

# AlumniGazette

WESTERN'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE SINCE 1939

SPRING 2010

## CREATING GREAT LEADERS



WESTERN HOME TO FIRST  
**CANADA-U.S.  
INSTITUTE**

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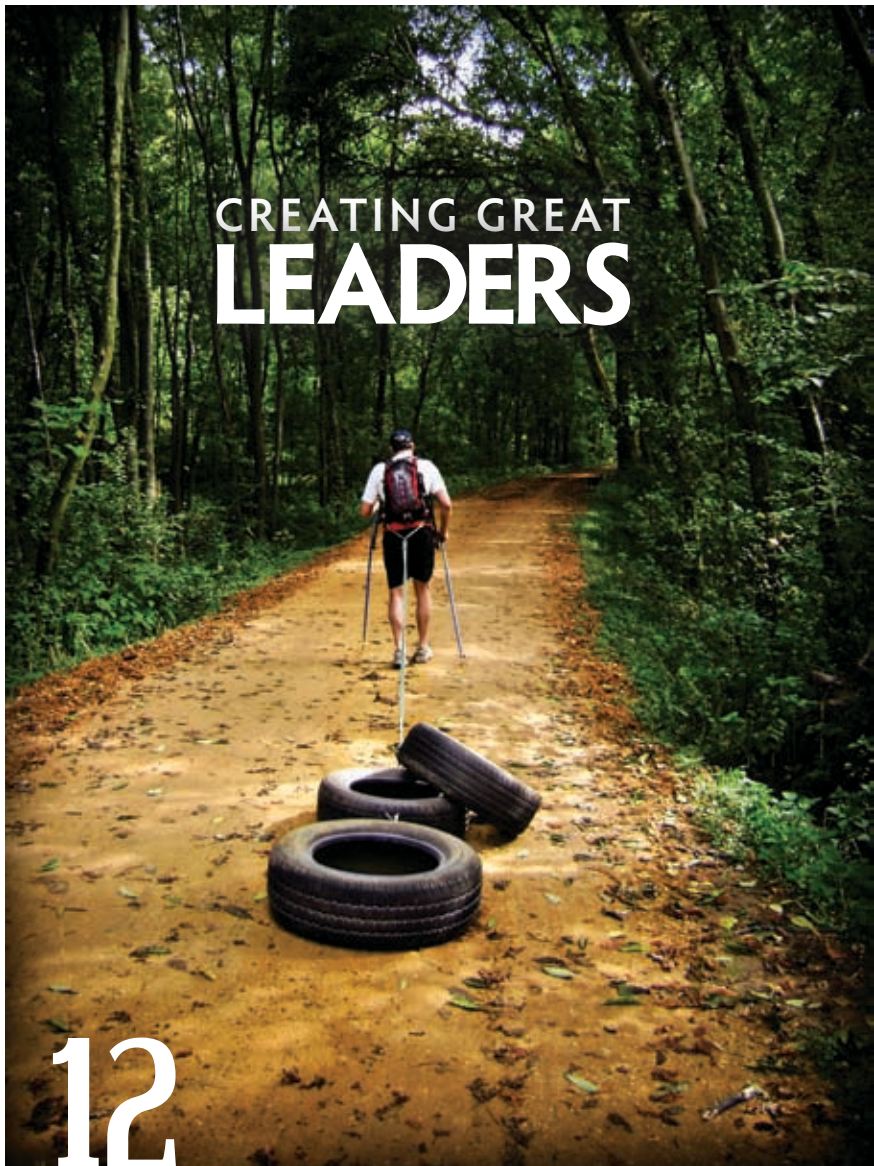
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## 12 FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

Tom Davenport's incredible journey past cancer to South Pole  
BY DAVID SCOTT

## 18 EDUCATING GLOBAL LEADERS

Learning in a multi-channel universe  
BY LARRY CORNIES, MA'86

## 24 VENI, VIDI, VICI

Canada came, saw and conquered Gold at Vancouver – and Western was there!  
BY DAVID SCOTT

## 28 HELPING THE WOMEN OF YEMEN

Profile of Donna Kennedy-Glans  
BY LAURIE BURSCH

## 30 MACKLEM MANOEUVRES MONEY MARKETS

New senior Deputy Governor, Bank of Canada  
BY SHELDON GORDON

**On the cover:** To train for his rigorous journey, Tom Davenport, BA'83, pulled three 40-pound tires for hours at a time along the C&O Canal towpath in Bethesda, Maryland to simulate the 160-pound sled he would have to drag behind him in Antarctica. (Photo courtesy Tom Davenport)

## DEPARTMENTS

### 05 LETTERS

Something else might make world a greener place

### 08 CAMPUS NEWS

TVO's Agenda broadcasts from Western

### 33 BEST KEPT SECRET

Spy hole in Great Hall  
BY BOB BARNEY

### 34 CONSUMER GUIDE

Five must-see Canadian movies  
BY JEFF RENAUD

### 35 MEMORIES

Tent City takes over campus  
BY ALAN NOON

### 36 NEW RELEASES

Canada's first wine & food mobile app goes green  
BY NATALIE MACLEAN, MBA'92

### 38 ALMANAC

Western memories 'renewable resources'



➡ ALUMNA'S INTERNSHIP AT WHO, PLUS MARGARET CHAN SHARES WORLD HEALTH PRIORITIES

➡ INCREASING RELIABILITY OF ONTARIO ELECTRICITY – HYDRO ONE/ WESTERN PARTNERSHIP  
BY PAUL MAYNE

➡ RESEARCH PROMISES TEARS OF JOY FOR DIABETICS BY PAUL MAYNE





# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WITH DAVID SCOTT

## FINDING WESTERN'S GOLDEN TOUCH

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

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

But no. 'Own' the podium was the name. Not just make it to the podium a few times for the national anthem; this was a call for worldwide domination. Not something usually in the national character. We're more the diplomats, the peacekeepers, and the producers of great comedy.

And if you thought the title was bold what about the prediction? More medals than

any country. Okay, what really happened to our athletes during the Winter Olympics? We know steroids are a no-no. What kind of training and equipment and facilities did OTP acquire?

Does extra attention, funding and resources really make that much difference?

In the end, the total number didn't matter but the colour of the medal did. Canada broke two records: most gold medals by a host country at a Winter Olympics and most golds by any country in a Winter Olympics. Wow! We actually have it in us. We have the ability to succeed. Did it take a Roger Jackson, former Olympian gold medalist, to recognize that inner self-confidence? Do we, as Canadians, have what it takes to be leaders on the world stage?

We proved we did with Winter Olympics.

In this issue we explore the elusive quality of leadership and how the paths towards it are formed at university. How the formative years at Western have created the environment to thrive and excel and push you further to succeed. There is no cookie-cutter approach to creating leaders. There is no one clear direction or course to enroll in.

A combination of factors is necessary to achieve successful leadership including initiative. And you can't teach initiative. Confidence (without arrogance), intelligence (without pretention), resourcefulness (while still being a team player), attitude (that's not entirely selfish), risk-taking (that doesn't sacrifice members of your team). It's all a balancing act. Has Western produced leaders? Yes. In more than one field? Yes.

Do we need a proactive approach to creating leadership abilities in our current students and offer more opportunities for those abilities to emerge?

Our president thinks so.

While academics might not get the spotlight that Olympic sports do, it's time for Western to own its own piece of the world's academic podium by achieving excellence and not being afraid to tell our own story.

Alumnus Roger Jackson took a bold chance. And it paid off. In Gold.

DAVID SCOTT dscott24@uwo.ca

## AlumniGazette

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## CONTRACEPTIVES CAN MAKE WORLD GREENER, BETTER PLACE

(Re: 'Green' articles, Fall '09)



I wish to commend you for the articles "What will be the 'fuel of the future'?", "Energy to burn" and other 'green' news items in the fall 2009 issue. Unintentionally the issue made mention of the most effective means of alleviating diminishing resources, global warming, environmental pollution, overpopulation, hunger, disease, poverty, crime, child abuse, even Islamic terrorism – contraceptives (letter "Contraception articles challenged law in 1964" p.5).

The biggest single cause of diminishing resources, global warming and environmental degradation is neither maliciousness nor shortsightedness; it is the total number of people on our planet. By going about our daily lives we use up resources, warm the atmosphere and pollute the environment. The more people there are, the more these occur.

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

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

be made to butt out!

Every person should know the above before it is capable of procreating. Everybody who can procreate should have access to free contraceptives and instructions on their use. Which alumni who opposed Western's granting an honorary degree to Henry Morgenthaer would approve this?

BARRY KENDALL, MLS'71

## WESTERN CELEBRATES MORE MULTI-GENERATION FAMILIES

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

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

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

RICHARD DEAKIN, BA'55 (ARTS)

## PREFER TO READ 'GOOD OLD-FASHIONED WAY'

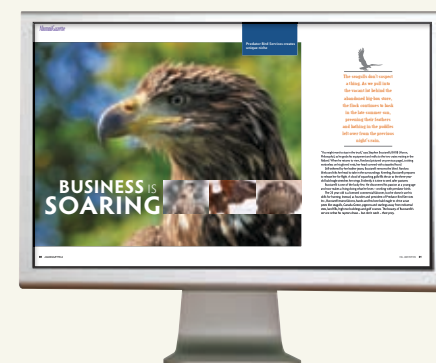
Although I use the Internet for many functions -- too numerous to mention -- reading magazines is not one. In fact, because I use the Internet and the computer for many hours a day each and every day of the week, I choose to read books, magazines and newspapers the good old-fashioned way. In fact, for reasons that could probably be the focus of a PhD thesis or two, there is something important about having the physical reading material in one's hand. The Alumni Gazette has a place of honour in a magazine stand in my living room, where I refer to it many times over the course of several months.

Unfortunately, I will not persevere with the e-version. If there are others like me, and I suspect there are, there is a chunk of the demographic that will not be exposed to the messaging and content that you so carefully present.

BARBARA YATES, BA'76 (HURON)

## CHANGE TO ALUMNI GAZETTE SADDENS READER

I am saddened by the change to an electronic format for the Alumni Gazette. I find it ironic that you announce this change in the same issue that you celebrate the history of the publication.



I usually read the magazine in bed prior to retiring for the night or while commuting to work. Using a laptop in bed or while standing on the subway is simply not feasible.

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

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

STEVEN JORDAN, BA'88

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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



# COMING BACK TO WESTERN TRANSFORMS LIFE

BY W. OWEN THORNTON BA'83 (ENGLISH)  
AND 2010 (HONORS PHILOSOPHY)

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

It all started four short years ago. I was writing a web blog on human kindness (<http://thehumankindnessproject.com>). It's about reminding people to be kind so together we can make a better world. But I was quickly over my head in regards to writing my ideas. I needed some assurance and I thought picking up a few courses at Western might help.

So, I called the Mature Student Advisor at Western and spoke with Donna Moore. I told her my situation and made an appointment. Between visiting my blog and our conversation she concluded, "Owen, you're a philosopher." So, I signed up for Philosophy 020. I didn't even know what philosophy was.\*

Now I get so excited about what I'm learning I'll tell anyone who'll listen. My ever-patient mother-in-law does her absolute best to comprehend me ... and she never lets her eyes glaze over when I ask her, "So, do you think we have free will?"

I had two major hurdles in going back to school. One was my worry about being able to do the work. Donna directed me to one-off



Owen Thornton

Western helps every "non-traditionally aged" student maximize their experience

classes on how to extract material from text books, how to take notes in class and how to use the library. For each of my four papers that year I went to the Writing Support Centre where Ryan Robb, MA'99, PhD'08 (Philosophy), offered special essay assistance to philosophy majors. I received the best grades of my scholastic career in that course.

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

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

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

Were you to ask me if you should go back I'd say, "GO!"

Listen, there ARE real obstacles. I was really afraid of looking foolish. It turns out my worry was what was truly foolish. Today, I'll tell you that I've been transformed. I'm enjoying life like never before. I'm shocked to find myself preparing graduate school applications.

So, I say let your desire to go back win. I dare you. I dare you to make life better. I dare you to call Donna and be transformed.

You just might become a giggler, too.

*\*P.S. Philosophy comes from ancient Greek and literally means "lover of wisdom."*

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### Hope

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



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The University of Western Ontario





TVO's The Agenda with Steve Paikin took its show on the road February 1, turning Western's Conron Hall into the set for guest panelists (from left) London Economic Development Corporation President Peter White, BA'87; Western President Amit Chakma; mother and Fanshawe College student Chantelle Diachina; London Free Press Editor-in-Chief Paul Berton, BA'87; and Western PhD candidate Jeffrey Preston, BA'06, MA'08, to discuss issues about the economy and diversity. Photo by Heather Travis

## WESTERN SETTING FOR TVO'S THE AGENDA

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

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

Among the guest panellists were Western President Amit Chakma; PhD candidate Jeffrey Preston; London Free Press editor-in-chief Paul Berton; London Economic Development Corporation president Peter White; and mother and Fanshawe College student Chantelle Diachina.

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

The panel also discussed whether London welcomed diversity, including members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities. "The problem we have right now, we are not

known," says Chakma. "When immigrants are looking for possible places to settle, London is not known." Chakma says London must market itself as an ideal place to live and work. Preston challenged the community to fulfill its commitments to the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and work to dispel myths about the employability of a person with a disability.

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

## LIFETIME COLLECTOR DONATES COMICS TO LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

This is believed to be the largest and most valuable collection of comic books ever donated to a Canadian university.

## NEW VP OF EXTERNAL RETURNS TO WESTERN

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

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

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

As Vice-President, External Goldthorp will lead a staff team of more than 90 people involved with Alumni Relations & Development, Advancement Service, and Communications & Public Affairs. "I am honoured to have been



Kevin Goldthorp, new VP External, begins in April. Photo by Paul Mayne

selected to serve Western, its alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students and volunteers," says Goldthorp, who will also work in partnership with Foundation Western.

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

Goldthorp officially starts on April 1.

Former Huron University College professor Eddy Smet is donating most of his collection of rare and complete runs of comics to the archives at Western Libraries. Spanning 40 years of collecting, his 10,000-plus comics, including these pieces that were on display at D. B. Weldon Library, include Star Trek, Superman, and Wolverine. Photo by Heather Travis





## WESTERN HOME TO FIRST CANADA-U.S. INSTITUTE

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

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

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

It will have several interdisciplinary research teams focusing on important domestic and foreign policy issues that are of concern to Canadians and Americans.

It encompasses three existing Western research centres and five faculties:

- The Centre for American Studies (Faculty of Social Science)
- The Canada-U.S. Law Institute (Faculty of Law)
- The Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management (Richard Ivey School of Business)
- The faculties of Arts and Humanities, and Information and Media Studies

Research, policy and education are the goals of the institute, with a focus on the political, economic, legal, cultural and historical dimensions of the Canada-U.S. relationship. A centre for public opinion and voting behaviour will also

be developed at the institute.

Experts from other universities in Canada and the U.S., as well as abroad, will be invited to join the institute as visiting fellows or contributors. The institute will create opportunities for graduate students to work on different research teams.

Abelson credits Western President Amit Chakma for his vision for the institute. Chakma believes there are great opportunities for Western to place its stamp on the world, beginning with internal, national and international collaboration.

Approvals are in place and in the coming days and months, the institute will begin the search for a location, go live with a website, explore funding opportunities, and building research teams based on already strong relationships and partnerships.

## NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL FACILITY PRIORITY FOR INCOMING DEAN

Greater integration of clinical research with other aspects of the university, increasing community profile and advocating for a new facility are at the top of the list for the newly appointed dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Dr. Michael Strong says he is "humbled" and "excited" by the appointment and looks forward to building on the legacy of Dean Carol

Herbert, who will have completed two terms and 11 years as dean when her term expires in June.

Strong will serve as dean until 2015. One of his priorities is to find new space for growing programs in a school "bursting at the seams." "Everybody needs space. At Schulich, it is a critical issue ... We need to have a new medical school facility." Locally, Strong calls Schulich

"the game in town" for training the next generation of health-care professionals for southwestern Ontario. The school has built an impressive reputation, but Strong wants to add to its international profile.

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

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

## CULTUREPLEX TO STUDY CULTURAL COMPLEXITY

A collaborative laboratory space, scheduled to open August 15, along with supporting information technologies will be called: "CulturePlex: A Laboratory for the Study of Cultural Complexity" (The CulturePlex).



Juan Luis Suárez (centre), Professor of Hispanic Studies, recently received a CFI award for his research from Dr. Eliot Phillipson, (left), President of CFI. At right: Ted Hewitt, Vice-President (Research and International Relations). Photo by Douglas Keddy.



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

"The world is a dynamic community of cultures which, over the centuries, have evolved into an interwoven mosaic that is rich in diversity but also with many shared foundations," says Juan Luis Suárez, Professor of Hispanic Studies, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, who is directing the project.

Suárez has already been recognized for creating new frontiers towards research efforts in culture. "The digital era presents enormous opportunities to capture cultural outputs over time and to chart their evolution. The research program is increasingly relevant as the rate of cultural change accelerates in the present age and with the emergence of powerful digital technologies. Canada is well positioned for global leadership in cultural research initiatives and, more broadly, in the digital humanities."

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

## NEW ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM FOR MUSIC

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



The new Artist in Residence program in the Don Wright Faculty of Music is named after famous pianists Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole pictured here from a cover of one of their recordings.

productions still going strong in London today.

To honour the legacy of this dynamic duo, an Artist-in-Residence program will be launched in 2010, thanks to the commitment of a group of alumnae who studied with Parsons and Poole. It is fitting recognition for the couple that, due to their own prestige, attracted other accomplished teachers and students to Western.

On April 16, in the Paul Davenport Theatre, the piano duo Anagnoson & Kinton will perform a concert to launch this new program. Both James Anagnoson and Leslie Kinton studied with Parsons and Poole in Toronto, and were encouraged to form their own piano duo. Anagnoson, now dean of the Glenn Gould School, was an assistant professor of piano at Western. Kinton is a current member of the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

The Artist-in-Residence program will give students an opportunity to study with musicians who bring the same acclaim and expertise as Parsons and Poole. These students will follow in the footsteps of such performers as baritone Victor Braun, who began his singing career under Poole's direction in Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

The goal is to raise \$500,000 in an endowed

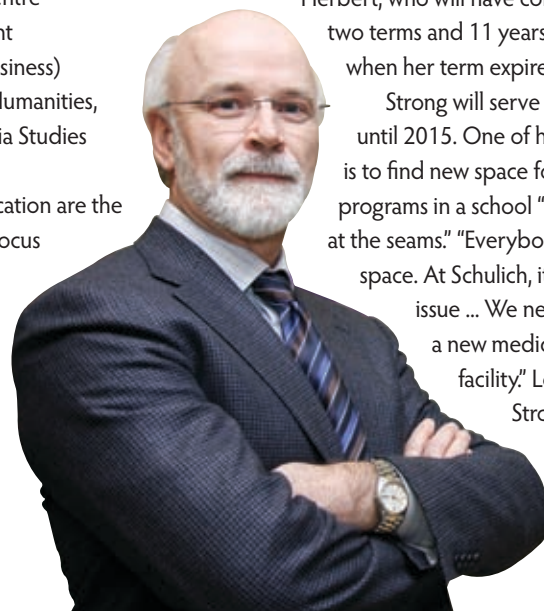
fund through Foundation Western so the Parsons and Poole legacy will continue forever.

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

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

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

**To learn more about this initiative please contact John Nolan, alumni and development officer at [jnolan6@uwo.ca](mailto:jnolan6@uwo.ca) or 519-661-2111, ext. 80533.**



Dr. Michael Strong will assume leadership of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry July 1. Photo by Heather Travis



# FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION

OBSTACLES OVERCOME IN PATH TO SUCCESS

BY DAVID SCOTT

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

There is nothing but white for as far as the eye can see.

There is no change in the landscape. There are no tracks of animals in the snow. There are no birds flying by, not even vultures circling. The only sound is the wind and the scraping of skis passing over the frozen ground. If your solar-charged batteries haven't drained for the day, you might be lucky enough to hear your favourite songs on your iPod - the only thing connecting you to a familiar environment thousands of miles away and several degrees warmer. You dream of a warm fresh cup of Tim Horton's coffee.

Welcome to the Antarctica.



There is a reason why humans, and most creatures with sense (we can't explain the reasoning of penguins), avoid the snow-covered frigid mass of land on the southernmost point of the Earth. It would be like living on an iceberg.

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

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

His adventures continued after graduation. At age 24, he spent six months hitchhiking throughout southern Africa, covering elections for African publications. Davenport's fascination with polar exploration began at an earlier age though. As a teenager he read about Norwegian Roald Amundsen, the first person to lead a successful expedition to the South Pole, and British explorer Robert Scott, who reached the South Pole but perished with his team in Antarctica in early 1912, just weeks after Amundsen had completed his successful journey.

"Seeing a photo of Scott at the South Pole was mesmerizing, and reading the tragic story of his expedition fascinated me as a teenager," Davenport says. "It became something I always wanted to do."

Amundsen's expedition was supported by teams of dogs pulling sleds. Scott's final push



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

to the South Pole was attempted on foot, with his men pulling sleds after their horses died from exposure.

In 2004, Davenport learned of Matty McNair, a world-class polar explorer who specializes in polar training and adventure guiding. McNair guided the first all-female expedition to the North Pole in 1997, a grueling 82-day British women's journey over the shifting polar ice pack. She then led an expedition to the South Pole in 2002. Her daughter, Sarah McNair-Landry, became the youngest person to ski to the South Pole at age 18, and the youngest to reach the North Pole at age 19.

McNair-Landry, 23, led Davenport's South Pole expedition. In February 2006, Davenport spent two weeks in Iqaluit training with Matty McNair. Frozen Frobisher Bay is similar to the icy environment of Antarctica, and Davenport and others practiced cross-country skiing, kite

skiing, dog sledding, navigation and route finding, all skills needed to master polar travel.

Expeditions to the South Pole take place during the Antarctic summer— November to January. Davenport planned to start his trek in November 2006. But a few months after the polar training, he began having intestinal problems.

"It wasn't uncommon for me to have some sort of malady stemming from my travel," says Davenport, whose work in private sector development for the International Finance Corporation at The World Bank Group sends him on frequent trips and long-term assignments to Africa and Asia.

Davenport says he wasn't concerned by a little blood in his stool. When his stomach acted up, he usually was treated with a strong dose of antibiotics, and the issue was resolved. When the condition persisted, his wife, Gail, suggested that he see a doctor. Davenport hadn't had

a physical exam in seven or eight years. In December 2006, he had a colonoscopy at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C. Gail says she had suspected something was terribly wrong when the hospital called to say that Tom was waiting for her. "It was the drive full of dread," she says.

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

- BARRY STEIN, PRESIDENT OF COLORECTAL CANCER ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

"When the doctor said there is a tumour and he's pretty sure it's cancer, you don't know how big the paradigm shift is, but you know you're suddenly on a different path. From the minute Tom was diagnosed, there's only one outcome acceptable to him, and it would be positive. Tom's outlook is, this isn't the way his story is going to go."

Davenport's younger sister Clare, HBA'87, had been treated for breast cancer a year earlier, so he had encountered similar news in

the past. But he says he found dealing with her illness "more difficult than my own because, well, she's my younger sister. I was confident I could deal with this."

The cancer, located in the rectum, was considered an aggressive form at Stage III. Subsequent tests showed that the cancer had not spread to other organs. A friend told Davenport about Dr. W. Douglas Wong, a colorectal surgeon at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. Wong had good news for Davenport. He said there was a 90 per cent chance the tumour removal surgery would be successful and that Davenport would avoid a permanent colostomy.

Following surgery Davenport underwent chemotherapy until mid-August, and he continued to go to work, but the thought of a South Pole adventure was constantly on his mind. Five days after his last chemotherapy treatment, Davenport flew to Alaska to hike with his brother, Andrew, on the Chilkoot Trail, a 33-mile route used during the Gold Rush days and earlier from the Skagway area to the interior of the Yukon. Davenport wanted to see if there was any chance he would be able to start the grueling training for Antarctica. Tom completed the trek without much complaining, according to his brother, with a temporary colostomy bag and some discomfort.

In February of 2008, five months after the temporary colostomy bag was removed, the brothers competed in a two-day, 112-mile cross-country ski marathon in Canada. Davenport finished the first day, skiing about 50 miles, but a broken ski about 18 miles into the second day kept him from completing the race. But bigger goals were ahead. Planning began again for the South Pole trek. It was a go.

Davenport flew with his crew into Puntas Arenas, Chile on November 5, 2008. He would have the common wait of a week for the weather to clear and

## PREVENTING COLORECTAL CANCER

First obtain the basic knowledge at: [www.colorectal-cancer.ca](http://www.colorectal-cancer.ca)

### CRC WARNING SIGNS

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

[www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/just-the-facts/symptoms](http://www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/just-the-facts/symptoms)

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

Follow health lifestyles . Check out our website [www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/nutrition/nutritional](http://www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/nutrition/nutritional)

Get Screened if you are 50 or older. [www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/screening/screening-tests](http://www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/screening/screening-tests)

Tom takes a much-appreciated snack break in the foreground photo. In the background, camp is made at the Thiel Mountains, a welcomed break from the flat landscape, marking the halfway point on his trek.





Davenport and trip leader Sarah McNair-Landry are pictured here just minutes after arriving at the end of their journey – back at Patriot Hills. The pair made their return trip using kite-skis. They skied about 12 hours a day, covering about 58 miles at a time, and arrived way ahead of their schedule.

supplies to be organized before they landed at the Patriot Hills' blue ice runway in Antarctica to begin. Davenport, a guide and three other explorers reached the pole on cross-country skis, each pulling a sled attached to a harness burdened by 160 pounds of food, fuel and gear—and into a fierce headwind. The 1,200 km trek took 53 days to complete. He and the guide then skied back to the base camp in 12 days, the return trip aided by kites that took advantage of the trailing winds. The others flew back.

But it wasn't that easy. Day after day after day for 53 days seeing the same terrain can take its toll. Mental strength is as important as physical strength and endurance.

"You break the trip up, so you can focus on it in reasonable terms. You want to get to the first degrees." These degrees became extremely important milestones to Davenport and his team. "We started at 80 degrees and skied to 90 degrees. Each degree is 60 nautical miles. At night, after reaching the next degree, we would celebrate with a 'degree party'. It's something you looked forward to."

The team celebrated when they made it one-quarter of the way, then again when they reached Thiel Mountains at the halfway point, the "only break on the horizon."

When time and technology would allow, Davenport blogged about his journey at: [www.fromend2end.net](http://www.fromend2end.net)

"The thought occurred to me today...that much of this march to the Pole is like that cinematic classic, Groundhog Day. Like Bill Murray's character, we awake each day to the same room, our tent, the same setting, white sastrugui (wind-sculptured snow) stretching everywhere. And the routine for the rest of the day is pretty much the same as it was yesterday and will be tomorrow. Reverie is at 6:30 a.m and the person on cooking duties sparks the stove, prepares tea and oatmeal...then pack up and out of tents by 8:15 and on ski by 8:40. We then ski for 1.5 hrs, followed by a 15 min re-fueling (shoveling food and drink in). This cycle repeats itself till 5:00 p.m., when we identify a new campsite - which looks remarkably like the one the previous evening. Then tent set-up, melt snow for water, then make a hot drink. Next take our GPS reading, make some notes in the diary, prepare a tasty freeze-dried dinner, read for a few moments, then off to sleep by 9:00-9:30."

And when he finally reached the South Pole and saw the U.S. research station (Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station) and reached his goal,

how did that feel?

"For me the most moving point of the trip, was when I looked up from the tips of my skis to see the base in the distance. When you're 10 to 15 nautical miles away, you can see a line that must be a building. So, by the time you get to the Pole, you're 'arrived.' All of the sudden you get to this place that is like the end of the world and then it feels like the beginning of the world. So, that was a profound or strange sense."

Were there any doubts along the way? "The worse case scenario was not to finish. That was the only thing that loomed large – that I wouldn't be able to make it. I certainly had those moments, especially at the beginning."

How did trekking to the South Pole and surviving change his life or outlook on life?

"That's a very similar situation to the cancer. I approach challenges now slightly differently – or without as much angst or worry. Because I feel I can put it in perspective. It's focused me more on enjoying life in the shorter term and not thinking about 'I can do this or that a few years from now.' I'll probably be around – but it increases the present value of things."

Why risk your life for an adventure?

"I don't think so much about the risk as the challenge. I never feel like I'm risking my life. Even when I was in the throes of the cancer treatment, I never thought of the probability numbers. It was more, 'I've got to get the best team, the best treatment' "

Davenport sees risk-taking as an important part of life's successes.

"At my Dad's memorial service, my sister in her eulogy said she asked my Dad (years ago) if he had any regrets, anything he would do differently. He said 'take more risks.' I think that's something that matters to me. Putting yourself into a situation where you're going to be pushed a little bit."

As far as adventure pursuits, "it's cliché to say but none of us know how long exactly we're here. Take some risks, some challenges."

From someone who has overcome challenges and achieved his goals, Tom Davenport's advice is sincere. ■

*Portions of this article were originally published in the July/August 2009 issue of Bethesda Magazine, [www.bethesdamagazine.com](http://www.bethesdamagazine.com). Reprinted with permission.*

# Who says great leaders are born and not made?



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

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# EDUCATING GLOBAL LEADERS

## LEARNING IN A MULTI-CHANNEL UNIVERSE

BY LARRY CORNIES, MA'86

When he became president of Western last July, Amit Chakma fully expected to learn much more about the university than he already knew. Though he'd pored over books and statistics, he was eager to meet faculty, staff, students and alumni firsthand — to personally encounter the people who made the place tick and had contributed to its formidable reputation.

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

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

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

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

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

Yet, as he charts his course toward that horizon, Chakma doesn't see the need for a radical renovation of the university's

CREATING GREAT  
**LEADERS**





traditional pillars, nor does he espouse the kind of pop philosophy that might be found in the latest biz-lit bestsellers. Instead, he harks back to Western’s past and speaks of the need for fine-tuning.

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

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

“What institutions do is open students’ minds — intellectually and socially. In the past, Western helped them grow into individuals that could make a difference at whatever they wanted to do; to be the very best that they could be. Western helped them to be confident about their abilities and the social interactions, whether through our athletics programs or some other programs. It just allowed them to grow up together in a very nurturing environment — again, I go back to that notion of educating the whole.”

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

“When we think about leading now, it’s much more in an ecosystem as opposed to an organization.”

“What I’m looking for is a menu of options: Some will play a leadership role in student government or athletics; some will play a leadership role in helping out on committees. Students from our faculty of education will go out and play a leadership role in education reforms. Students from the

law school will play leadership roles in the legal clinic, for example.

“I just want to expand existing opportunities, create more opportunities and then encourage students institutionally, so we don’t just leave it up to them. We need to tell them this is a good thing, this is part of your education and here are the choices you can make,” he says.

To provide those additional opportunities for leadership formation, some existing structures and institutional habits will need to change, Chakma says. Walls will need to come down; perceptions modified. And, with characteristic candour, he acknowledges part of his job, for the first couple of years at least, will be to develop a greater degree of consensus and buy-in from all quarters around his leadership-development agenda.

Chakma has no quarrel with the attributes often cited in scholarly articles as being necessary for the formation of great leaders: that they be honest, forward-looking, competent, inspiring and intelligent. He adds, however, that they must also possess the courage to stand by their convictions. As for being forward-looking or visionary, that quality goes for naught unless one can also get others to buy in.

Leadership development in today’s global environment is complicated

by the fact that the attributes of today’s leaders are different from previous generations, says Mary Crossan, director of the Leading Cross-Enterprise Research Centre at the Richard Ivey School of Business.

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

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

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



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

The intellectual rigour and demanding standards of UWO set principles and an approach that always served me well. [Boosting Western’s reach and influence at an international level will require] individuals defining problems in a global context. We can never be complacent with merely modest success in Canada. There is always someone else coming up with a better idea. Western can instill a global perspective in its research, its graduates and its contributions to London, Ont., and Canada in such a way as to expand minds and broaden horizons. This will make us more productive, competitive and responsive to the challenges of the future.



**Tebello Nyokong, PhD’87**  
Professor of medicinal chemistry and nanotechnology, Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa

Socially, the multi-cultural nature of UWO helped me to know more about other countries and to be involved in debates ranging from the South Africa Free Mandela Campaign to nuclear energy issues.

One of my PhD students is now at UWO as an exchange student, funded by Western. This is a step in the right direction. What would also be very beneficial is for students from UWO to spend times in other laboratories outside America and Europe. I think spending time in Africa would be good, since that will be truly a different experience.



**Ivan Vesely, BESC’83, PhD’87**  
Founder and chief scientific officer, ValveXchange Inc., Aurora, Colo.

When I was going through my doctoral program, biophysics had a very effective student mentoring program. Participation in weekly scientific seminars was mandatory and students were routinely “picked on” by the senior faculty to chair the seminar and ask questions. It was very stressful for the young students and many times we were caught off guard and were publicly humiliated. However, after a while, we developed a thick skin and did not take feedback and scientific criticism so personally.

Being a scientist is not only being good at research – it also means being good at presenting your work to an audience.



**Jeffrey Turnbull, MEd’90**  
President, Canadian Medical Association, Ottawa

While at Western, I was in contact with several influential leaders and it was their mentorship and example that were instrumental to me. They not only demonstrated effective leadership skills, but, perhaps more importantly, they were convinced of their ability to make meaningful change.

“Leadership” is not the goal in or of itself, but more a route to effective change at an international level. In focused areas of potential development, individuals and UWO itself can create partnerships, strategic investment in young leaders and information resources for evidence-informed policy decisions.



**Kathleen Slaughter, BA’68**  
Associate dean, Asia, Richard Ivey School of Business, Hong Kong

We have developed a leadership style that is quite different from the leadership style of Asia. We value openness, frankness and transparency and these can contribute positively in international business settings.

At a time when organizations worldwide are searching for ways to attract and retain talent, some of our leadership skills can be leveraged to enhance work life in other parts of the world — perhaps parts of the world where hierarchical systems inhibit an individual’s ability to become fully engaged with the corporation.

We must prepare the next generation for a global environment that isn’t just talked about but lived to the fullest.



**Perrin Beatty, BA’71**  
President and CEO, Canadian Chamber of Commerce, Ottawa

There are many ways in which Western can leverage its assets. It already makes a great contribution in its teaching and research activities, which is why it enjoys an excellent reputation both in Canada and abroad. I believe that even more can be done to give students the experience and understanding that will be vital for Canada to succeed in the larger world. We are linked as never before to what takes place a world away, and we can do more to help students understand the world by encouraging them to study abroad and by bringing more international students and faculty to Canada.





“One of the troubles in most universities is, where you have a research-dominant culture, the faculty is not hardwired to deliver learning experiences to the students that meet their needs,” she says. UWO, on the other hand, “has invested, for many years, in a teacher-scholar orientation. It takes a long time to develop that kind of culture in a university. Another university can’t just turn on a dime and do that; you just don’t have the collaborative engagement of the faculty,” she observes.

While the instillation of leadership and its associated qualities might be secondary to some scholastic disciplines and their instruction, it is top of mind and very much part of the mission at other faculties. At the Ivey School, for example, it’s central — and inextricably linked to internationalization.

“When people think of good leaders, they think of people who have a sense of purpose, a sense of mission and certainly a sense of passion. Leaders understand people. They anticipate, rather than just react. They understand how to motivate, create change and anticipate change,” says Darren Meister, faculty director of both the HBA program and Ivey’s new master of science program.

“A leader would be a bad leader if all they thought about was, ‘How do I compete against my local market? How do I compete against the four people who are my current competitors?’ So if your vision of the world is how to anticipate change and how to react to things in your local environment, you’re not going to be very successful. You may be a decent manager, but you’re not going to be a leader,” Meister says.

Outstanding leadership capabilities are refined only in the fire of international and cross-cultural exposure, Meister believes. While at present only about half of Ivey’s HBA students get international experience through postings in places such as Panama, Israel and Eastern Europe of anywhere between a week and four

months, it’s the program’s goal that all will eventually do so.

“We’re working with different parts of the university — very non-Iveyish” to make that happen, Meister adds.

For Kathleen Slaughter, associate dean, Asia, at Ivey’s Hong Kong campus, the formation of global leaders is impossible without cross-cultural experience.

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

DARREN MEISTER

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

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

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

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

Alongside this trio, Chakma places former Bank of Canada governor David Dodge, who, while deputy minister of finance in the mid-’90s, did much of the difficult work of slaying the budget deficit while allowing the credit to go to his political masters, finance minister Paul Martin and prime minister Jean Chretien.

Mel Cappe, a Western alumnus, longtime deputy minister in several government departments, clerk of the Privy Council and secretary to the federal cabinet, agrees with Chakma that the



combination of personal courage and insistence on excellence are elements of effective leadership.

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

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

DOUGLAS FINCH

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

“I believe I learned more in the first two years of my undergrad degree in London, Ont., than I did [at the Julliard School] in New York, where I think I was just able to capitalize on the quality of my previous training. The training at Western

taught me to trust my intellectual and artistic instincts.

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

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

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

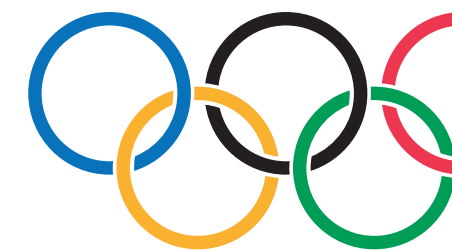
Meanwhile, Chakma finds inspiration in the example of UWO president George Edward Hall, whose tenure spanned two decades (1947-1967).

“He was the first one to articulate a global vision,” he says. “This was 1965. He dared to think of the next 100 years and thought that Western should become one of Canada’s greatest universities.

“If you can dream in 1965 to become one of Canada’s greatest institutions, we can aspire to become one of the world’s top universities,” he says.

He readily acknowledges that there is a certain “audacity” in that aspiration. But that, too, is an essential leadership quality. ■





## Canada came, saw and conquered Gold at Vancouver

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

# VENI, VIDI, VICI

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

Specifically, alumnus **Roger Jackson, BA'63**, along with \$110 million in seed money from corporations and the federal government, established the Own The Podium (OTP) program in 2005, when John Furlong and the organizers of the 2010 Vancouver games realized that staging an excellent Games and placing well just wasn't good enough. They wanted to win. So they brought in Jackson, past president of the Canadian Olympic Committee and gold medalist in rowing at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

The results? Canada set two records: most gold medals ever by a country in the Winter Olympics, and most gold medals by a host country in the Winter Olympics. Not a bad result considering Canada didn't achieve a single gold medal hosting either the 1976 Montreal Olympics or the 1988 Calgary Winter Games. Going from zero to 14 golds was quite a medal haul. Twenty-six medals in total for Canada, third behind the U.S. and Germany.

Despite the success of the Vancouver Games, the future of the Own the Podium program remained in doubt immediately following the Olympics. Jackson said the program needs an additional \$22-million annually from the federal government to make up for funding that ends now that the Olympics are over.

Recent polls suggest Canadians support the program, and Jackson hopes politicians will respond. About half of OTP's budget comes from the federal government, with the remainder from provinces and corporations. The federal government has committed to keeping up its share, but most of the provinces and corporations have not.

Jackson also defended the name Own the Podium in various media outlets during



Associate professor and undergraduate chair Roberta Fleming and administrative officer Marie Schell can't contain their excitement as Christine Nesbitt picks up a gold medal in 1,000-metre speed skating.

the Olympics, saying it was not an attempt to present Canadians as arrogant or unwelcoming at the Games.

"It was a bold statement of what we should strive to do," said Jackson.

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

"It's a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the Olympic Games from the inside and to see the enormous work and see this project come to fruition does give you a great sense of accomplishment," she says.

"Every detail from designing of a torch to planning the torch relay run, to figuring out and building all of the venues for the athletes, the colours they wear, and opening and closing

ceremonies – it's probably one of the most complex project-management projects I've ever seen in my entire life."

Other members of the Western community at the games included varsity men's golf coach **Jim Waite** who headed west to serve as the coach of the Canadian men's curling team. They went in as a medal-favourite and didn't disappoint, coming home with gold.

Getting in on the action, Faculty of Health Sciences Dean **Jim Weese** volunteered with the men's hockey events in Vancouver during the nail-biters, tense times and finally to the top of the podium with gold. Kinesiology student **Katrina Krawec** also volunteered during the Olympics in Whistler.

Earth Sciences professor **Wayne Nesbitt's** daughter, Christine, competed in long track speed skating and kept viewers from London on the edge of their seats with her medal-winning performance: a gold in the 1,000-metre race.

**Alma Moir**, the head coach of the varsity figure skating team, was at the Olympics to watch her son, Scott, compete in the figure skating - ice dance competition, along with long-time partner Tessa Virtue in three dance programs that captured gold – and the hearts of Canadians. It was a first-ever gold for Canada in ice dance.

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

Campus Community Police Service Manager **Michael Mics** was in Vancouver helping with security.

Steven Dengler, BA'93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Liskeard) on December 31 en route to the Olympic Games in Vancouver



# MOCCIO

## MAKES MUSIC THAT INSPIRES

BY JANIS WALLACE, BMUS'75, BED'76

The athletes – they believed. The spectators there and across the country – they believed. That faith paid off in results and spirit, all spurred on by the theme I Believe or I imagine in all its 200-plus variations.

The official theme for the Vancouver Olympics started as a 12-second clip Stephan Moccio, BMus'94, sang into a Dictaphone five years ago. The Western grad said the tune came to him while driving, shortly after he heard Vancouver had won the selection for the 2010 Winter Games. He played it for his friend Alan Frew, front man for Glass Tiger, who

**The universal message of the song can extend far after the flags are folded...**

later wrote the lyrics. At a dinner party, the two approached Keith Pelley, media consortium president for the Games. "I looked Keith straight in the eye and I said, I have your theme," said Moccio. And that was the beginning of something beautiful.

Moccio's theme was recorded in many versions and styles and woven throughout the coverage. "There are about 11 different colours as I call it," he said. "We call one 'The Extreme Version' for the snowboarders. The melody is played in aggressive, electric tones conceived as 'Kanye West meets rock.' We have one called 'Emotional' when we're building a story around an athlete. There's what we call 'Feelings' – when an athlete does

not get a medal." The music reflected the emotional ride through the Games.

The variations were recorded by teen singing star Nikki Yanofsky and Quebec artist Annie Villeneuve, the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, Canadian Children's Opera Company, Bach Children's Chorus and Toronto Children's Chorus and Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal.

Inspired as a youngster by David Foster's music for the 1988 Calgary Games, Moccio believed in his own ability to rise to the challenge. He made his own dream come true with "one of the biggest music budgets you would ever see in Canada."

The main version of the theme is a big orchestral piece featuring timpani and brass. Meant to galvanize Canadians, Moccio called it "über-commercial and über-classical."

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

Neither Moccio nor Frew apologize for the commercial aspect of the song. "Somebody's going to say 'That's mush,'" said Frew. "Well, okay, what do you want to write about? The moral of the story is, hey, wouldn't it be great if we could get it together, if we could come together as one."

Anyone who watched the Vancouver Games likely believes that is exactly what happened. We all believed.

# ABORIGINAL SPORT EXPERT GUIDING OLYMPIC CENTRE

BY PAUL MAYNE

The International Centre for Olympic Studies (ICOS) went to a former varsity athlete, four-time Western graduate and Aboriginal sport expert when selecting a new director.

For Janice Forsyth, BA'95, Dip'97, MA'00, PhD'05, the opportunity to return to The University of Western Ontario and take the helm of the Olympic centre seemed almost too good to be true. She has been teaching at the University of Manitoba since 2005 but prior to that earned her bachelor, master's and PhD degrees over 14 years at Western.

**"As students here we would always talk about what we would do if we were director."**

"This came up and I knew it was meant to be," says Forsyth, still getting a feel for her new responsibilities.

After receiving her undergraduate degree and honors diploma in history, Forsyth says she was wandering the halls, contemplating her next step. Walking through Alumni Hall, she came upon a sign for the Olympic centre and was curious enough to open the door.

"I opened the door and we met Bob Barney," says Forsyth, referring to ICOS's affable founder. "He was like 'c'mon in.' And the next thing I knew I was doing a master's."

The master's in Aboriginal Sport would soon turn into a PhD. Her research interests included contemporary Aboriginal sport practices in Canada – specifically the North American Indigenous Games and the Tom Longboat Awards – the intersection of race, class and gender in Aboriginal sport and Aboriginal participation in the Olympic Games.

A former varsity athlete in cross-country running, track and field, and badminton, the



Janice Forsyth is thrilled to be back at Western, this time as the new director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies. Photo by Paul Mayne

member of the Fisher River Cree First Nation (Manitoba) twice earned All-Canadian status in cross-country running. She also competed at the 1995 and 2002 North American Indigenous Games for Team Ontario.

Forsyth's interest in the Olympic centre grew and she became a member of the board of directors while a student.

"As students here we would always talk about what we would do if we were director," she says. "Having been here before and having that familiarity will make the transition much easier."

In addition to being a board member with the Canadian Association for the Advancement

of Women and Sport and Physical Activity, she has represented the Aboriginal Sport Circle, Canada's national voice for Aboriginal sport and recreation. She maintains strong links with government and non-profit sectors in sport, promoting equitable opportunities for Aboriginal people, and girls and women in sport.

"I'm a person that has had a number of different options, such as government; and the opportunity to stay in academia also came up," adds Forsyth, who is teaching Olympic history in the Department of Kinesiology. "But this was easy. The position came up and I applied. It was a no-brainer. I wanted to return."



# LEGAL PATH LEADS TO HELPING WOMEN OF YEMEN

Girls in Al Mahwit, Yemen. Photos by Patrick McCloskey

BY LAURIE BURSCH

**I**t was the president of Yemen who looked me in the eyes and said, "Why are you quitting this company? You need to continue to do this kind of work that you're doing. We need help in Yemen because we have educated our females in the last 10 years but we don't know how to integrate them into the workforce."

Unless you're Donna Kennedy-Glans, LLB'84, chances are that you've never encountered this situation: a Yemeni government official beseeching you to continue your corporate work with a Canadian energy company because he sees the benefits to the women of his country. So how does someone go from a childhood on a family farm in Southwestern Ontario to a conversation with a president in the Middle East?

"I came from a family farm where the name on the barn was my father's, my grandfather's... you get the picture..." However, hers was a family that was "open to the possibility that I might

want to do something that was different from what they did."

Kennedy-Glans trained as a lawyer – she graduated from Western Law in 1984 – and her career trajectory evolved from law to corporate negotiations for Nexen, Inc., the large Canadian-based energy company that brought her to the Middle East in the first place. "I became a negotiator, and then I became responsible for above-ground risk management. In the energy sector, that's community. What are your social accountabilities?"

"What I [did was] stand in that space and try to get them all to one table and try to sort out the right questions they want to dig into, and strengthen those relationships."

So she doesn't see that it was a big transition in 2001 to leave the corporate world (where she was Nexen's first female vice president) but continue to develop the capacity building work she had started while working for Nexen in Yemen. In 2003, she founded Bridges Social Development ([www.canadabridges.com](http://www.canadabridges.com)), a volunteer organization that trains and mentors community leaders – both women and men – in health care, education, journalism, politics and law. Leaving Nexen allowed her to work more independently with a broader range of organizations, including non-governmental organizations and advocacy groups,

who were trying to figure out what constructive engagement really looked like. "That wasn't a big step out for me, because it was just applying the learning in a different space."

"My work's been 'boots on the ground,' and I think that's where I learned a lot. I think that whole idea of making sure that there is true alignment between a head office strategy or a government policy and what's happening on the ground is everything." She's passionate as she talks about what she does, and about the importance of integrity, the subject of her first book (*Corporate Integrity: A Toolkit for Managing Beyond Compliance*) in her corporate and current work.

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

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

"I struggled so much, dealing with the fact that a small group of people, hateful people, could disrupt a society so greatly... the impacts on the ground in a place like Yemen are absolutely shocking. I know a lot of people in a place like Yemen – I know them as friends, I know them as colleagues, I respect them, I admire the work they do. Watching what happened to them was devastating for me



do amazing things. I believe that people can lead positive change through individual acts. You need government policy, and I think organizations, like companies, need to have strategies and visions that people can see and decide – or not – to participate in, but I think we often underestimate the gentle, small actions that take place within individuals."

"And even though things can look a little bleak at times, what gives me the most hope in a place like Yemen, in a place like Canada, is people. People. Human capacity. It's what we don't spend enough energy on. Forget oil capacity, look at your human capacity."

She laughs when she adds, "They didn't teach me that at law school, by the way."

Kennedy-Glans' newest project is Unveiling Youth Potential ([www.unveilingyouthpotential.com](http://www.unveilingyouthpotential.com)), a program set in motion by Yemeni youth who came to Bridges when they saw al-Qaeda in their country nearly two years ago. Working with these young people, and other youth from Canada and around the world, they

facilitated 18 months of conversation about what outsiders can do to support at-risk youth in isolated communities. "It's very exciting," Kennedy-Glans says, but adds that the program is still growing, and there are many ways for new people to get involved. "We need mentors, we need support, we need funding, we need learning coaches, we need people who are committed to working with youth leaders who can be agents of positive social change in the communities where they live."

And from there, perhaps it's just a few steps until you're talking to a president... ■

**"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."**

MARGARET MEAD  
US anthropologist & popularizer  
of anthropology (1901-1978)

personally," and was the catalyst for her second book, *Unveiling the Breath: One woman's journey into understanding Islam and gender equality*. "I was writing because I had to deal with my response to those issues."

So what keeps her, and the volunteers of Bridges, going?

"I've seen change. I have seen citizen leaders



**Donna Kennedy-Glans is a lawyer, author and advocate who calls Calgary home. For more information about her work, visit: [www.canadabridges.com](http://www.canadabridges.com)**





# MACKLEM MANOEUVRES MONEY MARKETS ON WORLD STAGE

BY SHELDON GORDON

CREATING GREAT  
LEADERS

In September 2008, as the sub-prime mortgage crisis shook the pillars of global finance, Western alumnus Tiff Macklem, one of the federal government's most senior civil servants, played a key role in managing Canada's response to the upheaval.

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

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

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

Macklem admits that the Western world's financial regulators initially underestimated the systemic risk. What at first appeared to be a problem of insufficient liquidity then was perceived as a matter of a few insolvent banks. Only belatedly did it become apparent that the global financial system was "undercapitalized and over-levered," and that a new Great Depression loomed.

"The policy tools we economists had learned were about how to support markets," says Macklem. "But as the crisis worsened, many



Tiff Macklem



Bank of Canada headquarters in Ottawa.



[credit] markets were simply closed. It required governments to step in and make markets." (Ottawa provided temporary emergency liquidity, which peaked at \$40 billion in December 2008, to stabilize short-term money markets.)

"I had to use everything I had ever learned," says Macklem, "but there was no chapter in the textbooks on how to do this."

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

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

At Western, he earned an MA (1984) and a PhD (1989). He chose Western, he says, because it "had the country's strongest macro-economic faculty. The department was a real powerhouse, and professors such as David Laidlaw and

Michael Parkin had a profound influence on me."

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

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

something that, intellectually, I wanted to do."

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

Bank, building economic models on how to run monetary policy with inflation targets." Usually the restrained mandarin, Macklem suddenly sounds gleeful as he reminisces about his role in initiating this bold new monetary policy.

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

His current job at Finance is, tellingly, the same post that Mark Carney held before his ascendancy to Governor of the Bank in 2008. Many observers expect Macklem to be named his successor in 2015 when Carney's seven-year term ends. (No Governor has served a second term since Gerald Bouey was reappointed in 1980). Macklem brushes off speculation that he is destined to become Canada's next top central banker. Significantly, however, he will be returning to the Bank this July with a promotion to Senior Deputy Governor, a post that makes him effectively the Chief Operating Officer. Meanwhile, as the G-20 struggles to agree on a new global regime of financial regulation, he doesn't lack for challenges. ■

The current \$20-bill has the signature of alumnus Paul Jenkins on the bottom right corner. One day we'll see alumnus Tiff Macklem's name in the same place.





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# SPYHOLE FOR PROFESSORS?

## SECRET DOOR IN THE GREAT HALL

BY BOB BARNEY, PROFESSOR EMERITUS, HEALTH SCIENCES

From June 1979 to June 1993, a period of some 14 years, my office occupied the Tower Rooms of Somerville House, an almost unknown, largely ignored spot adjacent to the Great Hall, but above it. It was reached (and still is) by ascending a flight of nondescript stairs disappearing into the wall beside a women's bathroom.

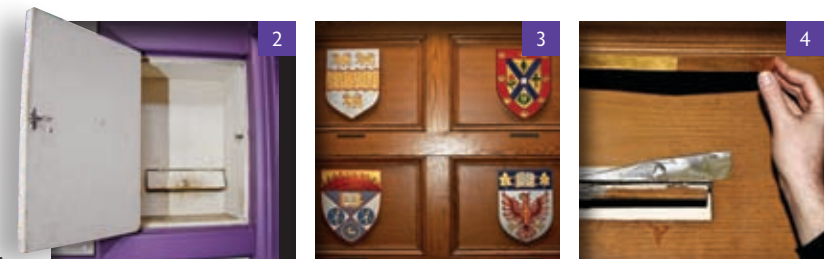
As one ascended the stairs (as I later learned), one could notice what appeared to be a small cupboard door in the wall. If opened, you found what appeared to be simply a blank wall inside. But, in actuality, the blank wall was the back of a decorative coat of arms plaque that hung on the wall above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

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

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



Photos by Paul Mayne



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

- 1) view from staircase
- 2) cupboard door and viewing slot
- 3) view from the Great Hall
- 4) viewing slot revealed from beneath hinged plaque



## FIVE CANADIAN FILMS YOU SHOULD SEE BEFORE YOU DIE

BY JEFF RENAUD



In October 2006, the producers of *Bon Cop, Bad Cop* claimed that the film had become the highest-grossing Canadian film domestically, surpassing the \$11.2 million earned by the 1981 teen comedy *Porky's*. As record-breaking movies, both could lay claim to the honorific of “classic Canadian films” but are they truly the best this country has ever offered to international audiences?

Not likely, as critics and academics have argued for years the importance of such films versus more inspired efforts like *Jésus de Montréal*, *The Sweet Hereafter* and *Wavelength*.

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

### THE GREY FOX (1982) dir. Phillip Borsos

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

### HIGHWAY 61 (1991) dir. Bruce McDonald

Hilarious, beautifully written, another terrific entry from Bruce McDonald, getting a vast assist here from his actors, Don McKellar and Valerie Buhagiar. A whimsical trip for a would-be jazz musician (or is he just a barber?) who travels into the American South and slowly loses the various ties that hold him down.

### J.A. MARTIN, PHOTOGRAPHE (1977) dir. Jean Beaudin

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

### LES ORDRES (1974) dir. Michel Brault

A painful and touching near-documentary, done in the style of Costa-Gavras' *Z*, and *Missing*. A step by step recounting of what happened when Pierre Trudeau issued the famous “orders” of the title: the War Measure's Act. The largely working-class French Canadians who are caught in the round-up and imprisoned without access to lawyers or trial is a reminder to us now of how Patriot Acts in every country work. A beautifully made, powerfully acted film.

### C.R.A.Z.Y (2005) dir. Jean-Marc Vallée

A wonderful, thoughtful, perceptive vision of Quebec during and after the quiet revolution, when a family undergoes the growing pangs of five boys, each named for a letter of Patsy Cline's song of the title (our focus is on the youngest, Zach). Terrific, believable, sympathetic performances from all, and a great take on early glam rock, to boot.



Photos London Free Press Collection/Western Archives

Clockwise from top right: A watercolor rendition of Tent City circa 1938 by London artist Clare Bice; Campers relaxing between classes 1938. Blanche MacDougall catches up on some knitting while chatting with Harold Durrant (right) and S.J. Brown; The earliest known view of Tent City (1936). This photograph, which appeared in the 1937 version of “Summering At Western,” was found taped to the back of the Bice watercolor painting of Tent City circa 1938; Tent detail 1938; Tent city 1946 – the last one before it was discontinued.

# TENT CITY KEPT COSTS DOWN DURING DEPRESSION

CONTRIBUTED BY ALAN NOON

Western had begun Summer School classes while still renting space in the old Huron College on St. James Street. When the present campus was opened in 1924 the Summer School students were the first to occupy the new buildings.

Many of them were teachers hoping to upgrade their qualifications and work towards a degree. By 1930 Canada was in the grip of the Great Depression and to help keep costs down the University supported the founding

of “Tent City.” Students, with their families in some cases, set up tents and trailers near the bottom of the hill near the Power Plant. Washing and showers were available in the nearby J.W. Little Memorial Stadium and the University provided an electrical hook up to each site for a seasonal fee of \$5. Arrangements were made each summer through the camp supervisor to provide a community washing machine and iron and receive daily deliveries of ice, milk and bread.

The campers elected their own “Mayor and Aldermen” to ensure that the camp provided

a pleasant environment for summer study. No dogs, pets or radios were allowed. Circa 1942 the ‘city’ was relocated further up the hill near the site of the present day Business School.

At this time the University grounds were yet to be annexed by the City of London to the south, and were officially part of London Township. In 1947 the Township Council passed a new bylaw. It stated that persons other than tourists could not use lands within its jurisdiction for a trailer camp. With a great deal of regret the Board of Governors complied with this ruling and Tent City was discontinued.



# NEW RELEASES

## CANADA'S FIRST WINE & FOOD MOBILE APP GOES GREEN

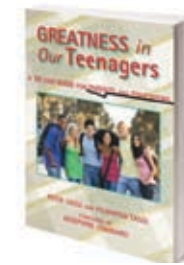
Which Canadian wines go best with "green food," such as asparagus, peppers and peas? How about other fresh vegetables that we'll enjoy this summer? **Natalie MacLean, MBA'92**, editor of Canada's largest wine site at [www.nataliemaclean.com](http://www.nataliemaclean.com) has just launched a new mobile application for iPhone, iPod Touch, BlackBerry, Droid and other smartphones. Developed by Cerado, this app builds on the success of her Drinks Matcher and includes all the pairings in the original app, plus thousands of wine reviews, recipes, articles, blog posts, glossary definitions, cellar journal and winery directory. You can access the new app at: [www.nataliemaclean.com/mobileapp](http://www.nataliemaclean.com/mobileapp).

## EATING BUCCANEERS

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

## AND NOW...HERE'S MAX

*And Now... Here's Max* is the Leacock Award-winning memoir of CBC broadcasting legend **Max Ferguson, BA'46**. It has been re-issued with a new introduction by fellow broadcaster and alumna Shelagh Rogers, LLD'02. Ferguson's 52 years as an announcer on CBC television and radio included such programs as *After Breakfast Breakdown*, *The Max Ferguson Show*, *Tabloid*, *Gazette*, *Inside From The Outside*, *55 North Maple*, and *Telescope*, and earned him many honours: the Order of Canada, the Governor-General's Performing Arts Award, the John Drainie Award, the Gordon Sinclair Award, the Stephen Leacock Award, three ACTRA awards, and honorary degrees from several universities. [www.sybertooth.ca](http://www.sybertooth.ca)



## GREATNESS IN OUR TEENAGERS

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

[www.petertassi.com/greatness-in-teenagers.php](http://www.petertassi.com/greatness-in-teenagers.php)



## AUTUMN

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

[www3.sympatico.ca/mistymo](http://www3.sympatico.ca/mistymo)



## THE NEXT STEP

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



## THE DAY THE FALLS STOOD STILL

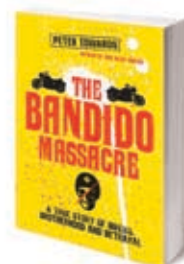
Cathy Marie Buchanan, **BSc'86, MBA'88**, recently had her debut novel, *The Day The Falls Stood Still*, published. Steeped in the intriguing history of Niagara Falls, this is an epic love story as rich, spellbinding and majestic as the falls themselves. It's 1915. The dawn of the hydroelectric power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

[www.harpercollins.ca](http://www.harpercollins.ca)



## SURGICAL HEIGHTS

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



## THE BANDIDO MASSACRE

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

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





## VOICE OF ALUMNI

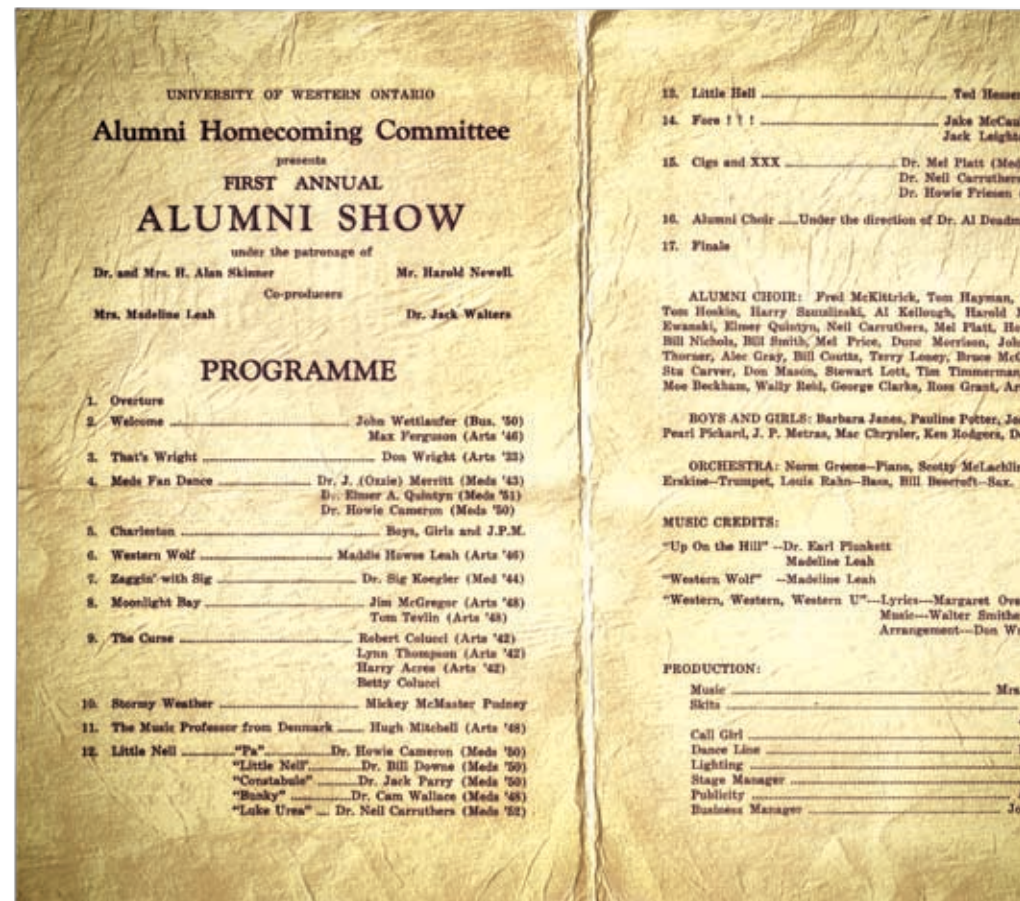
WITH  
CAROL-LYNN CHAMBERS,  
BSC'82, MPA'01, PRESIDENT,  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## WESTERN MEMORIES 'RENEWABLE RESOURCES'

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

This past month, as I pored through the many treasures that my late mother had tucked away, I found amongst them a program from the "First Annual Alumni Show," presented by the Alumni Homecoming Committee, held at Convocation Hall on October 10, 1952. Yellowed and dog-eared, the formal engraved program was obviously a keepsake from this memorable event that Mom had kept all these years. There were names on the program that I recognized from her stories and recollections of those friends and colleagues over the years. Two things struck me about this surprise find – the significance of Western alumni events, and the evolution of the form of our mementos over the years.

Our alumni events can and do serve as lasting mementos of our bonds and Western friendships. Over the years, our alumni programs, events and services have evolved to



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

meet the changing interests and needs of our growing international community of Western graduates. Attendance has grown and we now offer more than 300 events while we endeavour to stay connected with alumni living in more than 150 countries around the world, a reflection of our growing global presence and lasting local ties to Western.

And while these keepsakes have evolved in their form to meet changing times, they are no less important. While we may no longer

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

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

To learn more about Alumni Western, visit us at [www.alumni.uwo.ca](http://www.alumni.uwo.ca)



# CELEBRATING MARCH 7 FOUNDER'S DAY

Western's "Founder's Day" is March 7, the day upon which the UWO Act was proclaimed in 1878.

Last year, the Alumni Association launched a grassroots initiative to celebrate Founder's Day and honour the historic roots of the University, one of Canada's oldest.

Robert Collins, BA'77, Director of the Alumni Association Board and Chair of the Alumni Outreach Committee has been

leading the charge to "reinforce that pride of going to Western and staying connected to Western."

This year, the residence dining halls on campus enjoyed a special Founder's Day menu and celebration on March 3 (as March 7 fell on a Sunday). The menu included "items of yore" such as Yorkshire pudding, fried bread with bison chili, heirloom carrots, corn bread and sticky toffee pudding. The staff wore Founder's Day shirts and served cake sporting the Founder's Day image on it.

Students, alumni, faculty and staff were also encouraged to:

- Think about Western and reconnect with University friends
- Wear purple or Western attire on March 7
- Participate in an Alumni Western program, branch or chapter event
- Cheer on the Mustangs at a home or away sporting event
- Promote Western by joining Western's social media groups
- Make their Facebook status "purple" on Founder's Day

Alumni Outreach Officer Natalie Devereux says, "Founder's Day provides another opportunity to strengthen Western's profile locally, nationally and internationally," adding it allows for those unable to participate in traditional campus events, such as Homecoming, to be involved. "It is yet another opportunity to strengthen that shared pride and passion for Western."

Anyone with thoughts or ideas about how to expand Founder's Day is encouraged to contact Natalie at [ndevereu@uwo.ca](mailto:ndevereu@uwo.ca).

For more on Founder's Day and Bishop Isaac Hellmuth, Western's founder, visit [www.alumni.uwo.ca/connect/foundersday.html](http://www.alumni.uwo.ca/connect/foundersday.html).





# FEISTY ROWER HAS GOLDEN RECORD

BY DAVID SCOTT

The challenge and desire to win has kept Don Mcleish, BA'70 (Huron), rowing from his early teens after doctors had dire predictions about his future health.

"I had polio in 1949 in Niagara Falls at age eight, spent nine months in the hospital and was told I would never walk again. It took 17 years of arduous work and determination to overcome the initial disease. I was assessed in 1984 at the West Park Clinic, Toronto dealing in post polio patients and was told that my choice of rowing as the sport to excel in was a wise one because of the physiological aspects of the sport," says Mcleish.

Not only was it wise, it was ideal for the Mississauga rower who has "owned the podium" in his 55 years in the sport.

"I'd say I've got somewhere around 475 gold medals that I've won over the years," says Mcleish. "That's a conservative number."

He won five gold medals in 2009, with the most recent coming mere days after his 70th birthday in October when he teamed up with Jennifer McLeod, Paul Marshall, Mike Maloney and Peter Burpee to take the 20-kilometre Wilson Island Rowing Marathon in Belleville for the fifth year in a row. The team captured the men's quadruple cox four event in one hour, 34 minutes and 13 seconds. He owns the Wilson Island Marathon record of 1:31:34 that his team, which included his daughter Melanie, set two years ago.



Mcleish training for De Hoop International Regatta in Amsterdam in 1994.

"I had polio in 1949 in Niagara Falls at age eight, spent nine months in the hospital and was told I would never walk again."

"I taught Melanie to coxy and she has won medals also... I am inspired by my daughter who has believed in me throughout my career." She is lending a helping hand to her Dad who has been in physiotherapy ever since winning gold in October.

"Melanie is now a massage therapist and has been looking after my injuries. I have Post Polio Syndrome, worsening each year since 1985 and I spend many hours in physiotherapy and sport clinics. Each year it is more difficult but this is where I belong," says Mcleish. He hopes to be back rowing sometime this year. He says the benefits of the sport are enumerable: "health, friendship, pride, helping others, an extended family of athletes," and personally "identity of being someone who overcame polio."

He started rowing in Westdale Secondary School in Hamilton in 1955. "I rowed high

school, then competitive out of Leander Boat Club, Hamilton, and years later at age 27 represented Leander, B.C. as the lone Canadian gold medal winner in the 8+ crew in the international regatta in St. Catharines at the North American Championships in 1967," recalls Mcleish.

While at Western he competed in the UWO Heavy and Lightweight Varsity crews in 1960 and 1967-68 and was Sr. Lightweight Varsity Captain in 1967-68.

As far as distance and crew size, Mcleish has just about done it all. "I have been successful in all distances: 2,000m, 1,000m, 5000m, 42 km, 21km, 10km, depending on crew makeup and distance, I choose 4+, 4-, 8+, 4X, 2X. I chose cycling as my cross-training sport averaging 4,000 kilometres each summer."

Not only is Mcleish a naturally feisty competitor who proved his doctors wrong decades ago, it turns out that rowing might be in the genes, too.

"I competed in Scotland, F.I.S.A Veteran Rowing Championships, in 1988 winning the 4+, 4-, 8+, and much to my surprise I found out my grandfather (from Clydesdale RC, Scotland) had been a rowing champion."

Will he ever give up rowing?

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

*With notes from the Mississauga News*



## ALUMNI EVENTS

### BRANCHES: CANADA

#### Calgary, AB

President's Reception May 11, 2010  
Stampede Event July 2010  
Golf day August 2010  
Wine Tasting Fall 2010

#### Edmonton, AB

Rick McGhie Night June 2010

#### Elgin County / St. Thomas, ON

70th Annual Alumni Dinner Picnic June 9, 2010

#### London, ON

London Reads Celebration April 30, 2010  
Stratford Festival Outing to Kiss Me Kate May 8, 2010  
Love your London at the ARTS Project June 11, 2010  
Theatre Outing - Country Legends at St. Jacobs Country Playhouse August 12, 2010

#### Muskoka Region, ON

Six Degrees Golf Getaway Summer 2010

#### Niagara Region, ON

President's Reception May 25, 2010

#### Ottawa, ON

President's Reception April 27, 2010

#### Sarnia, ON

Sarnia Speakers Series April 8, 2010  
Wine and Words April 24, 2010

#### St. John's, NFLD

Alumni Reception May 1, 2010

#### Toronto, ON

Toronto Lecture Series:  
Collective Crime and Punishment April 14, 2010  
Queen's Park Reception April 21, 2010  
Toronto Lecture Series: Death and Taxes May 12, 2010  
The Rick McGhie Tour at Steam Whistle June 18, 2010  
Louise Pitre @ Royal Canadian Yacht Club June 23, 2010  
Boston Red Sox at Toronto Blue Jays July 10, 2010  
Real Salt Lake @Toronto FC August 28, 2010



#### Vancouver, BC

Wine Tasting and Food Pairing June 4, 2010

#### Victoria, BC

Alumni Reception at The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria June 4, 2010  
All-Canadian University Golf Tournament June 5, 2010

#### Winnipeg, MB

Manitoba Homecoming 2010 July 29, 2010

### BRANCHES: INTERNATIONAL

#### Chicago, IL

Six Degrees Dinner with 10 Strangers April 15, 2010

#### Hamilton, Bermuda

Alumni Reception May 20, 2010

#### Hong Kong, China

Golf Clinic at Missions Hills April 24, 2010  
Western/Ivey Annual Dinner May 15, 2010  
Western Convocation May 16, 2010  
Dragon Boat Races at Stanley Beach June 16, 2010  
Canada D'eh Beef & Beer Dinner June 29, 2010  
Career Day August 15, 2010  
Off to Western August 15, 2010

#### London, UK

UK President's Reception at Canada House June 29, 2010

#### Nassau, Bahamas

Alumni Mix and Mingle April 22, 2010

#### New York, NY

New York and Area Pub Night April 20, 2010  
Six Degrees Golf Schmooze June 16, 2010

#### Palo Alto, CA

Alumni Reception September 16, 2010

#### Port of Spain, Trinidad

Making Grand Dreams Happen May 7, 2010

#### San Francisco, CA

Alumni Reception April 15, 2010

#### Shanghai, China

Canuck Connection Inter-University Alumni Reception July 1, 2010

#### Washington, D.C.

Canada US Institute Celebration at the Embassy April 13, 2010  
All Canadian Alumni Dinner April 24, 2010

### FUTURE HOMECOMING DATES

2010 - September 30 - October 3

2011 - September 29 - October 2

2012 - September 27 - 30

### CHAPTERS

#### Nursing

90th Anniversary Gala October 23, 2010

#### Mustang Backcourt Club

The 3rd Annual Mustang Backcourt Club Awards Dinner April 10, 2010

#### Mustang Old Oars Club

Old Oars Weekend September 18-19, 2010  
Parents' Day October 16, 2010

#### Wall of Champions Football Foundation

Wall of Champions Dinner April 16, 2010

#### WAA

Alumni Awards Dinner October 1, 2010  
AGM Luncheon October 2, 2010

#### "W" Club

Annual General Meeting June 2, 2010  
Alumni Awards Dinner October 1, 2010

### UNIVERSITY FACULTIES

#### Dentistry

Pacific Dental Conference  
Alumni Reception (Vancouver) April 15, 2010  
ODA Spring Meeting Alumni Reception May 14, 2010

#### Engineering

Toronto Alumni Reception Fall 2010

#### Law

Law School 50th Celebration April 29, 2010

#### Medicine

2010 CCME Reception in St. John's May 1, 2010

#### Science

President's Reception in Calgary May 11, 2010

#### Social Science

MOS/ACS Alumni Reception in Toronto April 15, 2010

### 2010 GOLF TOURNAMENTS

Toronto Branch Alumni May 29, 2010  
Huron Alumni June 4, 2010  
Men's Hockey Alumni June 25, 2010  
Wrestling Alumni July 5, 2010  
Basketball Alumni July 16, 2010  
Women's Hockey Alumnae July 19, 2010  
Women's Athletic Alumnae August 5, 2010  
"W" Club August 5, 2010  
Football Alumni August 20, 2010  
USC Alumni Summer 2010  
Tennis Alumni August 31, 2010  
King's Alumni September 15, 2010  
Ivey Alumni October 1, 2010  
Homecoming Alumni October 3, 2010

Rower Don Mcleish.  
Photo courtesy Fred Loek,  
Mississauga News



ALUMNI NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE NOTE: Gazetteer notices, like all portions of the print magazine, appear in an online version of Alumni Gazette and the contents may turn up during a web search. Publicly available personal information may be collected for the purpose of updating alumni records as well as for the purpose of recognizing outstanding achievement or distinguished service by alumni in University publications. Western respects your privacy. At any time you have the right to request that your personal information cease to be used to recognize outstanding achievement or distinguished service in University publications. For more information or to make a request about the kinds of contact you would like to receive, please contact the Operations Administrator, Advancement Services, 519-661-4176 or 1-800-420-7519, Fax 519-661-4182, email advser@uwo.ca.

1940s

**John McCutcheon, BA'48** and **Mary McCutcheon, BA'49**, (nee Davidson) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept 17, 2009, in Huntsville, Ontario. The occasion was celebrated with friends and family, including daughters **Sue McCutcheon BScN'75**, and **Jane McCutcheon BSc'75 & MBA'79** and granddaughter **Breana Camack, BA'07**.

1960s

**Douglas Allen Morrison, HBA'66**, (PhD'69, U of Oregon) was recognized last September by his academic colleagues, with the presentation of Syracuse University's 40 Years of Service Award. As a University Certified Psychologist, he has provided psychological counseling to returning veterans from Viet Nam and the Middle East, who have been admitted to Syracuse and Cornell universities. He continues to also enjoy serving as Faculty Advisor to the Graduate Student Association and the students of the Syracuse University campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

**Dr. Cecil H. Rorabeck, MD'68**, has been appointed to the National Research Council Canada (NRC), a global leader in the development of an innovative, knowledge-based economy for Canada through science and technology.

**Donald Franklin Gerson, BSc'68** (Chemistry), PhD'72, McGill, has recently founded PnuVax, Inc. in Kingston, Ont. and is CEO & President. Don recently was employed at Celltrion, Inc. as COO & President. **Gail Meadows, BSc'71, PhD'84**, and Gerson are returning to Canada after four years at Celltrion in South Korea. Gail was Director of Validation at Celltrion. Celltrion is the largest manufacturer of biopharmaceuticals in Asia, and is the only biologics facility in Asia licensed by the US FDA.

**Leo Steven, BA'68** (Sociology), has been appointed to the National Research Council Canada (NRC). Recognized globally for research and innovation, the NRC is a leader in the development of an innovative, knowledge-based economy for Canada through science and technology.

1970s

**Robert Beccarea, LLB'70**, was recently appointed as a part-time member of the Canadian Artists and Producers Professional Relations Tribunal.

**George Hogan, MBA'71**, was appointed Chief Executive Officer to Can-Cal Resources Ltd., an emerging precious metals exploration and chemical extraction company.

**Margaret Jane (Lawson) McMaster, BA'71** (Zoology), **DipEd'72**, writes a book blog at margaretmcmaster.blogspot.com. Her book, Carried Away on Licorice Days, was long-listed for the Canadian Library Association's 2009 Book of the Year for Children Award.

**William Winfield, BSc'72, MSc'75** (Geology), was appointed President & CEO of Panthera Exploration Inc.

**Colin Johnson, BA'74**, was recently elected metropolitan archbishop of the ecclesiastical province of Toronto. Bishop Johnson was elected on the second ballot at the Oct. 15 provincial synod held in Cochrane, Ontario.

**Bonnie Patterson, BA'75, MLIS'79**, was recently awarded the Order of Ontario.

**Professor Tsun Kong Sham, PhD'75** (Chemistry), is the recipient of the Canadian Society for Chemistry John C. Polanyi Award.

**Ovid Jackson, BA'76**, was recently awarded the Order of Ontario.

**Paul Haggis, BA'77** (History), has been appointed a Trustee of the Prime Restaurants Royalty Income Fund and a Director of TradeMarkCo., which owns certain trade-marks and licenses their use to PRC which operates and franchises the restaurant and bar business.

**Daniel Ting Wai Shum, BSc'77, MSc'79** (Microbio/Immun), was appointed as a Partner at Najafi Companies - an international private investment firm based in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Guy Jacques Pratte, BA'78** (History/Phil), was recently appointed Chair of the National Council to Boarden Ladner Gervais LLP.

**Barbara Stymiest, HBA'78**, has been appointed Chair of the Executive Council of the Canadian Bankers Association. The CBA advocates for public policies that contribute to a sound,

successful banking system that benefits Canadians and Canada's economy.

**Rev. William McGrattan, BESC'79, MDiv'86** (Theology), 53, was ordained auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Toronto at the downtown London cathedral.

1980s

The University of Delaware Department of Hotel, Restaurant and Institutional Management has presented the Michael D. Olsen Research Achievement Award to **Daniel Fesenmaier, PhD'80** (Geography), of Temple University.

NIKE, Inc. recently announced that **David Ayre, BA'81** (Economics), is joining the company as Vice President of Global Human Resources.

**Michael Rushton, MA'81** (Economics), was recently appointed Director of the Master of Public Affairs program at Indiana University.

**Patrick Deane, MA'81, PhD'86** (English) was appointed President of McMaster University as of July 1, 2010.

**Amanda Vincent, BSc'81** (Zoology), **PhD'90** (U of Cambridge, Philosophy), is one of 29 animal conservationists nominated this past fall to receive the Indianapolis Prize, the world's leading award of \$100,000 for animal conservation. Vincent was the first person to study seahorses underwater, discover the extensive commercial trade in these delicate creatures, and then to initiate the Project Seahorse conservation plan. She holds the Canada Research Chair in Marine Conservation at UBC's Fisheries Centre. Six finalists will be announced this spring with the winner honoured Sept. 25, in Indianapolis.

**Joseph Bowes, MBA'82**, was recently appointed CFO to CanAlaska Uranium.

**Blair Fleming, BA'83** (ACS), was recently appointed Head, US Investment Banking with RBC in NYC.

**Justice Mark Tyndale, CJD'83**, has been appointed to the Alberta Provincial Court, Criminal division. He is based in Calgary.

**Stephen Dobronyi, BSc'83**, was recently appointed to the position of President & COO at EGI Financial Holdings, a company that operates in the property and casualty insurance industry in Canada and in the United States.

**Shane Stuck, BA'84** (Economics), was appointed as VP & Senior Portfolio Manager of Sentry Select Capital.

**Gaelen Morphet, BA'84** (Psychology), was recently appointed as Senior VP and Chief Investment Officer of Empire Life. Empire Life helps Canadians build wealth and protect their financial security.

**David Judson, BA'84, LLB'88**, has joined Miller Thomson as a Partner, Securities and Capital Markets.

**Daniel W. Thompson, BA'85**, was appointed President and CEO of 3Macs. MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier Inc. provides personalized investment management advice and service to private investors.

MetalCORP Limited has appointed **Naomi Nemeth, MA'86** (Journalism), President and CEO. She has been a director of MetalCORP since July 2007. MetalCORP is a mineral exploration company based in Thunder Bay, with gold and base metal projects in the Canadian Shield.

**Ewan Mason, BSc'86** (Geology), has accepted a position on the Board of Scorpio Mining Corporation, which is involved in the acquisition, exploration, development and exploitation of mineral resource properties in Mexico.

**John Anderson, BA'87**, has been appointed to the board of directors of Covenant Resources, an early-stage natural resource company based in Surrey, BC.

**Mark Bain, LLB' 87**, was recently appointed as Partner to Torys LLP.

**Alistair Rennie, BA'87, HBA'89**, was recently appointed to the position of IBM Lotus division general manager.

**Kelly Murumets, MBA'88**, President and CEO of ParticipACTION, has been named one of Canada's Most Powerful Women for 2009. Kelly was recognized on November 30 as one of 100 women who are proven achievers in the private, public and not-for-profit sectors.

**Lisa Marie McCullough, BA'88, MA'92** (Physical Education), was recently appointed as Director of Instruction at School District No. 23 in Kelowna.

**Gabrielle Peacock, BA'88** (History), was recently appointed CEO to The Robert McLaughlin Gallery in Oshawa.

**Darell Wheeler, HBA'88, MBA'91**, joins Amherst Securities Group as Senior Managing Director. He has been widely recognized as leading one of the best research teams on Wall Street.

On May 22nd 2009 E. **Jayne Cardno, BA'89** (Anthropology), **Cert'93** (Addiction Studies), **MSc'00** (U of Guelph), successfully defended her dissertation and was awarded a doctoral degree from the University of Brighton, UK. In January 2009, Cardno joined the Department of Family Medicine, University of Alberta as a researcher with the Applied Social Research Group in Health Informatics (ASRHI) Group.

**Suzanne Cadden, MSc'89** (Pharmacology), has been appointed VP, Regulatory Affairs & Quality at ImmunoGen, Inc., a biotechnology company that develops targeted anti-cancer products.

**Sarah J. Shortreed, BESC'89**, was awarded the Lauchland Engineering Alumni Medal during the Faculty of Engineering Homecoming celebrations in October.

1990s

**Andrew G. Munro, HBA'90, MBA'96**, has been appointed Board Member and Policy & Governance Committee Chair for The Redwood Women's Shelter in Toronto. Andrew continues his work at FlashVideoLab.com as Senior Producer of video and flash projects for corporate video and the web.

**Douglas Melville, LLB/MBA'91**, has been appointed Ombudsman and Chief Executive Officer at Canada's Ombudsman for Banking Services and Investments (OBSI) based in Toronto. As an alternative to the legal system, OBSI resolves consumer disputes from over 600 banking and investment firms across Canada. The office is contacted by over 14,000 consumers each year and recommends compensation of up to \$350,000 per case for losses incurred due to firm error or poor financial or investment advice.

**John Nelson, MBA'91**, was recently appointed to the position of VP, Channel Strategy at Hitachi ID Systems, a provider of identity and access management solutions. He will be responsible for new partner development and overall channel strategy.

Stiris Research Inc. is pleased to announce that its President & CEO, **Shantal Feltham, BA'91** (Psychology), has been named to the 2009 Profit W100 ranking of Canada's Top Women Entrepreneurs for the second consecutive year. Published in the November issue of Profit the PROFIT W100 profiles the country's most successful female business owners.

Canfor Pulp Income Fund announced the appointment of **Joe Nemeth, MBA'92**, as President and CEO, Canfor Pulp Holding Inc., the general partner of Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership (CPLP), effective May 1, 2010.

**Jason Saltzman, BA'92**, (PolSci), recently received the "Leading Lawyers Under 40" Award.

**Michael Churchill, MBA'93**, was recently appointed Interim President & CEO of First Metals, Inc.

**Daryl Kletke, BEd'93, MBA'97**, was recently appointed Head, Funds Canada at RBC Dexia Investor Services.

**Brad Fisher, BSc'93**, and **Alison Bartlett, BSc'95**, are proud to announce the birth of their baby girl, Lauren Elizabeth. Lauren was born November 18, 2008 in Toronto, Ontario.

**James Paterson, HBA'94**, has joined the board of Seafield Resources Ltd., a mineral exploration company.

**Donald Williamson, BA'94** (Psychology), appointed President of the Williamson Group.

**Gareth Chi Wai Kung, MBA'95**, has been appointed CFO of Solarfun Power Holdings Co., Ltd., a vertically integrated manufacturer of silicon ingots and photovoltaic cells.

**Leonardo Millon, BSc'96, BESC'99, PhD'06**, recently won \$100,000 provincial award to start a new business, Lifelike Bio Tissue Inc., creating and selling synthetic models of the human anatomy that mimics real tissue.

**Berkley Sells, LLB'96**, recently received the "Leading Lawyers Under 40" Award.

Chosen from 153 nominations, **Maria Campodonico, BEd'97**, a teacher at West Toronto Collegiate, is the recipient of the inaugural Toronto Star Teacher Award. For Campodonico, being a teacher goes well beyond her classroom walls, into the lives of her students as well as the Parkdale community that surrounds West Toronto Collegiate. The 40-year-old is a mentor, social worker, mother and friend to the 130 teens at the school, and was chosen as the winner of the Toronto Star's first-ever Teacher Award after a nomination from a colleague who cited the countless ways she makes a difference.

**Michael Gunning, PhD'97** (Geology) was recently appointed COO of Hathor Exploration Limited, as well as elected to Hathor's board of directors.

**Craig Maurice, LLB'97**, recently received the "Leading Lawyer under 40" Award.

**John McCullough, MLIS'97**, was recently appointed VP of the Encore Division of Innovative Interfaces, a leading library automation company.

**Ryan Ptolemy, BA'98** (Admin/Com Fes/Econ), was recently appointed as CFO for Rodinia Minerals Inc. Rodinia is a lithium mine developer in the Clayton Valley, Nevada. USA.

**Susanna Han, HBA'98**, will oversee the new Toronto office of Balfour Beatty Capital Canada, which focuses on a wide range of Public-Private Partnership opportunities within Canada, including higher education, social infrastructure and renewable energy.

**Deborah Matthews, BA'98, PhD'06** (Sociology) was appointed as Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario, in October 2009.

**Simon Adell, MBA'98**, has been appointed Chief Financial Officer at iLevel Solutions, a leading provider of private equity software and reporting solutions.



**Courtney Marie (Donovan) Hirota, BA'98** (Political Science), and Aaron Hirota are proud to announce their marriage on September 5, 2009 in St. Catharines, Ont. They currently reside in Winnipeg, Man.

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

2000s

**Ian Laing, DipPubAdm'00**, was appointed as the new Fire Chief of Central York Fire Department.

CARSTAR Automotive Canada has appointed **Dan Pye, BA'00** (MedInfoTech), Market Development Manager in the GTA and Eastern Ontario. .

**Nicholas Mosey, BSc'01, PhD'06** (Chemistry), was recently awarded \$20,000 after being named a Polanyi Prize winner for his work on the chemistry of lubricants.

**Philippe Guay, MBA'03**, was recently appointed as VP, National Sales Toronto of Quebecor Media Inc.

**Carl Calandra, HBA'05, LLB'05, MBA'07**, has recently joined Miller Thomson as an associate in the Business Law Group in Toronto. His practice focuses on corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, securities regulatory matters and corporate and commercial law.

**Adam Rudny, BA'06**, is currently attending ESSEC Business School in Paris, France. He will be finishing his MBA degree this year in Paris and looking for an operational position in airline or airport management.

**Marilynn Prefontaine, BA'06, BEd'09**, just recently become a member of the First Nations Student Success initiative and is employed fulltime as a Student Success Leader in a team environment that gives support to on-reserve schools.

**Brett James Skinner, PhD'09** (Political Sci), was recently appointed President to the Fraser Institute.

**Yan Zheng, MBA'09**, was appointed as Accounts Executive of CCG Investor, Beijing. CCG is one of the nation's leading investor relations and strategic communications agencies.

IN MEMORIAM

**Margaret (nee Chase) Gibson, BA'28**, (1905-2010), retired Grimsby and Simcoe High School teacher, passed away after a brief illness at home in Grimsby, Ontario, on January 19, 2010. Margaret Chase Gibson, wife of the late Robert Gibson (1987) and mother of Robert Chase Gibson of Grimsby, Ontario. The daughter of Oscar Alonzo Chase and Cora Mima Brown of Sparta, Ontario. She attended Aylmer High School and entered the University of Western Ontario with the Class of 1928, the first class to graduate from the new buildings. Teacher in Grimsby High School (1930-1933 and 1960-1971) and Simcoe High School (1933-1942). Served with the Royal Canadian Air Force from 1942 to 1946 and was part of the unit repatriating R.C.A.F. war brides at the war's end. Author of The Life and Times of Grimsby High School: 1857-1969.

**Charles Arnott Bright, MD'37**, of Murfreesboro, TN, age 101, passed away on Sept. 22, 2009. Arnott was predeceased by his parents, Charles Bright and Ethel Ingram Bright, brothers, Donald and Olaf of London, Ont. and his first wife Betty Bright (Loynes), MD'37 of Belleville, Ont. He is survived by his wife, Jean Ketina Bright of Murfreesboro, sons, Jim (Nancy) and Bob (Michelle), stepdaughter Susan (Bob) and three grandchildren, Tim, Martin-Louis (Helen) and Antony. His learning and teaching resulted in better physical and mental health for his patients not only in private, general and psychiatric practices, but also in his extensive hospital work in the US and in Canada.

**Dr. John S. Winder, MD'42**, died peacefully in London on September 22, 2009 in his 91st year. Beloved husband of the late Maude Winder. Loving father and father-in-law of Susan and Ian ( Montreal), Jennifer (London), Christy and Tim (Oakville), Barb and Norm (Burlington), and Michelle and Mike (London). Predeceased by his only son Steven Winder (1991). His keen intellect and sharp wit will be greatly missed by his 12 grandchildren, his extended family and friends. He cared for London families as a physician for over 60 years and was the long time Medical Director of London Life Ins. Co. He was a staunch supporter of Western and for many years he organized the reunions of Meds '42.

**William Oliver Q.C. "Bill" Herold, HBA'52**, of St. Thomas, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 19, at the LHSC Victoria Hospital, in his 81st year. Beloved husband and best friend of over 46 years of Sine (Loudon) Herold and dearly loved father of Robert Herold and his wife Candice of St. Thomas and Wil Herold of London. Dearly loved grandfather of Loudon, Winston and Geneva. Dear brother of

Bette O'Neill of Kingston and uncle of Timothy O'Neill. Also survived by brother-in-law Robert Loudon (Margaret) and sister-in-law Fiona (Stuart) and several nieces and nephews in the United Kingdom. Bill was born in Guelph on July 31st, 1929, the son of the late William Henry and Vivyan Margaret (Whiteman) Herold. He practiced law for fifty years. He was elected a Bencher of the Law Society of Upper Canada. He was a life member of Knox Presbyterian Church and was recognized as an Elder Emeritus for 46 years on the Session. Bill also served on the St. Thomas City Council for four years.

**Dr. Don Rix, BA'53, MD'57, DSc '98**, was an icon, and his passing leaves a huge void in the community, and sorrow in many hearts. A visionary, entrepreneur, philanthropist, business leader, tireless community volunteer, mentor, consummate corporate citizen, devoted husband and father, Don was -- at the core -- a physician and healer. Even in the early days of his career, Don gave his time to charities as a member or chair of many boards including Sunnyhill Hospital Foundation, Children's Hospital Foundation and Canuck Place Children's Hospice. Don was extremely proud of his association with the organizations and institutions he helped and supported - like the Bursary Fund at BCIT for students in need of financial assistance, MusicFest (formerly Festival Vancouver) to expand its programs throughout the province, and UBC and the University of Western Ontario for expansion of their medical training. Don was passionate about education, which he viewed as fundamental. Some of his most memorable times were those spent mentoring medical students. For more information visit [www.vancouver.sun.com/life/remembered+philanthropic+legacy/2194567/story.html](http://www.vancouver.sun.com/life/remembered+philanthropic+legacy/2194567/story.html)

Western Mustangs football great and university coaching legend **Gino Fracas, BA'55** (Physical Education), passed away on Oct. 29 at the age of 79. Gino Played football for Assumption High School in Windsor (1947-49), Western Mustangs (1951-54) where he was on the All-Star team in 3 of 4 years, leading Scorer in OQAA for 2 seasons and the Most Valuable Player in 1954. From there he moved on to the Edmonton Eskimos of the Canadian Football League from (1955-62) and played both as fullback and linebacker. He was involved in 3 Grey Cup Games in 1955, 1956, 1960 winning 2 and losing 1. Gino was Co-Captain and Defensive signal caller in 1961 and 1962. After the Eskimos Gino became the Head Coach of University of Alberta Golden Bears (1963-66) and won 3 of 4 league championships. He coached the Bears to victory at the Golden Bowl vs. Queen's University in Edmonton (1963). He decided to come home to Windsor and became the first Head Coach of University of Windsor Lancers (1968-86). At Windsor the Lancers were CCIFC Champions (1969), OUAA Co-Champions (Yates Cup) in 1975. Gino was the Coach of the Year in West Section of the

OUAA in 1976 and 1977. He was an original member C.A.F.A Drawmaster Canadian Wrestling Championships in 1967-78 at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and the 1978 Commonwealth and World Games. Gino served as Vice-President of the Canadian Football Coaches Association in 1969-70. For more information visit [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com)

**Marg (Marguerite Farris) Campbell, BA'67** (English), died peacefully, surrounded by friends and family on Friday, January 8, 2010 having lived with cancer for 14 years. Loving wife of Arch, MLIS'71, mother of Peter, Sara and Paul Mates, grandmother of Alex and Maya. Loving sister of Rob (Betty), Anne (David Church), and David, sister-in-law to Brenda (Bill Kraft) and John Bubel. Caring aunt of Laura (Jay), Christa, Leisa, David (Jen), Katherine (Reuben), Randy (Stephanie), Jason (Carrie), Andrew, Kaydence and Ben. Remembered by her aunt Charlotte, and her uncle Jim. After a long career at the Library of Parliament, Marg was able to devote herself to her love of learning and literature, travel, family and friends.

After a short but valiant struggle and encircled by her loving family, **G. Ann McCutcheon (Sheridan), BA'69** (History), passed away peacefully at the Sault Area Hospital on January 8, 2010, in her 69th year. Beloved wife of 46 years of Richard (Dick) McCutcheon, BA'66, MA'71, of Sault Ste Marie (formerly of London) and loving mother of Richard McCutcheon (Jennifer Jean-Marie) of Barrie and Robert McCutcheon (Suzanne Motluk) of Sault Ste Marie. Only daughter of Walter Sheridan and Muriel (Finney) of Timmins and Elliot Lake. Adoring and adored "Grandma Ann" to Marissa, Keely and Matthew McCutcheon of Barrie. Survived by her brothers Humphrey Sheridan (Kathleen) of Ottawa and David Sheridan (Vivian) of Wasaga Beach.

**Kathryn Elizabeth Ash, LLB'79**, passed away on June 10, 2009, with family by her side, peacefully at home in Toronto. Kathryn will be deeply missed by her parents, Marjorie and Eric Ash of Westport, Ontario, sister Susan (Ron) Lindsay of Westport, and brother David (Dallas Brodie) and nieces Katherine and Madeleine of Vancouver, as well as by relatives in Newfoundland and across North America, and the wide circle of friends she cultivated throughout her life. Kathryn was born in Newfoundland in 1951 and, as a result of her father's career with CN, grew up in New Brunswick, Ontario and Manitoba. She attended Queen's University (Hon BA) and then Western. She was called to the Ontario bar in 1981 and started her legal career at Northern Telecom in Mississauga. Subsequent to that, Kathryn moved to Royal Trust where she worked for many years, specializing in corporate trust services. She later became Vice-President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary for AIM Trimark. In 2001, Kathryn joined Borden Ladner Gervais where she was a partner for a number of years. She was also a dedicated volunteer, serving as President of The School of Toronto Dance Theatre for many years. As well, Kathryn served on several committees of the Canadian Cancer Society (Ontario Division).

**Irene LO Irene Tak Chong Lo, BMus'83**, age 49 of Bellevue, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2009 following a courageous three-year battle with cancer. Born in Hong Kong, she was deeply loved and cherished by her family and friends around the world. Irene was Senior Manager of International Services for RBC Wealth Management in Seattle. She had vast experience in the Trust and wealth management industry with major financial institutions including Royal Trust, HSBC and Credit Suisse for which she developed business in the Asian Region and Pacific Rim. She held numerous professional certifications and was highly regarded by colleagues throughout her banking career which included posts in Toronto, Vancouver, Hong Kong, San Francisco and Seattle. Irene was a graduate of St. Stephen's Girls College in Hong Kong, Western and Trinity College of Music in London. Trained as a classical pianist, Irene's passion and joy was teaching piano and the love of music to children. Irene is survived by her husband, David Aubrey of Bellevue and his children Jessica Aubrey of Minneapolis and Joshua Aubrey of San Antonio; her mother Kwai Yee Lo of Hong Kong; her brother and sister-in-law, William and Prisca Lo, and nieces Lillian and Yvonne Lo, of Hong Kong.

**Kimberly Ann (Mitchell) VanLoy, BA'85** (Economics), With her family by her side at her residence on December 27, 2009. Kimberly Ann (Mitchell) VanLoy of Dorchester in her 47th year. Beloved wife of Peter VanLoy and loving mother of Hadyn VanLoy. Loving daughter of Bill and Nancy (Bryant) Mitchell of Straffordville. Dear daughter-in-law of Leo and Edna Mae VanLoy of R.R.#1, Vienna and sister-in-law of Victor VanLoy and wife Margaret of R.R.1, Vienna. Sister of the late Wade Mitchell (1980). Also survived by a number of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and cousins. Kim was a controller at United Agri Products in Dorchester.

**Sarah Marie Grand, BSc'06** (Health Sciences), passed peacefully at home on July 20, at the age of 25. It was a beautiful passing with both her loving parents holding her in their arms. Sarah's courageous, dignified and ever-hopeful journey with brain cancer has ended, but her spirit lives on through eternity. Cherished daughter of Carmela and Larry Grand, grand-daughter of Carmine and Egilda Chiarello, and Donald and the late Jean Grand, niece of Cory Chiarello (Toni), Ralph Chiarello (Cathy) and Carol Cowan (Warren), cousin of CJ, Rachel, Cassandra and Carmine Chiarello and special friend of Aaron King. She will be fondly remembered by her family and friends.




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DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE SPRING 2010 ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 1





## THE FINAL SAY

WITH PAUL WELLS, BA'89

### OLYMPIC EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITIES CAN BREAK GLASS CEILINGS

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

The Olympics were amazing. They really should do it every four years. But as you'll recall, there was a lot of controversy over the whole thing. The weather, the cancelled tickets, the malfunctioning flame and the lack of French at the Opening Ceremonies, the rowdy crowd that forced an outdoor concert to be cancelled because of injuries. It was a rocky couple of weeks there. But at the heart of the controversy was the "Own the Podium" program, a half-decade campaign to fund and train Canadian athletes into a position where they could dominate the competition in sport after sport.

What seemed to surprise a lot of observers wasn't Own the Podium's success or failure but the mere fact of its existence: A concerted attempt by Canadians to win everything there was to win. This struck people as funny somehow. OK, it's obvious why it struck some people as funny. We're said to be polite, and polite people are not normally cutthroat

competitors. The headline on Slate's story about Own The Podium was classic: "Might It Possibly Be OK if We Kick Some Ass?"

The trick, of course, is to be competitive without being a jerk. The best usually manage it, because of course, thumping your chest and badmouthing the competition doesn't make you the best. One of the many blessings of high-level athletic competition is that it is obvious to everyone (well, in most events) who won and who was all talk. These things are measurable down to the hundredth of a second. At such moments, the backgrounds of the competitors, where they're from, who's rich or poor — all of that melts away. The only question that matters is whether you have ability and ambition.

A lot of people get through their lives without finding themselves in any kind of place like that — a place where you have to deliver in a domain where success is measurable and the standards are immutable. But one place you run into that sort of test all the time is a university. Not just in varsity sports, although of course that's always been a prime crossroads of pressure and opportunity. Just ask Marnie McBean, who was rowing for Western when I was there and went on to become one of Canada's most decorated Olympians.

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

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

Even in poli-sci, my own field, we soon found ourselves imagining careers at the highest level

of public service (or, in my own case, a career making fun of the highest levels of public service). Most of us were from small towns around southern Ontario. Taking on the world wasn't a native-born or homegrown instinct. We picked it up, from our profs, our surroundings, and one another while at Western.

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

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

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

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

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