few of Western’s all-star space faculty making a major difference in Canada and beyond:

Utilizing optical instruments such as the NASA Spitzer Space Telescope, as well as advanced computer data-mining techniques, Western astrophysicist **Pauline Barmby** investigates how stars, gas, dust and black holes affect one another.

Peter Brown, Canada Research Chair in Planetary Small Bodies and an internationally recognized authority on meteors, asteroids and comets, works with NASA to target, track, monitor and measure meteoroids in the Earth’s atmosphere to better understand the very beginnings of the solar system.

Isha DeCoito from Western’s Faculty of Education is developing a new graduate program for space professionals. She also co-leads the Space Matters initiative, which raises awareness of the importance of space to Canadians and how it touches on nearly every aspect of their daily lives.

Ken McIsaac, chair of Western’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Western Space (acting) Associate Director for Training, is involved in several projects examining machine learning and autonomous activities for space and planetary science applications.

Catherine Neish, a Western planetary geologist, is the only Canadian researcher involved with the Dragonfly project, NASA’s \$850-million drone mission set to explore Saturn’s massive moon Titan.

Kevin Shoemaker, Canada Research Chair in Integrative Physiology of Exercise and Health, examines how the lack of gravity affects normal circulation and distribution of blood inside the body and the problems it can cause astronauts when they return to Earth. Some of his findings could prevent falls among frail elderly people.



Western Alumni’s 2020 Discover the World program offers travel opportunities for Western alumni and their friends and family, faculty, staff and friends of the University.

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

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

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

t. 519.661.2111 or 1.800.258.6896
ext. 85871 e. discovertheworld@uwo.ca

Western Alumni

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

Categories, criteria and nomination form can be found at www.alumni.westernu.ca/connect/recognition-awards/alumni-awards-of-merit/

The nomination deadline is November 29, 2019. Awards will be presented in June 2020.

For more information, please call Susan Henderson at 519.661.2111 ext. 85871



Fred Possmayer, PhD’65 <i>Professional Achievement Award</i>	Lois Elliott Fraser, OMC, HBA’77 <i>Community Service Award</i>	Dr. Boluwaji Ogunyemi, BSc’08 <i>Young Alumni Award</i>	Hanny Assaf Hassan, CM, BSc’64 <i>Dr. Ivan Smith Award</i>
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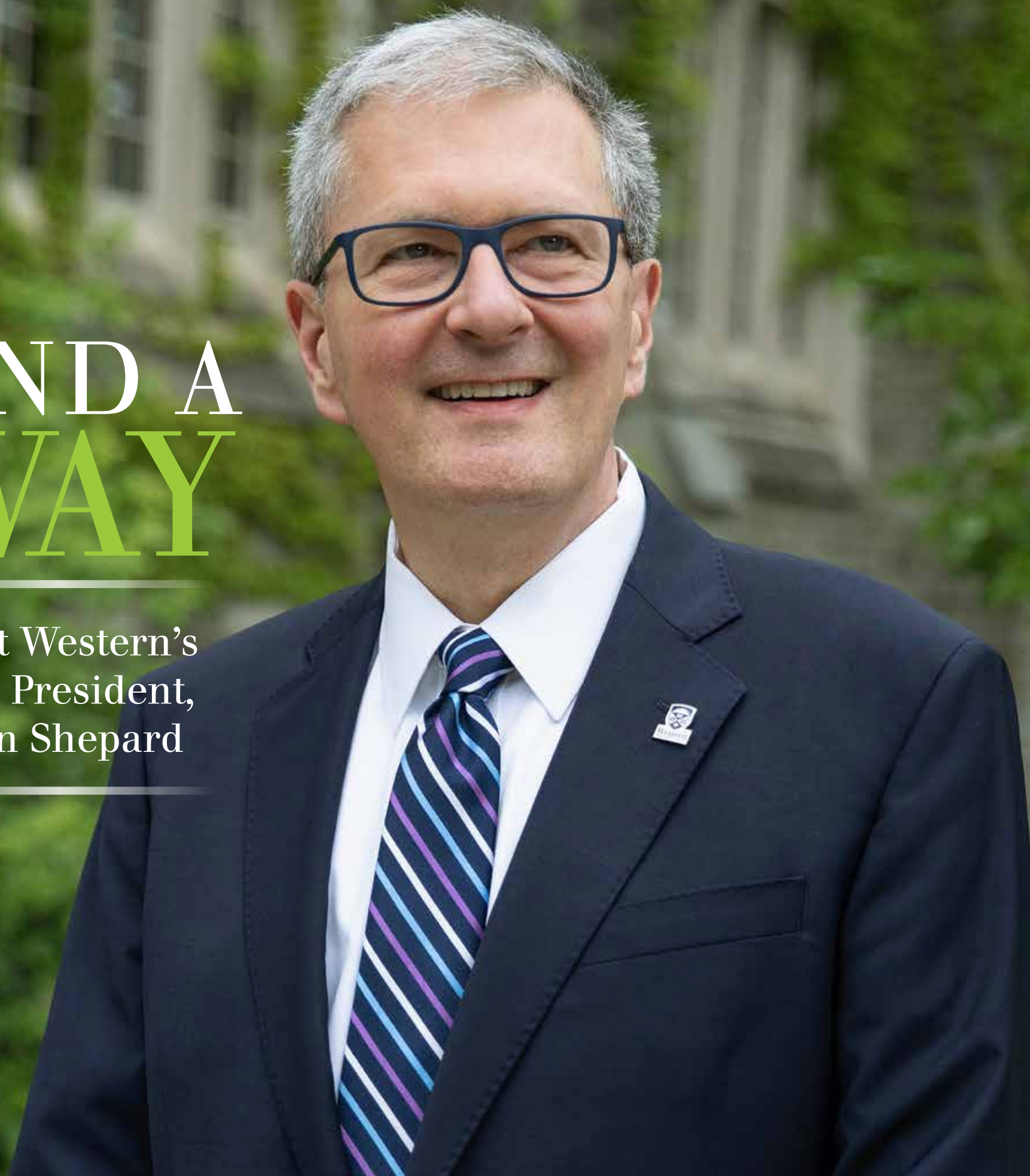
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FIND A WAY

Meet Western's
new President,
Alan Shepard



Alan Shepard took office as Western's President & Vice-Chancellor on July 1, after serving as President & Vice-Chancellor of Concordia University in Montreal. Here, he sits down with *Alumni Gazette* Executive Editor Marcia Steyaert, BA'96, to talk about the power of education, the challenges and opportunities facing universities and the critical role alumni play in Western's future.

What interested you in being Western's 11th President? Why now?

I knew the quality of the academic work going on here – the research and the teaching. And the incredible student experience that Western offers reminded me of my time as an undergrad at a U.S. liberal arts college. Living on campus was a transformational, profound experience for me.

Western also has a similar profile to my graduate school alma mater, the University of Virginia (UVA), which is a few hours outside of Washington, D.C., just as Western is a few hours outside of Toronto. Western, like UVA, is a world-class institution. Both have distinguished histories and bright futures.

This opportunity to join Western came at a great moment in my career, having completed seven successful years at Concordia. I was ready for a new challenge and thought Western was the ideal one for me.

What have your first few months been like at Western?

So far, it has been great. I've received a very warm, friendly welcome from all corners.

My initial impressions about quality and exceptional experience have all been confirmed. The facilities are fantastic, and the campus is beautiful.

I really like London and, honestly, I feel at home already. I grew up in the American Midwest and London feels like home.

Are you seeing some immediate opportunities?

Under President (Amit) Chakma, the University made great strides internationally – in terms of the number of international students, but also in terms of partnerships and research opportunities. I'd like us to continue that trajectory.

Growing Western's reputation and profile, both nationally and internationally, is important to the future of the university, and to our graduates, and our alumni network can help us do this.

One of the great treasures of an institution like Western is its alumni network. I'd like to work to maximize the value of this network for the benefit of our alumni, but also for our current students. The idea is when you join Western you become part of this large, influential family that can provide lifelong opportunities extending beyond your days on campus.

In terms of health care, Western has a great medical school affiliated with major teaching hospitals and research hospitals and I think we can be more than the sum of our parts when we work together.

With the variety of disciplines at Western, it is important everyone feel a part of where the university is going. All faculties are part of the Western story, and we're at our best when we work together and leverage our interdisciplinary strengths.

(PHOTO BY FRANK NEUFELD)



What will the ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution’ mean for universities? For Western?

We are in the midst of a digital revolution and the rapid changes we are experiencing can be daunting. These are deep and uncharted waters, and universities are needed now more than ever. And it’s a great time to be a student! Such a dynamic moment – lots of opportunities.

Artificial intelligence (AI) is going to change how we deliver education. Typically, universities have delivered a ‘one-size-fits-all’ model and I think AI will make the learning experience more personalized. For example, technology is going to make it possible for an instructor to help each student proceed at a different pace, based on their skills and experience, rather than everyone proceeding in lockstep.

One of the paradoxes for me is much of the technological change we are confronting has been invented by universities, whether it’s machines, computers, cell phones, surgical devices. At the same time, universities are known as conservative institutions where change is slow. I think universities will

“WE ARE IN THE MIDST OF A DIGITAL REVOLUTION AND THE RAPID CHANGES WE ARE EXPERIENCING CAN BE DAUNTING. THESE ARE DEEP AND UNCHARTED WATERS, AND UNIVERSITIES ARE NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER.”

have to move faster than they do today and that will be one of the great tensions – how do we preserve the past and present it to the next generation but keep up with these rapid changes?

What are other big challenges facing universities today?

It is fascinating when you go to a meeting of university presidents in Europe, China or elsewhere in North America – we are all facing many of the same fundamental issues.

Access to education matters a great deal to me. I am the first in my family to go to university. Every day I come to work I think how powerful universities are in terms of the transformational impact they can have, not only for the students here today, but for their children and grandchildren. Education can

change the trajectory for an entire family for generations to come. It builds people and it builds the country.

Are universities playing a different role now than they did even five, 10 years ago in terms of making their graduates career-ready?

I think there is an artificial notion that in the old days universities didn’t prepare students for careers, and now they’re suddenly supposed to. All the way back to the Middle Ages we prepared people for professions like divinity, law and medicine. Universities have always helped students be career ready.

However, what we mean by ‘career-ready’ is shifting. It’s about providing more learning opportunities that take place outside the classroom.

Students and their families are hungry for experiential learning; I understand that. Western has a lot of these opportunities today, and will offer even more in the future.

What is Western’s role in the future of the City of London? Why is “local” important to universities trying to be the very best nationally and internationally?

I reject the idea we have to choose – that if we are international we can’t also be locally engaged. London isn’t an island – it also needs to continue to engage internationally in order to attract major businesses, jobs, tourism. But the local community... they are the people that support you, they are there for you, their tax dollars help make this place go.

Internationally, Western has made a lot of progress. That is really important and we must keep going in that direction, but at the same time we must always work locally. I am excited to work with Londoners, and learn more about how they support us and how we support London.

One of Western’s priorities right now is entrepreneurship. Why is it such an important part of the student experience?

It goes back to the question of how higher education is being transformed. One of the shifts has to do with how we see students. Instead of vessels that need to be filled with knowledge, they are agents in their own destiny.

Many of the world’s greatest ideas come from young people. Universities can provide the coaching and some structure to help students take their ideas and build something new. Even if a student isn’t ultimately going to be an entrepreneur, just having an entrepreneurial experience can help them see the world, and themselves, differently.

What role can Western alumni play in the university’s future success?

Our alumni are our greatest ambassadors. But they can also be our critics, and that’s a good thing. They can help us stay on a good path.

Alumni may have ideas for where the university should go and they are always welcome to contact me. I answer

my own email, and it may take me a few days, but I’ll always respond.

I’m preparing for a President’s Alumni Tour where I’ll be visiting 15 cities around the world to meet with alumni over the coming months. They’re the fabric of the Western story and our connections with them will help make the university stronger.

What do you do to relax?

Well, being a university president is a 24/7 job. I always joke with my team I only turn off my phone if I’m on a plane. I do like to cook, read, garden, watch movies, hang out with my family. In Montreal, I became an avid Habs fan. Can I say that here?

My family is very outdoorsy, so there’s lots of hiking, biking, travelling around. I’ve also come to enjoy growing vegetables and herbs. And like many of us, I enjoy theatre, music, art. But being at home, making my own pesto, and then having friends over for dinner – that’s the best.

What are you reading?

I try to regularly read *The Times Literary Supplement*. I like that it gives you digestible-sized book reviews in everything from science, architecture and health to the humanities. It’s a sampler of what’s going on across all disciplines. I also try to read *The Economist* when I can. I love biographies and just finished one about American President John Adams that captures his relationship with his wife and their almost daily correspondence with each other. I try to imagine what it was like to live when they did and how some of the fundamental issues of their lives aren’t that different from our own today.

Any real-life heroes?

One was a graduate school teacher, professor Irvin Ehrenpreis. I loved the way he taught his students. He took us seriously, he took our ideas seriously. He was a hard ass, he was old school. He scared the slackers, but I loved him

and the way he engaged us. He was a great mentor and coach and saw potential in people before they saw it in themselves.

The other was Beth Cunz, a registered nurse I reported to when I worked in health care early in my career. Beth wasn’t focused on hierarchy, just the environment and the team and providing excellent patient care. I loved working for her because no matter what role you played, or what level you were at, she made you feel special and that you were an important part of the team.

What’s your personal philosophy about life?

I actually have it right here on my whiteboard – ‘Find a Way’. That mantra has served me, and the institutions I’ve led, well over the years.

As a university leader, I want to say to the campus community – you have ideas and we’re going to help you access university resources to move your projects forward or pursue your new ideas.

I’m the kind of person who says, “That’s an interesting problem, let’s figure it out,” or “That’s a great opportunity, let’s go for it.” ♥

Roots: Born in the United States, Alan first came to Canada as a visiting researcher at the University of Toronto in 1994. He is now a dual-citizen and has lived in Canada permanently since 2002.

Family: Alan and his partner, Stephen Powell, are parents of two sons, now 18 and 19.

Education: PhD’90 (English) from the University of Virginia; BA’83 (English) from St. Olaf College, Minnesota; Visiting Student at Cambridge University (1982).

Past roles: President, Concordia University (2012 to 2019); Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Ryerson University (2007 to 2012); various senior academic leadership roles at the University of Guelph, TCU in Texas, and the University of Virginia.

Board service: London Economic Development Corporation; Canadian Research Knowledge Network; Universities Canada; Stratford Festival; and the Montreal Chamber of Commerce.

THE FIRST GIG

Alumni reflect on their first job out of Western

Jennifer Urbanski, BMOS'09

What was your first paying gig out of Western?



Co-ordinator, Sponsorship Sales for the National Basketball Association (NBA) Canada

What helped you land the job?

I was a competitive snowboarder when I was at Western, and after third year I decided to put school on hold to move to Whistler, B.C., to represent Burton Snowboards on its amateur team. I sold everything I had and bought an \$180 bus ticket out West. My parents were mortified when I left school, but I never doubted I would come back and finish my degree. My Dad was so relieved and proud when I graduated.

My boss at the NBA later told me the experience and knowledge I gained around the sponsorship industry helped me stand out. He also thought as a former sponsored athlete, I would have discipline and perseverance and that would transition well into a business role.

What did the job entail?

As coordinator of sponsorship sales and assistant to the general manager, I had a range of responsibilities – everything from building pitch presentations and attending meetings with senior marketing executives to securing NBA sponsorships and scheduling meetings.



What was your biggest takeaway from that first gig?

I loved the sponsorship-related tasks because they were cool and exciting, and what I felt I went to school for. I thought scheduling lunches for someone was a less important use of my time.

However, I realized later that managing my general manager's schedule was actually one of the best opportunities I could have had early in my career. I was coordinating meetings with some of Canada's most senior business executives, and without being in that position, I would never have met them. Most of these individuals are people others are really eager to get in front of, and throughout the last 10 years of my career, when I see presidents and vice-presidents of some of the largest brands in Canada at events or meetings, they remember me from the NBA and say "hello".

"I ENCOURAGE RECENT GRADS TO SEEK OUT NETWORKING EVENTS TARGETED AT YOUNG PROFESSIONALS"

I've also learned executive assistants are often the most trusted business confidantes to senior executives, and are involved in many important decisions. They're often highly educated, intelligent people who do much more than manage schedules. I wish I'd been prouder of that role at the time and had held a different perspective on the value of the opportunity.

Tell us about your current gig.

I'm the Senior Account Executive, North American Government, Canada Vertical Lead at LinkedIn. My team and I work with all of the government departments, ministries, crown corporations and international trade and investment teams across the country to educate them on how to effectively use LinkedIn as a platform to communicate

with Canadians and international stakeholders about various government programs, funding, services, employment opportunities or why Canada is a great place to open their next international headquarters.

What advice would you offer recent graduates?

I would strongly encourage them to seek out networking events targeted at young professionals in the city they are in. When I moved to Toronto, I didn't know anyone and those events helped me meet people, ramp up my network and learn about opportunities.

What is one thing you learned at Western that still serves you today?

One of the key principles I learned as part of a business group project was to spend a lot of time preparing your strategy and once it was set, to stick to it over time, rather than making too many changes in the short-term.

Government business at LinkedIn is a real-life application of this. Four years ago when I set a 12-18 month strategy to build this portfolio, it wasn't an established business vertical in Canada. After six months, when things weren't going exactly as I hoped, I wanted to pivot, and focus on something new. I needed to remember I was only six months into it, and to stay the course. Almost to the day, 12 months later, we significantly passed our goals and now government business is one of the strongest verticals globally.

My entire career would have been different if I had changed my strategy too early. It was the same at Western. Groups that changed strategy too early and too often had weaker results and the groups that stuck to their core strategy throughout the whole semester and made only small changes had better results. When I'm having a hard quarter, I think of that planning process and that if we just stay the course with our strategy, we'll succeed in the long-term. 🍀

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"I am proud to be a donor to Western's football program and am inspired by its tradition of excellence. I am forever thankful for my Western experience and hope that by including Western in my Will, I can help to create opportunities for generations of students to come."

Robert Nash, BA'66
Western Mustang and Athletics Donor

How can you leave a lasting legacy?

Consider creating your own legacy through a bequest to Western. You can direct your support to an area closest to your heart, including athletics, student awards, research, your Faculty or the highest priorities of the University.

To explore planned giving opportunities, please contact our Legacy Giving Officers at 519.661.2111 or toll free 1.800.423.9631

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Signature Events

Friday, October 18

MUSTANGS SPORTS HALL OF FAME DINNER

4:30 p.m. Reception | 6 p.m. Dinner
The Great Hall, Somerville House

Honouring extraordinary athletic alumni.
\$100 per person. Advanced registration required.

“THIS LONDON LIFE” AT THE GRAND THEATRE

6:30 p.m. reception | Meet Western’s new President Alan Shepard
8 p.m. show (Grand Theatre)

Join us for this world premiere comedy that celebrates, examines, and pokes fun at the constant comparisons between our city and the ‘other London’ across the ocean.
\$65 per person. Advanced registration required.

Saturday, October 19

ALUMNI TAILGATE AND BBQ

10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. | Huron Flats Parking Lot, TD Stadium
Live music, children’s activities, a commemorative photo opportunity and free giveaways while supplies last. Learn more about the ‘Purple Perks’ program and receive special offers. This is a dry event.
BBQ Lunch available for \$5.

SOUTH END ZONE EXPERIENCE

12 to 5 p.m. | TD Stadium
Join us for ‘eats and cleats’ in style at field level in the South End Zone. Watch the Mustangs play the Ottawa Gee-Gees in what promises to be great football action. Lunch takes place between 12 and 1:30 p.m. with game kick off at 1 p.m.. Experience includes tented area, lunch off the grill, access to a private cash bar and game ticket.
Lunch and game ticket prices:
Adult (13+) - \$45 Section D reserved seat/ \$40 general admission seat.
Youth (5-12) - \$45 Section D reserved seat/ \$25 general admission seat.

SAUGEEN-MAITLAND HALL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

10 a.m. to 1 p.m. | Saugeen-Maitland Hall, Main Lounge
Celebrate 50 glorious years of Saugeen-Maitland Hall. Join us for an open house and retrace your steps in the hallways as you visit your old residence room.
Free event. Advance registration required. RSVP at www.westernconnect.ca/saugeen50

THE GAME: WESTERN MUSTANGS VS. OTTAWA GEE-GEES

1 p.m. | TD Stadium
Football tickets only:
Call 519-661-4077 or order online at westernmustangstickets.ca



Tear out and take with you

Events at a glance

LECTURES & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES
Take part in educational events throughout the weekend



Friday, October 18	
Art Exhibitions, McIntosh Gallery	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Schulich Medicine & Dentistry: Bonding to Ceramics and Resin Cements, Best Western Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Rd.	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Mustangs Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, The Great Hall, Somerville House	4:30 – 10 p.m.
“This London Life” At The Grand Theatre, 471 Richmond St.	6:30 – 10 p.m.
Engineering at Forked River Brewing Co., 45 Pacific Court	7 – 9 p.m.
Social Science at the Ceeps, 671 Richmond St.	7 – 10 p.m.
Saturday, October 19	
Nursing Alumni Homecoming Breakfast, Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, 551 Windermere Rd.	8 – 11:30 a.m.
Homecoming Morning Reception for CSD,OT,PT,KIN and HRS, Elborn College Gym	9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Schulich Medicine & Dentistry’s Homecoming Panel Discussion, Room 146 Medical Sciences Building	9 – 10:15 a.m.
Ivey Welcome Back Open House, Richard Ivey Building, 1255 Western Rd.	9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Ivey Lecture Series, Richard Ivey Building, 1255 Western Rd.	9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Alumni Tailgate and BBQ, Huron Flats Parking Lot, TD Stadium	10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Saugeen-Maitland Hall 50th Anniversary Celebration, Saugeen Maitland Hall, Main Lounge	10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ivey Pledge Ceremony, Richard Ivey Building, 1255 Western Rd.	10 – 10:30 a.m.
Arts & Humanities: For Home and Native Land Documentary, Conron Hall, University College	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Engineering Research Talks, Atrium, Amit Chakma Engineering Building	10:30 – 11 a.m.
Law Reunion Reception & Open House, Student Common Room, Faculty of Law Building	10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Schulich Medicine & Dentistry’s Dean’s Distinguished Lecture, Room 146 Medical Sciences Building	10:30 – 11:45 a.m.
Engineering Open House, Atrium, Amit Chakma Engineering Building	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Science BBQ with Rick McGhie, Grad Club, Middlesex College	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ivey Dean’s Welcome, Richard Ivey Building, 1255 Western Rd.	11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Schulich Medicine & Dentistry’s Dean’s Alumni Lunch, Atrium, Physics and Astronomy Building	11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Western Mustang Band’s ‘Homecoming Hill Session’, University College Hill	11:30 – 11:50 a.m.
Art Exhibitions, McIntosh Gallery	12 – 4 p.m.
South End Zone Experience, TD Stadium	12 – 5 p.m.
Homecoming Football Game: Western vs. Ottawa, TD Stadium	1 – 5 p.m.
Faculty of Information & Media Studies: Media Arts Panel, FIMS Building	1 – 3 p.m.
Ivey Case Study, Richard Ivey Building, 1255 Western Rd.	1 – 2 p.m.
Faculty of Education Homecoming, Music Building	2:30 – 5 p.m.
Don Wright Faculty of Music Alumni Choir Concert, Music Building	4 – 5 p.m.
Golden Anniversary Dinner, The Great Hall, Somerville House	5 – 8 p.m.
Schulich Medicine & Dentistry’s Dean’s Alumni Cocktail Reception, RBC Place, 300 York St.	5 – 7 p.m.
Sunday, October 20	
Ivey Golden Alumni Brunch, Richard Ivey Building, 1255 Western Rd.	9:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Schulich Medicine & Dentistry Golden Alumni Brunch, London Hunt & Country Club, 1431 Oxford St. W.	10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Some events require advance registration. Visit westernhomecoming.uwo.ca, call 519-661-2199 or email alumni@uwo.ca for details. For a complete listing of all events, including athletic events and those hosted by Brescia, Huron and King’s, visit westernhomecoming.uwo.ca.

P

Complimentary parking available in most campus lots after 4 p.m. on Friday and all day Saturday and Sunday during Homecoming weekend.



Sponsored by:



A close-up portrait of Paul Polak, an elderly man with glasses and a patterned sweater, looking directly at the camera.

Speaking Volumes by listening

Entrepreneur Paul Polak aims to end poverty

(PHOTO: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REDUX)

By Jason Winders, MES'10, PhD'16

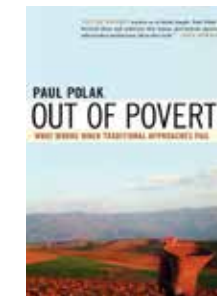
If Paul Polak is quiet, you know he is working.

The legendary social entrepreneur has spent the majority of his eight-plus decades simply listening – and what he learned in doing so has offered hope to millions of the poorest among us.

For more than three decades, he has been viewed as a social entrepreneur icon. His first book, *Out of Poverty: What Works When Traditional Approaches Fail*, is a guide for practical solutions to global poverty. He was named among the world's *Brave Thinkers* by *The Atlantic Monthly*, along with Barack Obama and Steve Jobs.

At Western, Polak, MD'58, DSc'08, studied Psychiatry, an attraction he attributes to reflection on his family's escape from Czechoslovakia in advance of the Nazis occupation in 1938.

"My father had an eye for seeing the obvious. I absorbed that through my skin. When my dad came to the conclusion we have to get out of there or die, he tried to convince others. They said it was just a flash in the pan, this will blow over. Besides, what would we do with our things? He saw what was coming. He had worked hard to establish his business, but he left it all behind to save our skin. And he was right."



Polak continued, "With everything that happened to my family escaping from the Holocaust, I was interested in understanding why people did the things they did. My grandmother died in the gas chambers at Auschwitz. I was interested in learning how people could do this. It is not as simple as just saying, 'Hitler did this' and 'Hitler did that.' Hitler managed to convince a whole country to elect him. I was interested how a whole country would participate in mass murder and how they would rationalize that participation."

From that crippling darkness, he found inspiration in his life's work.

After graduation, Polak worked at Fort Logan Mental Health Center in Denver, Colo. Innately curious about "anything that walks or moves," he often visited the homes and workplaces of homeless veterans and mentally ill patients to better understand what influenced their behaviour.

"To talk with people – really talk with them – you have to be self-confident and willing to listen to what they have to say, even if you don't agree with it. You have to be open to learning stuff. I enjoy interacting with people. I was born that way."

His father's peasant upbringing always remained with Polak. Poverty was something understood in his home. This influence and a trip to Bangladesh drove him to apply his curious nature to serve the world's poor.

In 1982, Polak founded International Development Enterprises, a non-profit venture that provides impoverished farmers access to affordable irrigation tools.

In 2008, he created Windhorse International and design incubator D-Rev. Operating under the guideline "cheap is beautiful," his companies design and sell affordable and useful tools – including manual-treadle pumps for irrigation or solar-powered water purifiers – the world's poor can use to make a living.

Polak bucked traditional methods of helping others by talking directly with the people in need, often in their homes. To him, it was all about listening – something larger organizations were seemingly incapable of doing. (Don't get him started on the job he believes governments and large aid organizations are doing forcing solutions on the poor. He is not impressed.)

Still actively solving problems at 85, Polak boils his success down to a simple formula.

"You can take any problem and find a practical solution. Any problem. The trick is, you have to be willing to quit telling and just listen." 🍀

Serving up success

ANDREAS ANTONIOU REINVENTS DINING IN THE HEART OF TORONTO'S FINANCIAL DISTRICT

By Jeff Renaud

Andreas Antoniou, HBA'06, may have changed his game, but he has found the same success off the gridiron as he did on it as an OUA all-star for the Mustangs.

In 2017, Antoniou and his partners launched Assembly Chef's Hall, an 18,000-square-foot food hall in the heart of Toronto's Financial District, which is home to 17 restaurants fueled by some of the Big Smoke's top chefs. Located at 111 Richmond St. West, in the same building as Google's Toronto office, Assembly Chef's Hall is a new model for global cuisine.

And Antoniou expects, someday soon, it will be the new normal.

"We view our model as disruptive. The challenge has always been (for restaurants), 'How do you serve lots of people?' The answer has been GFS, Sysco, large-scale food distributors or caterers," he explained. "What we are changing now with our model is that people can come here – to one place – and have a selection of some of the highest quality food and beverage in the city, made by masters who are putting out what they do better than anyone else."

After graduating from Ivey Business School, Antoniou moved to Los Angeles to work in investment banking for Credit Suisse. It turned out to be a crash course as his time in La La Land ran headfirst into the American housing bubble burst of 2008.

Like a pro, the former offensive lineman held his ground.

"Los Angeles was an incredible learning experience. I got to see all of the crazy lending firsthand. Then I got to see it all collapse and how you can win in that scenario, as well," Antoniou said. "But after four years, my family asked me to come home and I never looked back."

His father Bob Antoniou wanted him to return to Canada to help him run the family restaurant business that was built around the iconic Little Anthony's Italian Ristorante, a Toronto landmark for 17 years.

Over the past decade, Antoniou and his father have launched – and relaunched – a number of restaurants including Little Anthony's, Estiatorio Volos, Los Colibris, and El Caballito.

But Assembly Chef's Hall is the family's crown jewel.

"Owning and operating four or five restaurants all at the same time, we saw huge problems in the industry."

He began to ask himself: How do you share infrastructure

costs in better ways? How do you better utilize really expensive infrastructure in a manner that supports really talented people?

"Think about the evolution of retail. It's gone from big box, static, mass production to small, boutique, ultra- and hyper-specialization. And that's what we're doing here," Antoniou explained.

At Assembly Chef's Hall, patrons can enjoy the expertise of a highly specialized master, whether it's food or drink, in a hyperdense, wealthy urban setting.

"When you think of the Chef's Hall model, this is really the evolution of restaurants," Antoniou continued. "For restaurants, every cost has been rising but there is only so much we can charge customers. Not just the cost of the dish. It's the cost to build. The cost to rent. The cost to operate. It's everything."

"The only way you combat that is to change the model. And that's what we've done."

Antoniou and his partners have created an environment where they can incubate top talents, who otherwise couldn't get access or couldn't afford or didn't want to spend the cash necessary to open a restaurant in the Financial District.

Chefs and restaurateurs can come to Chef's Hall and for as low as \$30,000 and as high as \$140,000, they can launch a business in the heart of downtown Toronto. It's not feasible otherwise.

"And it's because we only had to build bathrooms once. We only had to build storage areas once. We only had to build hood ventilation systems once," Antoniou said. "The model allows us to always find the best of the best people, who do their thing better than anyone else, which is what the employees in these towers all around us are looking for over the next 20 years."

Antoniou honed his team-building, holistic approach to business at Western on and off the field. He estimates that during the season, there was 60-65 hours of football per week and 40-50 hours of school work at Ivey.

"It would have been easy to quit football. But I am where I am today because of perseverance," he explained. "A lot of people when they got to Ivey stopped playing interuniversity sports. That's common. It makes perfect sense. But for me, it didn't. You just have to find a way."

He continued, "That experience prepared me for working at Credit Suisse. There, you have a 105-hour work week. You've got to grind. I was already used to the grind and I proved to myself that I could be successful doing both."

"It's undeniable Western gave me the platform to take off from. Without that platform, who knows where I would be?"



(PHOTO BY FRANK NEUFELD)



NORTHERN TORNADOES PROJECT: SAVING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY

Western is poised to become the country's leading authority on tornado tracking and research, thanks to a major expansion of its Northern Tornadoes Project (NTP). With a goal of detecting and analyzing every tornado in Canada, project leads, Greg Kopp and David Sills know findings will save lives, mitigate losses and strengthen our understanding of severe storm activity.

The NTP began in 2017 with a pilot study to conduct aerial analyses of storm damage in remote, unpopulated areas of northern Ontario. Its recent expansion is a result of a \$6.4-million investment from ImpactWX, a Toronto-based social impact fund that also funded the initial research. Combined with previous giving, and \$2.5 million from Western to endow the ImpactWX Chair in Severe Storms Engineering, the combined total investment in tornado research at Western is more than \$10 million.

This investment is providing the resources to acquire satellite and radar imagery and to assemble a team of experts to go coast-to-coast, tracking tornadoes.

With additional support from a public database based at Western Libraries, the project looks to improve the science of predicting and assessing storms, and ultimately to reduce the toll they take on people and property.

NORTHERN TORNADOES PROJECT LEADERS



GREG KOPP
LEAD RESEARCHER



DAVID SILLS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

[WESTERNU.CA/NTP](https://westernu.ca/NTP)



Lessons of **bravery**, compassion

By Sonia Prezcatior

A larger-than-life bronze sculpture by alumnus Wynn Walters has revived the memory of a Canadian war hero – and started a conversation about so much more.

“The resurrection of Sam Sharpe has been embraced wholeheartedly by people within our community and others further afield,” explained Wynne Walters, BA’59 (Journalism), whose statue portraying Lt.-Col. Samuel Simpson Sharpe was unveiled last year in Sharpe’s hometown of Uxbridge, Ont.

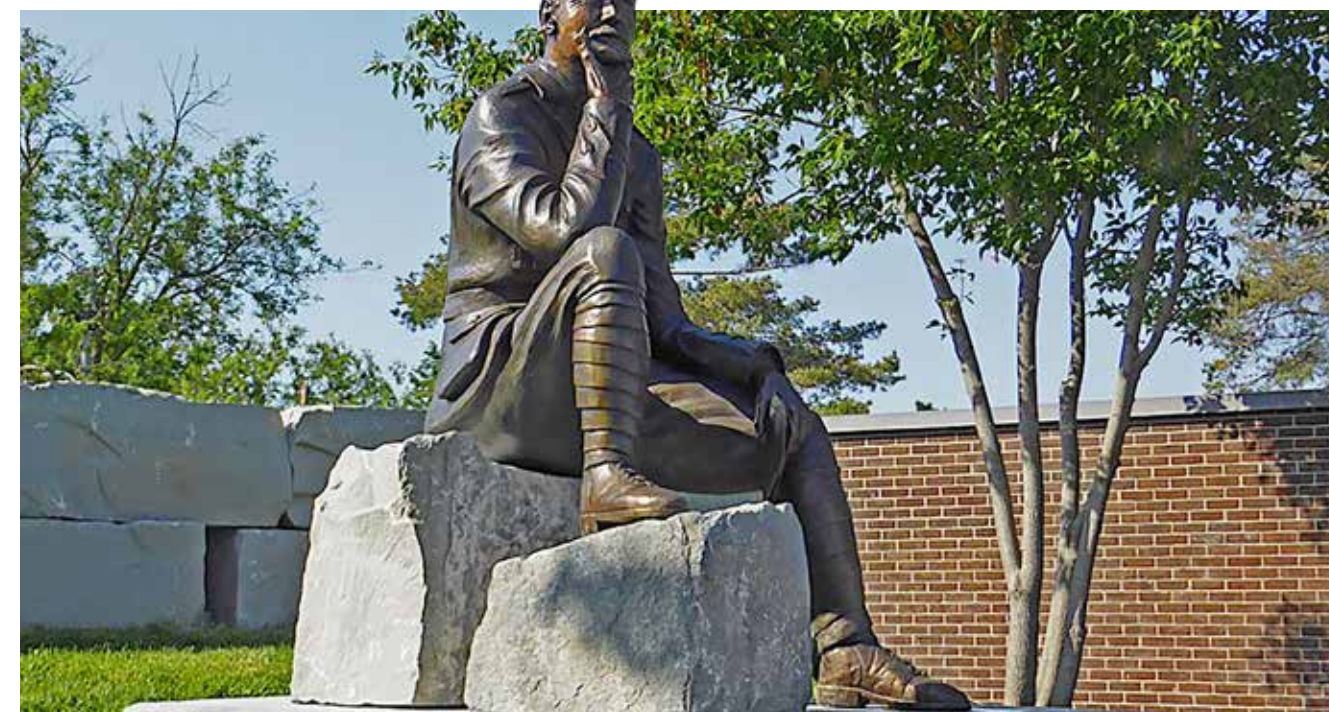
Sharpe was a celebrated soldier and sitting MP

who was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for gallantry in 1917 after the Battle of Passchendaele.

A year after the war broke out in 1914, he raised a battalion of men from around Durham Region and led them into a number of battles, including Vimy Ridge, Passchendaele and Avion. The war took a terrible toll on his men’s lives, as well as on Sharpe himself. Of the 1,145 men in the battalion, fewer than 10 per cent made it home alive.

Sharpe personally wrote a letter of condolence to each one of his men’s families.

Despite his heroics, Sharpe’s memory has been virtually



“Lt.-Col. Sam Sharpe suffered in silence. It is my hope that his statue and story contribute to conversations about how we can do better for people. We need to have these conversations about mental illness and mental trauma.”

erased from the history books after he died by suicide on May 25, 1918.

The statue portrays Sharpe in a moment of contemplation, rather than the more familiar ‘victory’ or ‘at attention’ pose that define many First World War memorials and statues.

“Lt.-Col. Sam Sharpe suffered in silence,” Walters explained. “It is my hope that his statue and story contribute to conversations about how we can do better for people. We need to have these conversations about mental illness and mental trauma.”

Largely a self-taught artist, Walters took up sculpture full-time after a 26-year telecommunications career. Practical training and experience came from close working relationships with two prominent American sculptors – Malcolm Harlow and Allan LeQuire.

“I was 17 years old when I left Tenby, a small seaside town in southwest Wales, to board a boat to come to Canada and begin my journey to study at Western,” said Walters, who credits his ability to communicate clearly, in whatever medium he uses, to former Western Journalism dean, Bud Wilde. “I was fortunate that I thrived at Western. But I worry about the many students today that are in crisis, from worrying about the cost of tuition and graduation debt to the reality

that they will have to re-invent themselves many times over during their careers.”

Delighted at the beauty and vibrancy of Western’s campus, he dove into the complete university experience, from studying to socializing. He left his mark on university history, through his weekly cartoons in the student *Gazette*, as well as his cover design of the 1959 Western Yearbook.

He met the love of his life, Mary Margaret Walters, BScN’61, while at Western. In later *Gazette* cartoons, he hid the initials “MM” in tribute to her. Finding them was a running joke among his classmates.

After 60 years together, Walters continues to pay tribute to his university sweetheart, including a small carving of MM on the full-scale bronze statue of author Lucy Maud Montgomery he crafted and installed at Montgomery’s home in Leaskdale, Ont.

Walters leveraged his storytelling skills into a career that evolved from journalism, to public relations, to United Nations information officer stationed in Beirut, to VP for Northern Telecom. He confesses, however, that if he had to do it all over again, he would have become an artist much sooner.

“Stories are at the heart of the human experience, whether we use words, metal, wood or stone to express them.”

A *NEW* MODEL of LEARNING

By David McKay, MBA'92, LLD'19, President and CEO of RBC

In recent years, universities have reinvented themselves to help set up their graduates for long-term success. But more change is needed as we still see a mismatch between new grads and their job readiness.

As I meet with clients and with business leaders, they consistently rank the job readiness of young graduates as their most pressing concern.

In these disruptive times, it's clear we need to build stronger bridges between workplaces and lecture halls. That's because the world of work is changing in profound and permanent ways. Digital literacy is essential. But so too are human skills. Yet our current system does not adequately teach or train young workers to develop this portfolio of skills.

Recent RBC research found up to 50 per cent of jobs in Canada are expected to be impacted by automation.

But it's also creating new opportunities. We estimate close to 2.4 million job openings in the Canadian economy over the next four years alone. Successful graduates will need to possess skills that complement – rather than compete against – the technological revolution transforming the workplace.

To build a workforce fit for the next decade, we need people who can transfer data into knowledge that, in turn, creates value. These skills aren't static – they will evolve over time as new tools and technologies are introduced into the workplace. But technical and data literacy is paramount.

Other skills are more foundational and more human.

At RBC, we look for good communicators – collaborators – people who think creatively and critically. We

want our people to be empathetic too. Indeed, we often hire people with these so-called soft skills and then teach them to be bankers.

Our bank has always relied on the innovation and talent coming out of campuses across the globe. We are so intricately connected with universities, and we need them more than ever as we enter the 2020s.

Reinventing the undergraduate degree

Learning must be a lifelong endeavour. But for the most part, it is compartmentalized.

Think about the undergraduate degree.

Would students be better served if they spent two years at school, entered the workforce for a couple of years, and then finished off their degree with real work experience under their belt?

This model could also be an effective way to re-skill workers in mid-career. It's an area worth exploring further.

Doubling down on work-integrated learning

I'm a big proponent of experiential learning and how it can positively shape a career.

I started at RBC as a COBOL programmer at 18 years old.

The beauty of the co-op program is that it gave me the opportunity to move into a bank branch, where I truly thrived. I was able to switch my major and realign my education to my interests at 19 years old, and became a more valuable and focused employee coming out of university.

I came back to school and challenged my professors differently. I learned differently because of my work experience.



Experiential Learning at Western

Alumni can help us offer meaningful work experiences for students.

Providing experiential learning opportunities beyond the classroom is more important now than ever before.

We know that experiential learning deepens students' learning, builds their confidence, and helps prepare them for a bright future.

Students tell us they develop new skills, grow as a person and get a jump start on building a network that will support them throughout their career.

Western's system of experiential learning allows students to choose a unique path that fits their interests and career goals. In turn, our students bring knowledge, skills, energy and new ideas to the workplace.

As potential employers and partners, alumni are critical in helping us deliver high-quality experiential learning opportunities. If you'd like to provide an experience for a Western student, please contact us:

W: experience.uwo.ca
P: 519-661-3619
E: hirewesternu@uwo.ca



David McKay, MBA'92, LLD'19, RBC President and CEO speaks with students about the value of work-integrated learning.

This approach not only unlocks student impact earlier, it fosters a culture of innovation, experimentation and growth on campus, as well as the workplace. Consider the RBC Amplify program, where summer students – all of whom have never been in financial services before – collaborate to build solutions for our toughest business challenges. Some of these problems had been unsolved for years. We need to grow and expand programs like these. It is how people today learn. They like to experiment, to challenge and to share.

Don't lose sight of the liberal arts education
Work placements also build networks for students. It's a social leveler. It exposes students from all backgrounds to the way many employers operate. However, much of this impact has been in areas such as engineering, business and medical science. We need to place a greater focus on liberal arts and humanities, too – because many of the skills in the new world of work are cultivated in these programs. We all need to do a better job in promoting the value of liberal arts and humanities programs. For as good as many of our schools are, our education system and labour market initiatives are not adequately designed for the changing economy. At the same time, many employers are failing to recruit and develop the skills they need for the future. Across the board, there's a gap in skills from where we are now, and where we need to be. Educators and employers have a shared responsibility in helping our workforce adapt and thrive. It's time for a co-operative new approach to make this happen. 🤝

Adapted from a speech delivered on June 5 at the Times Higher Education (THE) Teaching Excellence Summit, hosted by Western University. It was the first time a THE World Summit Series event has been hosted in Canada.

What students need to succeed



To explore other giving opportunities at Western please contact:
Kendra Lealess at kendra.lealess@uwo.ca or 519.661.2111 ext. 88749

giving.westernu.ca

☒ **Yes, I want to help Western students succeed!**

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(Monthly credit card donations will be processed using this credit card on the 10th day of the month for the duration of my pledge.)

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I would like to make a gift of:

☐ \$500 ☐ \$375 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 \$ _____

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☐ My preferred area: _____

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Personal information you provide will be updated in our database and used to provide you with a receipt for your gift or pledge, and to communicate with you about events and activities, alumni programs and services, and fundraising opportunities. At any time, you have the right to request that your personal information cease to be used. For more information or to make a request, please go to www.advser.uwo.ca/about/privacy_policy.html or contact Advancement Services by phone at 519.661.4176 or 1.800.420.7519, by fax at 519.661.4182 or by email at advser@uwo.ca. All donations will be receipted under charitable registration (BN) number: 10816 2587 RR0001. Eligible donations receive a tax receipt within four weeks. Monthly and quarterly donations receive one consolidated tax receipt at tax year-end. Gifts made outside Canada may be eligible for a tax receipt. For more information on international donations, go to giving.westernu.ca/ways-to-give/international/

1 Emily (Fernandes) Richards, BSc'96 (Brescia), released a new cookbook called *Best of Bridge Weekday Suppers*. Emily is a cookbook author, home economist, recipe developer, media spokesperson, television host, brand ambassador, and blogger with a passion for getting people into the kitchen to cook.

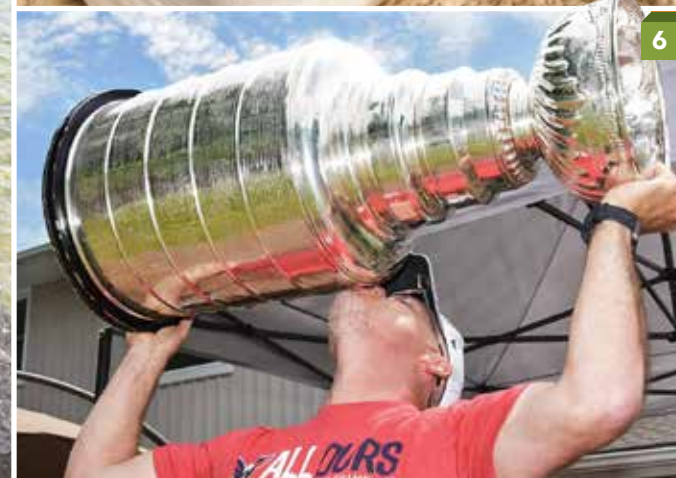
2 In March 2019, **Carla Rose Kelly,** BA'88 (Sociology), won a Global Music Award for her composition "PEACE" in the Healing/Meditation Music category. The song is used therapeutically to help ease stress, anxiety and bring clarity and peace into the mind and was featured in a new Canadian musical called *Let the Music Come Alive* (written by Carla).

3 Jan-Oliver Schmidt, BA'93, and his wife, Nicole Brende Schmidt, a graduate of Southern Methodist University (SMU), welcomed their first child in October 2018. "Thor-Olav is a bright-eyed explorer and keeps us hopping. He is actually a pure mustang, since both Western and SMU share the mustang as mascot!"

4 Laura Santaguida, BMOS'12, and Gabriel Brutto, JD'14, HBA'14, were married on June 16, 2018. "We want to give our best regards to our fellow alumni. We developed strong friendships at Western and it was so nice to have our friends at our wedding and part of our special day! We both had a great University experience and we wish the best of luck to all the current students."

5 Melissa Aris, BA'10 (Brescia), and David Aris are pleased to announce the birth of their baby girl Martine, born October 9, 2018 weighing 7lbs 7ozs.

6 Steve Bowman, BA'90 (Physical Education), won the Stanley Cup with the Washington Capitals in 2018. He has worked with the team since 1997, and is currently their Head Amateur Scout.



1950s

Reg Reynolds, BA'57, MA'60, has authored or co-authored several books including: *An ABA Primer with Application to Teaching Children with Autism*; *Miscellaneous Musings* (with Stephen Bernstein and Alex Polgar); and *A Simple and Effective Cure for Criminality*; *Freedom from Addictions* and *Creating Peace* (all with Douglas Quirk); and published a book of case studies written by Douglas Quirk, called *Adventures in Pragmatic Psychotherapy*.

Marion (Patel) Miller, BA'58, recently celebrated her 90th birthday at her home in Maryland with family. Miller was a teacher in Windsor and London from 1947 to 1957.



1960s

Ronald V. Peiluck, BA'64, retired as an environmental law

judge four years ago and is currently CEO of SCOPE Projects Inc., an award-winning design/build construction company. "I tell my 25-year-old son not a day goes by without using the lessons I learned in taking and passing the first year of the business program."

After being director of two academic departments in Linguistics, International Business and International Relations at the Pontifical Catholic University, **Donald Stewart,** BA'69, now teaches and researches for magazine articles.



1970s

R. Stephen Collins, BA'74 (Economics), was inducted into the Water Ski Wake Board Ontario Hall of Fame as a builder. Stephen and his wife Susan (Paterson), BEd '75, are retired and breed Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers under their kennel name Doghill Wheatens Reg'd. Both have been recognized for their volunteerism in their home community of Carlisle, Ont..

Mark Kearney, BA'77 (Journalism), was the nominee from

Western's Faculty of Arts & Humanities for the 2017 and 2018 Angela Armitt Award for Excellence in Teaching by Part-Time Faculty. In addition to his teaching of writing and journalism at Western, Mark has co-authored the book, *As The Years Go By... Conversations With Canada's Folk, Pop & Rock Pioneers*, with long-time collaborator Randy Ray of Ottawa, and was a contributing author to another book *The Fur-Bearing Trout ... and Other True Tales of Canadian Life*. Mark also received grants in 2017 and 2018 from The London Arts Council to do further research and writing on the life of Al Christie, a pioneering silent film director during Hollywood's early days who was born in London, Ont.

Emily-Jane (Hills) Orford, BA'78 (Visual Arts), has released two new books. *Queen Mary's Daughter* (Clean Reads Publishing 2018) is an historical fiction/fantasy novel that delves into a possibility that there was another heir to the Scottish throne, one who kept Scotland free and independent. *Mrs. Murray's Ghost: A Piccadilly Street Story Book 1* (TellTale Publishing 2018) is a middle grade fantasy novel set in London, Ont. Using the author's memories, fantasies and vivid imagination, the novel gives an

1 A duo of King's University College alumni **Jonathan Creaghan**, BA'85 (Psychology, Political Science), and **Joanne Malone-Creaghan**, BA'07, have developed an online platform called TotalLeader Solutions that garnered them a nomination for a 2018 Ernest C. Manning Innovation Award. TotalLeader Solutions creates online tools to help ensure a family business survives the hand-off to next generation owners.

2 **Julie Montes**, BMSc'07, BEd'11, married Kacey Leslie on March 9, 2019. The couple purchased their first home right after the wedding in London, Ont.

3 **Ahsan Syed**, BSc/HBA'15, was one of two Canadians selected from over 900 eligible applicants by the British Foreign Commonwealth Office to receive the highly selective Chevening Scholarship. The scholarship covers tuition and living expenses for a one-year Master's program in the UK. Syed will be studying an MSc in Environmental Economics and Policy at the London School of Economics.

4 **Marina Reed**, MA'85 (Journalism), has published her first novel. *Primrose Street* is a story about how keeping secrets can become a poison and prevents people from living authentic lives. It supports diversity, speaks to women's issues and allies with the LGBTQ+ community.



historical perspective on childhood as set in the 1960s and explores issues such as bullying.

Louis Gagliardi, BA'79 (Art History and Criticism), curated a new book called *Peter Clapham Sheppard: His Life and Work*, written by **Tom Smart**, BA'83, Director of the Beaverbrook Gallery, and published by Firefly Books. The book focuses on Clapham's contributions to early 20th Century Canadian art.



1980s

Mary Anne Aldred, BA'81 (English), LLB'84, was appointed General Counsel and Chief Operating Officer of the Ontario Energy Board in October 2017, following 11 years as General Counsel.

In September 2018, **Hugh Armitage**, BESc'82, MEd'85, was promoted to Supervisor, Dam Safety-Hydro Services Group at Georgia Power Company in Atlanta, Ga.

Retired Dauphin County Bar Association Executive Director **Elizabeth G. Simcox**, BA'82, was honored with the Pennsylvania

Bar Association (PBA) Conference of County Bar Leaders 2019 Gilbert Nurick Award, named for the late Harrisburg lawyer who served as PBA president, and is given to a PBA member who exhibits dedication and service to the leadership and promotion of the organized bar and its activities.

Dr. John W. Vandertuin, BMus'82, MMus'88, blind concert organist and composer, was appointed director of Music at St. Paul's United Church in Paris, Ont. on March 1, 2018.

David Gray, BSc'84 (Geophysics), Senior Geophysical Advisor, Technical Excellence and Assurance, Global Exploration and International Development at Nexen CNOOC Inc., was honoured by the Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists (CSEG) as the 2018-19 Canadian Distinguished Lecturer. David visited 25 Canadian universities with geoscience programs, speaking to students, instructors and industry professionals on "An Unconventional View of GeoScience". This honour is one of many accomplishments in his long career in the oil and gas exploration industry, including attaining a Master's in Mathematics (Statistics) from the University of Waterloo

(1989); holding three patents for processes discovered; having three scientific equations named for him; being honouree of the 2015 CSEG Symposium; and having written more than 140 papers.

Catherine Koverola, MA'84 (Psychology), was named President of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford and Titusville, effective June 1.

After retiring early as an elementary principal in York Region District School Board four years ago, **David Geene**, BMus'85, BEd'86, held the position of Executive Director of Georgina Trades Training Inc. for three years, a non-profit agency providing skills, education and training for people to find employment. For the past year, he continued to support music education in schools as an Educational Services Consultant for Long and McQuade Musical Instruments in York and Simcoe areas. He is now fully retired, got re-married this past summer, moved to Peterborough where he sings with Peterborough Singers, and is working in community theatre. His two daughters are both pursuing science degrees and continue to be involved in music.

Ian Hubling, BACS'85, retired after 35 years in the Ontario public

service. Ian's spouse Linda of 28 years also retired and they plan to travel extensively in the coming years.

Western's Caribbean Students Organization (1980-90) will be holding a reunion in Castries, St. Lucia October 24 to 27, 2019. Contact **Alyson Chapman-Cezair**, BA'86, for more information at calyson@hotmail.com.

Silvia Gamboso, BACS'87, started a new job at Canada Life as an Underwriting Account Manager in the National Accounts New Business area of Group Customer Services.



1990s

Jimmy Brennan, MBA'90, and **Paul Campbell**, MBA'90, have launched Level 3 Investment Management. They run a total return fund for select high net worth individuals, foundations and family offices.

Cate Carlyle, BA'90 (English), MLIS'11, has published her first book entitled *Your passport to international librarianship*, published by the American Library Association. Co-



5 **Les Kalman**, BSc'95, DDS'99, Assistant Professor, Restorative Dentistry and Coordinator, Dental Outreach Community Service (DOCS) in Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, was one of the recipients of the Merck Patients First Award in recognition of his commitment to the DOCS program.

6 **Marie Scholz**, BA'17, started a digital marketing agency called Waves Digital Canada. "We give young people opportunities to work with massive companies in web design, social media, content creation and public relations. Our employees work remotely and everyone has the opportunity to build relationships with the clients. Technology and engineering are our specialties, but we are breaking into the business-to-consumer market as well."

7 After 20 years at North York General Hospital, **Simon Kay**, BA'92 (English), and his wife now own and operate Evolution Gymnastics in Aurora, Ont.

8 **Jeff Renaud**, MPA'04, Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, was elected President of the Canadian Association of Municipal Administrators at the Association's Annual General meeting on May 28 in Quebec.

authored by Dee Winn, the book focuses on their volunteer work in international libraries. Cate is a librarian at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia where she lives with her husband, **Bruce Carlyle**, BA'90.

Scott Woolford, BA'90 (King's), has been recognized as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2019. He is currently principal at Island Public Natural Science School with the Toronto District School Board.

Rolf Maurer, BEd'91, is Vice-President Americas at Arntjen Clean Energy Solutions in Woodstock, Ont.

After retiring from a career working with children and families in need, **Lorrie Sutherland Werden**, BA'91, has published her first book of fiction, *Black Blood* (Tellwell Publishing). The story follows Elizabeth Devereux, a prolific painting protégé, whose true inspirations come when she is free of the drugs taken for bipolar disorder.

In recent years, **Damhnait Monaghan**, LLB'92, has become a writer. Her flash fiction and creative non-fiction have won or placed in several competitions and her writing is widely published and anthologized. She has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, Best Small Fictions, and Best Microfiction. Her

flash fiction chapbook, *The Neverlands* was published by V Press (UK) in 2019 and her novel, *UP SHE RISES*, was short-listed in the international Caledonia Novel Award.

Richard Brachman, BEd'93, PhD'99, was appointed as a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada for exceptional contributions to engineering in Canada.

Brent Donnelly, MBA'95, released a new book, *The Art of Currency Trading* (published by John Wiley & Sons) in June 2019.



2000s

Robert Noble, BEd'00, was promoted to a secondary Principal for the Toronto Catholic District School Board in September 2018.

Leila Rafi, LLB'05, won the Rising Star Lexpert Award in 2018 and was appointed to the Securities Advisory Committee at the Ontario Securities Commission for a three-year term beginning in January 2019.

Rahim Kanani, BA'06 (Philosophy), released a new book called *A Wealth of Insight: The World's Best Chefs on Creativity, Leadership and Perfection*, which profiles nearly 45 of the world's best chefs who have collectively amassed nearly 100 Michelin stars, and who regularly appear atop the World's 50 Best Restaurants, La Liste and other international rankings and awards.

Semhar Woldai, BSc'06 (Biology), had a baby boy with husband, Alwyn C. Phillips on June 30, 2018.

Kaitlyn Armstrong, BA'08, MA'09, JD'19, and **Ryan Clutterbuck**, BA'08, MA'12, PhD'18, met at Western in 2005 when they both worked at the Spoke and the Wave. A friendship developed as they took political science classes. In 2014, a chance encounter in the Springett parking lot led to their first date, and eventually their wedding date. The couple was married on Aug. 19, 2018 in Jordan Station, Ont., where they celebrated with their family and close friends from Western.

Nadia Festinger, HBA'08, married Leandro Ludman at the Palacio Sans Souci in Victoria, Buenos Aires, Argentina in November 2018.

Sarah (Raslan) Legacy, BA'08, and her

husband were married in Paris in 2014.

Erin Romeo, BA'08 (Brescia), published a new book, *The Visual Guide to Easy Meal Prep – Save Time and Eat Healthy with over 75 Recipes*. Erin is a nutrition coach, expert meal planner and food prep specialist. She's an advocate for good nutrition and regularly shares her tips and tricks for healthy eating on Instagram @foodprepprincess; has been featured in a number of publications including Shape.com, Health Magazine.com, Oxygen Magazine, The Kitchen.com, The Daily Burn.com, Buzzfeed, Brit+Co; and was voted one of the "Best meal Prep Accounts on Instagram" by Popsugar in 2018.

Shane K. Baker, MPA'09, has been appointed Chief Administrative Officer for the Town of Ajax.



2010s

Brea Hickey, BA'10 (Huron), and her partner Nathan Medeiros purchased their first home in September 2018 in London, Ont. and the couple got engaged on June 8.

Brett Higgs, BMOS'11, was a panelist at the 20th Anniversary of the Society for Trust & Estate Practitioners Caribbean Conference.

Ashley McGuire, BA'13, and **Mike Tithecott**, BMusA'13, got engaged on Dec. 3, 2018. Both were members of the University Students' Council executive while at Western.

Joel Sherlock, MLIS'13, MA'14 (History), has taken on a new position as Manager of Genealogical and Archival Research at Crown-Indigenous & Northern Affairs Canada.

Brittany Sitzes, BA'13, got engaged to Spencer Houlihan earlier this year and bought a second home. The couple also welcomed a new member to the family, Fred, an Irish Doodle.

Joanna Phillips, BMOS'14, joined ESOP Builders Inc. as Vice President and will take on strategic roles such as business development, marketing and talent. ESOP Builders is a national consulting firm located in Toronto offering expertise on Employee Share Ownership Plans (ESOPs) to small, medium and large privately held companies across Canada.

1 Right after graduating, **Rachael Luby**, BA'16, accepted a full-time position as Communications Coordinator at the London Economic Development Corporation. She also got engaged that same summer on a little island along Kapikog Lake, and she and her fiancé bought their first home in 2017 in London, Ont. The couple got married Sept. 2 at Hessenland Country Inn along the Bluewater Highway between Grand Bend and Bayfield. "I married my highschool sweetheart and we've been together over eight years now. I feel very lucky for the opportunities Western gave me, both through my education and work study. I feel invigorated every time I get to visit campus #PurpleandProud #LondonProud."

2 **Amanda Bartlett**, BA'13, married **Jon Hindley**, BA'13, on Sept. 22, 2018 after meeting in Saugeen-Maitland Hall in their first year at Western in 2009.

3 **Charles (Chih-Ying) Ho**, BA'11 (Economics), recently joined Alibaba Group's Global Talent Development program under the Alibaba Global Leadership Academy created by Jack Ma. Charles was selected from over 5,000 candidates from around the world and is currently the international business development manager at Tmall, the largest business-to-consumer retail platform in Asia with over 617 million monthly active consumers.

4 **Jessica Chambers**, BA'13 (Political Science), and **Steven Andrews**, BEd'13, got married in Mississauga, Ont. on July 7, 2018. They've been together for over 10 years and attended Western together.

5 **Laurence Hutchman**, BA'72 (English), published his 11th book of poetry, *The House of Shifting Time* with Black Moss Press, and was named poet laureate of Emery.



1 As co-founder of JobJunxion Inc., **Jack Litchfield**, BA'15 (Political Science), aims to make it easier for students to find relevant employment and help employers find the talent they need to grow.

2 On June 12, **Lorin MacDonald**, JD'09, received the inaugural Chappell Partners/June Bushell Award, which honours a female lawyer with five or more years post-call who experienced, or is experiencing, adversity in pursuing her career and despite that adversity is making a positive contribution. The award was presented at the Women's Law Association of Ontario's 100th Anniversary Gala.

3 From **Kate Fraser**, BA'15 (Health Sciences, Psychology): "I got married! Before my last year of university I moved to southern Alberta for a summer job. Funny enough, I was hiking in Canmore when I passed a fellow hiker who also went to Western. She recognized my Western hoodie! I met a great man and moved west right when I finished at Western. Flash forward four crazy years and I have a dog (two actually!), a house and now a husband!"

4 **Monica Ciriello**, BA'09 (King's), married Greg Witt on Sept. 29, 2018. They were married in Monica's hometown of London, Ont. and had their wedding photos taken at Western. In May, Monica received the nomination for the Conservative Party of Canada to be the candidate in the October federal election, representing Hamilton Centre. "A big thank you to Western for giving me a head start in my political career!"

5 After graduating, **Amanda Oppedisano**, BFA'12, MFA'14, worked with a few start-ups and then moved into the field of real estate and mortgages. After a few years in the industry, she decided to venture out on her own and opened a mortgage brokerage in August 2018. "Thanks to Western for the connections and experience where I was able to push myself out of my comfort zone - I discovered my love of networking which ultimately led me to opening my own business!" Amanda and her fiancé will be getting married later in 2019.



Ryan Walsh, BSc'14, has been recognized with a "Rising Star" Award from Health Promotion Canada. The award is open to any Canadian working in health promotion and recognizes health promoters who have an exceptional track record of professional achievements, display exemplary personal leadership qualities, and exhibit strong potential for making future contributions to health promotion in Canada or globally.

Don Lafreniere, PhD'15 (Geography), former Vanier Canada Scholar, has been promoted to Associate Professor of Geography and GIS at Michigan Tech University. He is also the Director of the Geospatial Research Facility at the Great Lakes Research Center.

Maximilian Specht, BA'15, is Associate Creative Director at Artifakt Digital, North America's leading marketing agency for top-performing real estate agents.

Shortly after graduating with her Master's, **Nicole Corbo**, BA'16 (King's), MLIS'18, got a job as a Records Coordinator at Loblaw Companies Limited in Brampton.

Erin Downey, MBA'17, and Taylor Johnson were married in Seattle, Washington on March 17, 2018 after meeting in university.

Britiny Landry, BA'17 (King's), recently started her career with the Thames Valley District School Board working as a custodian. "Most people assume I majored in English to become a teacher; I majored in English because I love literature and wanted to immerse myself in novels and learn. My dream is to one day publish my own novel, but for now I am so pleased to be working with the school board."

Emily Opthof, BSc'17 (Brescia), is a dietitian in Lambton County and since graduation has been teaching high school classes and Schulich Family Medicine residents; manages a patient caseload of more than 100, and runs a nutrition blog.

Carlos Salgado, MESc'18, married Zumico Villalobos on Dec. 28, 2018. He started working full-time at Diamond Aircraft on March 11.

Heonjun Lee, BMOS'19, got a job in downtown Toronto at MNP working as a staff accountant.

Kristin Lee, BA'19, landed her first job after graduation at the *Western Gazette* as the managing editor.

After graduation, **Marcia Pelcz**, BA'19 (Brescia), received a full-time job as a Child & Youth Worker. "It

has been an incredible experience taking everything I've learned during my schooling and placements and using it in my new job. Although it is a highly stressful environment working in a group home with children with a variety of diagnoses, the rewarding experience is beyond worth it."

IN MEMORIAM

Ruth E.E.M. Malisa, MEd'92, died Jan. 8, 2018 in Moshi, Tanzania.

Jill (Henry) Simpson, BA'61, died June 29, 2018 in Toronto, Ont.

James Alexander Murdoch, BA'56, died July 28, 2018 in Kitchener, Ont.

Margaret (Pressey) Adams, BA'54, died Sept. 8, 2018, in California where she had lived with her husband of 62 years Robert Adams, HBA'54 for 40 years. After graduation, Margaret taught in schools in Toronto and Vancouver and lived in various locations in Canada and France. She is survived by her husband and her three children, Michèle, Alexandra, and Kevin.

Mary Dyce (Sally) Morgan, BA'68, died Sept. 15, 2018 in London, Ont. In the mid-1960's, along with her colleague Barbara Edwardson, Sally helped to found Western's physiotherapy

program. Sally's love for her students and the teaching profession remained unwavering until she retired as Professor Emeritus in 1991.

Lorna (Tully) Ermacora, BA'89, died Sept. 17, 2018 in Cape Coral, Florida.

Robert C. Malanchuk, HBA'68, MBA'71, died Nov. 28, 2018 in Ajax, Ont.



Margaret Claire (Fisher) Hamilton, BA'47, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, activist, politician, educator, orchardist, friend, dog-lover and so much more, died Jan. 23 in Douglas, N.B. with her dog at her side in her 97th year. Margaret started a bachelor's degree at the Western but suspended her studies in 1943 to join the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service, and served as a Navy cook in Halifax. After the war, she resumed her studies at Western and received a degree in Home Economics. While at Western, Margaret attended a Mustang football game in Toronto with a friend and at a post-game party, met the love of her life, Angus Hamilton, and they were married in 1949. Margaret and

Angus lived in Toronto for two years, then in Ottawa for 20 years. Margaret was an elected member of the Ottawa School Board for eight years and chaired several committees. After moving to Fredericton in 1971, Margaret and Angus bought a farm in Douglas with an apple orchard they named "Happy Apple Acres". In her capacity as orchardist, Margaret was President of the N.B. Fruit Growers Association and treasurer of the N.B. Farm Markets Association. In 1981, Margaret opened a Bed and Breakfast which became known for fabulous breakfasts and warm hospitality. She was also an active member of St. John the Evangelist Church; a founding member of the Wostawea Cross Country Ski Club and the Fredericton Direct Charge Co-operative; and a member of the Canadian Home Economics Association, the Canadian Federation of University Women, and the Faculty Women's Club at the University of New Brunswick. She was a

generous patron of the arts and supported, Friends of the CBC, Theatre New Brunswick, and Friends of the Playhouse, and was a Life Member of the Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

Dr. George Wilkins, MD'45, died Feb. 1 in Hanna, Alta. George is predeceased by his loving wife of 48 years, Marjorie Jean (Peebles) Wilkins, two infant daughters and his brother William Robert Wilkins. Left to appreciate George's lasting legacies (alongside their loving partners) are his children Bob and Peggy Wilkins, BSc'75, and grandsons Paul and Peter Wilkins, as well as his four great-grandchildren and special friend Elizabeth Gourlay. George was raised in southwestern Ontario and after graduating from Western, he completed his General Internship in Calgary and began his general practice career in Hanna. He practiced there his entire career and remained living in Hanna until his death.

Charles Neads, BA'64, died March 13, 2019 in London, Ont.

William (Bill) Stuart Jamieson, BA'73 (English, Huron), died April 1 in Toronto, Ont. Survived by his sister Margaret Jamieson and her husband Len Bolder, niece Susan (Mike) Bolder, nephew David (Nancy) Bolder and their son Thomas. Bill plied his craft as a stage manager for many years, working across Canada for some of the major theatre companies. In retirement, he passed his knowledge on as a sessional instructor at York University's School of the Arts.

Carol Pelton, BA'76 (Physical Education), died suddenly on April 30 in Melbourne, Australia. Carol began her teaching career in the Haliburton and Oxford School Boards (1968 to 1980). From 1981 to 1983, she taught grades 9 and 10 with the Papua New Guinea Ministry of Education. After travelling for a few years, Carol resumed teaching (1985 to 2004) at various sites throughout northern

Manitoba and worked towards her Master's degree. She was very active with the Rotary Business & Professional Women's Club during her retirement.



Andrea Beverley Jackson, BA'85, died May 26 at the age of 55. Emigrating with her family from Jamaica in 1964, Andrea attended school in Goderich and Holmesville and graduated from Western in 1985. Andrea began a life-long career in the child welfare sector at a summer job with the Children's Aid Society in Stratford, then at the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies (OACAS) in Toronto and eventually as Executive Assistant to the Executive Director at the Catholic Children's Aid Society (CCAS) of Toronto. Admired

for her vocal talents and generous spirit, Andrea endeared herself to her church family at Centennial Albert United in Oshawa and to her co-workers at OACAS and CCAS who kept 24-hour vigil in her last weeks so that she was never alone. Attending family events at every opportunity, Andrea loved to visit Goderich and sing at church services and family celebrations, always grateful for home and family in her life. Living her passion for music, Andrea was a songwriter and backup vocalist for soul and reggae recording sessions and live events in Toronto.

Share your news with fellow grads.

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Answers for crossword (from page 13)

1	A	R	C	S		5	D	U	E	B	Y		10	U	B	E	R					
14	S	O	L	E		15	O	H	Y	O	U		16	M	O	M	A					
17	F	L	I	T		18	L	O	R	E	M		19	I	P	S	U	M				
20	O	F	F	T	21	O	T	H	E	R	A	C	E	S								
22	R	E	F	I	T								23	A	D	A	G	25	E			
					26	N	O	S		27			28	S	W	U	M		31	N	E	W
32	W	R	I	G	H	T		35	S	T	A	T	E		36	O	N	E				
37	H	U	T	S		38	R	E	A	D	E		39	A	V	E	R					
40	E	S	C		41	G	U	N	T	E	R		42	G	R	A	S	S				
43	E	T	A		44	E	M	T	S		45	I	A	M								
46	L	Y	N		47	E							48	I	C	E	U	P				
				52	W	E	S	T	E	R	N	A		L	U	M	N	I				
58	I	M	A	R	E	A	L	B	O	Y			60	R	A	I	N					
61	P	A	I	D		62	K	L	I	N	E		63	L	I	T	E					
64	A	R	T	Y		65	E	A	S	E	S		66	S	L	E	D					

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