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Alumni Gazette

WESTERN ALUMNI MAGAZINE SINCE 1939

WINTER 2014

Balancing books & sport

Brian
Conacher



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On the cover: Member of Toronto Maple Leafs' 1967 Stanley Cup winning team, Brian Conacher, BA'68 (History, Huron). (Photo by Nation Wong)
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WITH DAVID SCOTT

Western Alumni Gazette
Winter 2014 (ISSN 1189-6272)

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

For publication dates or to make submissions, contact the managing editor at 519-661-2111 ext. 87482, e-mail at dscott24@uwo.ca or mail at Western University, Suite 360, Westminster Hall, London, Ontario, N6A 3K7. Forward change of address information to advser@uwo.ca or call (local) 519-661-4176 or (toll-free) 1-800-420-7519.

Printed in Canada.

Publication Agreement #40069342

Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to: Western University, Suite 360, Westminister Hall, London, ON N6A 3K7

Read the Gazette online at: www.alumnigazette.ca

CRISIS CAN REVEAL CAPACITY

It sometimes takes a crisis to reveal how well our alumni react under pressure.

It isn't just Ninette Kelley's ability to stay cool under pressure, but the capacity of the entire country of Lebanon to absorb one-quarter of its population worth of neighbouring refugees without collapsing. Kelley, LLB'83, serves as regional representative in Lebanon for the U.N. High Commissioner, where her responsibility is coordinating the flow of thousands of refugees a week from war-torn Syria. Despite the daily challenges, Kelley finds her work 'inspiring.'

It takes great capacity to perform at both your physical and mental best. Although Brian Conacher, BA'68 (Huron), refers to himself as a 'journeyman,' he is more accurately a Renaissance man of hockey. From the last Stanley Cup-winning Leafs' team in 1967 to co-commentator of the Summit Series in 1972 to best-selling author, Conacher pushed boundaries in a game that fought against change.

Capacity of Canadian athletes to outperform the best in the world in Sochi on the slopes, rinks and ovals, will be told by Scott Russell, BA'80, BEd'81, MA'85, from CBC Sports in February. Canadian Olympic Committee CEO Chris Overholt, BA'87 (King's), has the infrastructure, resources and team to assist and encourage those athletes to push their capacity and cultivate them to reach their potential.

Farah Mohamed, MA'96, is president and CEO of the G(irls)20 Summit, an annual international event that brings together young women ahead of the G20 Summit to find ways to bring economic

empowerment to women around the world. Mohamed is helping this international group test its capacity to create positive change. She instills in them a sense of purpose and asks something equally simple and difficult: make a difference.

Who knew something as simple as socks and shoes could create a remarkable gift: hope. Oakville entrepreneur Tal Dehtiar, BA'01, has channeled his energy for business and passion for Africa into the world's first Fair Trade-certified shoe company. Dehtiar turned to footwear production as a way to demonstrate sustainable jobs are possible in even the most impoverished places. Jeff House, BHSc'07, and former Western student and rugby player Diana Charabin, together co-founded Cole and Parker, a funky sock company that supports global entrepreneurship through micro-financing. They send 20 per cent of their profit to entrepreneurs in need. Both companies represent a new capacity for economic growth.

It's truly remarkable today to find a new non-Internet way to approach marketing. But EK3 of London, founded by Ed Elliot, MESc'99, and Ken Stuart, MESc'99, and now led by Nick Prigioniero, MBA'03, has found a way. They employ a concept called 'narrowcasting' – targeting messages to entice you to buy in an environment where you are already a customer. EK3 found the capacity of marketing in their unique way to expand from Canada to 32 U.S. states, the U.K. and Middle East.

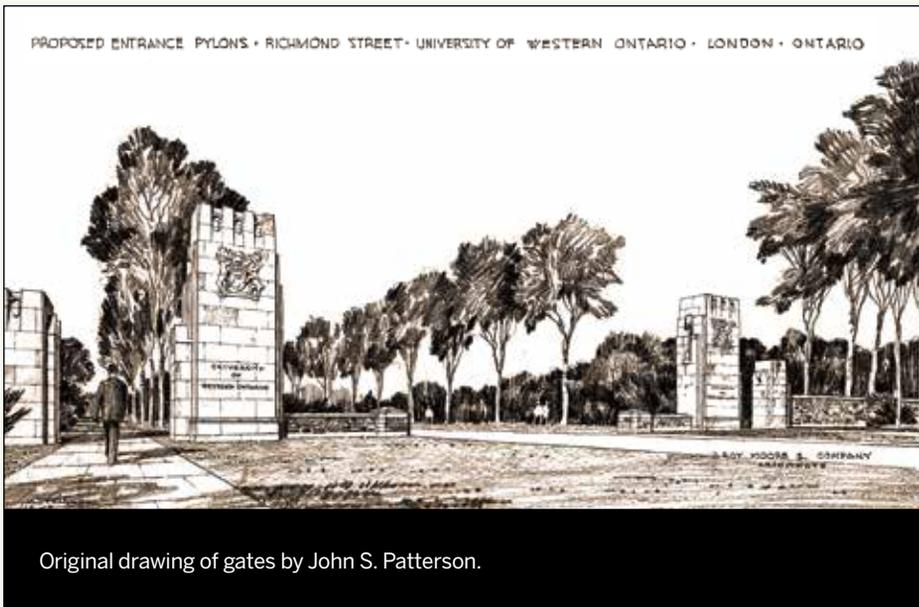
Let's hope we can push ourselves, without bursting, and gain or regain capacity to succeed in our own ways in 2014.

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Original drawing of gates by John S. Patterson.

PATTERSON CORRECT DESIGNER OF UNIVERSITY GATES

(Re: *Memories: Making the Grand Entrances, Spring 2013 issue*)

I read with some dismay Alan Noon's article on the university gates. While I believe this beautiful entrance to the university is worthy of special recognition, I was concerned to read several errors in his research.

The gates were not designed by O. Roy Moore. The commission was awarded to his architectural firm and he, in turn, assigned this job to my father, John S. Patterson, BA'83 (Art History). My father did the design himself using the inspiration of the cenotaph at the southeast corner of Victoria Park. He told me he envisioned similar stone pillars, which would give a suitable dignified entrance to the university. My father's original design was approved by the University Board of Governors. Following that, he did the working drawings and also supervised the construction of the gates.

Alan Noon stated that the gates were made of Credit Valley limestone with sandstone in the lower walls. This is incorrect. The Western engineer, Mr. Shortreed, and the firm of O. Roy Moore Architects insisted for years that only Indiana limestone, as the most durable stone available, be used for the buildings at Western. It was only in the much later buildings that the building material was changed to the cheaper and less durable Credit Valley limestone mentioned in the article. Sandstone has never been used for external stonework.

The limestone for the gates was quarried at Bloomington, Ind., which was made famous in the 1979 movie *Breaking Away*. I visited this town with my parents on a summer holiday in the early '50s. We were given a special tour of the factory and watched as stone from the quarry was being given its final cutting and dressing for use in structures like the gates and other details like the carvings on the walls and around the doorways of all the university buildings of that era. The undressed stone (rough cut) was used for the exterior and the low walls adjacent to the gates themselves. In fact, visiting Bloomington was rather like walking around the Western campus itself since this undressed limestone is the preferred building material used for even the smallest homes.

My father was interviewed for *Western News* in an article published on Dec. 21, 1978, as part of the Centennial Series. This article includes more information on buildings he was involved in on the Western campus.

On his acceptance into the masters degree program in the Faculty of Visual Arts, he planned to document in his thesis the many fascinating aspects of the work, which went into the design and construction of the university buildings. Unfortunately he died a month prior to entering the course, so this valuable information has been lost.

CECILY PATTERSON BOYLE, DIPL'64, BA'85

HAPPY RUGBY RECOGNIZED IN ATHLETIC HISTORY

(Re: "100 Years of Western Athletics," *Alumni Gazette, Fall 2013*)

I was pleased to see that rugby, for women as well as men, was included in Stephen Brunt's survey of Western athletics. When I played at Western, in the mid-1960s, rugby was far less visible.

I say I played 'at,' not 'for,' Western. Alas, in those days rugby was not recognized as an official university sport. We were merely members of a club, much as students interested in chess or photography might have been.

The story was we were in the crosshairs of the chief athletics panjandrum of the time, football coach John Metras. The story (and one that, good martyrs all, we revelled in) was that 'The Bull' was in no mood to encourage rugby lest students, who could kick, tackle and run with a ball should consider any sport but football.

But to this day I still have my old rugby shirt, purple and white barrel hoops and all. And, pace the ghost of Metras, I still think of us as having been Mustangs – sort of.

JOHN KALBFLEISCH, MA'66 (ENGLISH)

PLAYING POLITICS WITH LANGUAGE

(Re: *Don't Believe Oil Sands Exist, Fall 2013 issue*)

Eric Munn's letter says he doesn't believe in the existence of 'oil sands,' but let's acknowledge we are playing politics with language. If you aren't fond of mining for petroleum in Alberta you are free to call them 'tar sands' or anything else for that matter. But let's not pretend it's because you don't want to mislead anyone.

Applying the 'iron mines' naming convention Mr. Munn cites, what should we

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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



Former Western Mustang football player, and current Kinesiology graduate student, Kody Campbell charges up some of the 49 Mustangs football helmets which contain the gForce Tracker devices, that monitor the impact of hits on the football field. (Photo by Paul Mayne)

TRACKING CONCUSSIONS ON PLAYING FIELD

Kody Campbell admits to having his bell rung a few times.

As a Mustangs football player for five years (2007-11), Campbell never sustained a concussion himself, but knows of many others who did. He is well aware the hard hits which deliver those head injuries are not leaving the game anytime soon.

Out of the game, and pursuing a master's degree in Kinesiology, Campbell now tackles the science behind the hard hits and the triggers of concussions.

He knows simply asking players 'how they feel' after a big hit isn't going to create accurate data. So, he's taking a crash course and, literally, getting into a player's head – well, his helmet, at least.

Teaming up with gForce Tracker Inc., a company from Markham, Ont., Campbell has outfitted 49 Mustang helmets with data-tracking devices, each roughly the size of a domino. With this technology, he is able to

track – in real time, if necessary – every hit a player gives or receives.

"We are the first university in Canada to conduct this sort of research," said Campbell, who received support from Mustangs head coach Greg Marshall. Projects like this have been under way in The States for several years.

"There is (no data) out there for Canadian football players at the moment. In Canada, the football field is longer and wider; there are different rules, three downs instead of four; so the style of play is different, meaning the data, I think, will be different."

Built into each miniature device, known as a gForce Tracker, are tri-axial linear accelerometers which measure every impact that exceeds a specified threshold. Once it reaches that level, the device starts saving the data straight to Campbell's laptop on the sidelines. The device also has a gyroscope built into it to measure rotation acceleration, or how fast the head is moving at the time of impact.

As a former player himself, Marshall had no hesitations when approached by Campbell and his idea of 'plugging in' his players.

"I thought this was a great idea," said Marshall, who this past spring became involved with the See the Line initiative in London, to raise awareness surrounding athletes and concussions. "Kody had talked to me about the device and I really felt anything we could do to make sure we're coaching right, to make sure we're doing everything we can for our players, that we're in."

Marshall added the Mustangs have a top medical team to look after the players and monitor any concussion symptoms, including strength coach Jeff Watson, whom Marshall believes is on the cutting-edge of strength training in the neck to add support and reduce concussions.

"Football is a sport that, if we ignore this, it's going to come back and bite us," Marshall said.

Campbell, who monitors players on both offense and defense, hopes to make some headway for Canadian collegiate players, to the point of knowing which

position is more vulnerable to hits, how many, at what speed and whereabouts they land.

"It's very exciting to be seeing all the data come in," Campbell said. "One of the interesting things I've seen so far is how the data reflects the different level of practices, when coach Marshall and the players are backing off or going full."

Marshall said having access to this data will help him coach and, more importantly, keep his players safe from potential life-threatening injuries.

Led by Adam Hampshire, Imperial College (London, U.K.), with the assistance of Western Psychology professor Adrian Owen, a recent study showed former National Football League (NFL) players face a risk of subtle neurological deficits that don't show up on normal clinical tests. These deficits may affect their ability to plan and organize their everyday lives. Read more about Campbell's research and Owen's study online at: www.alumnigazette.ca

KRISHNA TAKES A MEMORABLE 'RHODE' TO ELITE SCHOLARSHIP

Western alumna Saumya Krishna, BHSc'13, is not just one in a million; she's one in 22. In early December, Krishna was named one of 11 Canadian members of the 2014 class of Rhodes Scholars. She is only the 22nd member of the Western community ever so honoured.

With 83 new members from around the world named this year, Rhodes is the world's pre-eminent graduate student award, offering two years of all-expenses-paid postgraduate study at Oxford University. Its 110-year tradition includes three Nobel Prize winners, as well as former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner and former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

"I am very humbled by this. I was surrounded by exceptionally talented finalists, who were also down-to-earth and genuine people," she said. "I've realized the Rhodes Scholarship is beyond anything that can be 'won' or 'deserved.' It



Krishna (Photo by Paul Mayne)

is a gift. I feel very fortunate to have been selected for it. I know a lot of responsibility comes with an opportunity, a privilege such as this.

"I am still thinking about how to live up to it."

SLEEP MAY HAVE DIFFERENT FUNCTION

Don't nod off on this one. A Western neuroscientist is exploring the possibility sleep isn't so much about rest from a busy day as it is about memory consolidation – or, more simply, the process needed to form lasting memories.

"There is a certain role sleep plays, and that is in the enhancement of memory," said Stuart Fogel, who recently joined Western's Brain & Mind Institute. "Sleep is a very active state, not just one of rest and recharge. Sleep is actually doing something entirely new and different. When we learn something new, sleep actually reformulates or reconstructs memories in an entirely different way, so down the road these memories are stronger and more accessible, and we perform better.

"When sleep follows learning, enhanced memory consolidation is observed as compared to an equivalent period of wakefulness," Fogel added. "Sleep supports normal development, enhancement and regulation of the human body but it also, very importantly, encourages the same things in the brain."

With the new Brain & Mind Sleep Research Laboratory, Fogel studies behavioural testing to cognitive testing, all within a full clinical setting, complete with three sleeping quarters.

A 32-channel electroencephalogram (EEG) records everything from brain waves, rapid eye movement (REM), muscle activity, reparatory effort, pulse and what Fogel refers to as so much "rich data" to begin to explore a lot of unanswered questions.

"Sleep is one of the core biological functions required by the brain and the body, and one of the strongest biological drives, such as hunger or thirst. We can't live without it," said Fogel, who hopes to begin his work early this year. "The drive and need for sleep indicates it serves some particular function. It goes beyond alleviating fatigue and tiredness. It's like saying the function of



Stuart Fogel, a research scientist at Western's Brain & Mind Sleep Research Laboratory, prepares research assistant Lauren Binnie to be a mock participant in his study into the unsolved mysteries as to why humans actually sleep. (Photo by Paul Mayne)

eating is because you're hungry, but hunger is just a symptom, like sleepiness is just a symptom; it doesn't represent the function necessarily."

Read complete story online at: www.alumnigazette.ca

DOGGED PURSUIT OF THE CANINE MIND

So, can dogs count? Can they tell the difference between you leaving them alone for an hour versus two or three?

Western's Dog Cognition Lab, supervised by Psychology professor emeritus William Roberts, and run by doctoral candidate Krista Macpherson, BA'05, MSc'08, has investigated.

The lab's experiments so far seem to indicate that while dogs don't assign a specific numerical measure to items, they have a sense of numerosity, or an approximate number system. So, while they might not be able to count the two treats in your right hand, they can tell that you are holding more (say, five) in your left.

To test this, researchers used two magnetized boards, placing a different number of geometric patterns on each one. The boards were each mounted to a box; under the box with the greater number of patterns on it were tasty hot dogs. The dog

then had to make a choice between the two boards.

"What we found is the dog learned to go to the one that had the greater number. You see that virtually in all animals, and kids, too, that haven't learned to use a number system. So, we did find some evidence that dogs can count in some sense," Roberts continued, noting the task seems to be easier for the dog if the ratio between the two boards is low.

Other studies in the lab have shown dogs can, to some extent, discern differences in the amount of elapsed time, that they seek out information from humans when a task is at hand and, while they show signs of spatial memory, they don't stack up to other animals in maze-centric spatial tasks.

The test subjects in the lab are people's pets, with Macpherson's rough collies, Cash and Sedona, being the primary participants. Though the question of breed hasn't been studied yet, Macpherson and Roberts are interested in looking at cognitive differences between different dog breeds.

The lab has a number of undergraduate volunteers and attracts a lot of attention. This past summer, it was featured in a *Maclean's* magazine article. It was also featured on CBC's *The Nature of Things* on Nov. 21.

Read complete story online at: www.alumnigazette.ca

CAN YOU DIG IT?

Facilities Management staff and construction crews were busy across campus this year with major new building and renovation projects. Among the major projects completed this year were: the new Richard Ivey Building for the Ivey Business School on Western Road; Ontario Hall on Sarnia Road; Clare Hall at Brescia University College; and the Western Centre for Public Health and Family Medicine on Richmond Street. Renovations to the Physics and Astronomy Building, the second oldest building on campus, were also completed this year after a three-year makeover. There were many other minor projects on the go with crews working all over to beautify and update Western's campus.

...FROM LETTERS (PAGE 3)

call Alberta petroleum mining? In the iron example the raw material that comes out of the mine is magnetite ore that becomes pig iron only after a couple of processing steps. They are called 'iron' mines rather than 'magnetite' mines simply because that's the material the miners are after.

The same convention is used when 99 per cent of what is extracted from a mine is sulfide or oxide ore. Those are copper mines and to call them anything else, well that would be misleading, wouldn't it?

The convention seems pretty simple and clear. Alberta operators call them 'oil sands' because oil is the end product of the exercise, not the first thing they dig up. Everyone has the right to call extraction operations whatever they want to in order to send their own message. But please don't hide your political intent behind sloppy analogies.

GREG WILKINSON, BA'81 (HISTORY)

ANOTHER WESTERN GRAD BREWS IN ONTARIO

(Re: *From Class to Glass*, Fall 2013 issue)

Just a quick note that I enjoyed the Forked River article, but there is another Western graduate in Ontario with a microbrewery.

Josette deBrouwer, BA'86 (History), Cert'86 (French), former managing editor of the *Gazette*, is one of four co-owners of Bayside Brewing Co. in Erieau, Ont., on Lake Erie. (baysidebrewing.com)

FRANK C. THOMPSON

NEW CHAIR INSPIRED BY MUNRO

BY AMIT CHAKMA,
PRESIDENT &
VICE-CHANCELLOR



When Alice Munro, LLD'76, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature it was a proud moment for Canada. It was an even prouder moment for Western because she is part of the Western community.

Alice studied English at Western as an undergraduate and she came back to campus in 1974-75 as our writer-in-residence. It was during this period she worked on a collection of short stories, *Who do you think you are?*, which won a Governor General's Award.

Over the decades her short stories featured the lives of ordinary people, focusing on women and girls, whose lives, loves and losses she brought to life through her skilled prose.

The Nobel Prize adds to an already impressive list of awards. Besides being a three-time winner of the Governor General's Award, she has also won the Giller Prize twice and the Man Booker Prize.

The attention the Nobel Prize brought to Alice will inspire people the world over to discover and rediscover the satisfaction that comes from reading her stories. It will also help raise the importance creativity plays in our lives.

There are writers whose books are perfect for whiling away some quiet time. Then there are authors, such as Alice, whose characters live on in our minds like old friends – characters who are both ordinary and extraordinary at the same time.

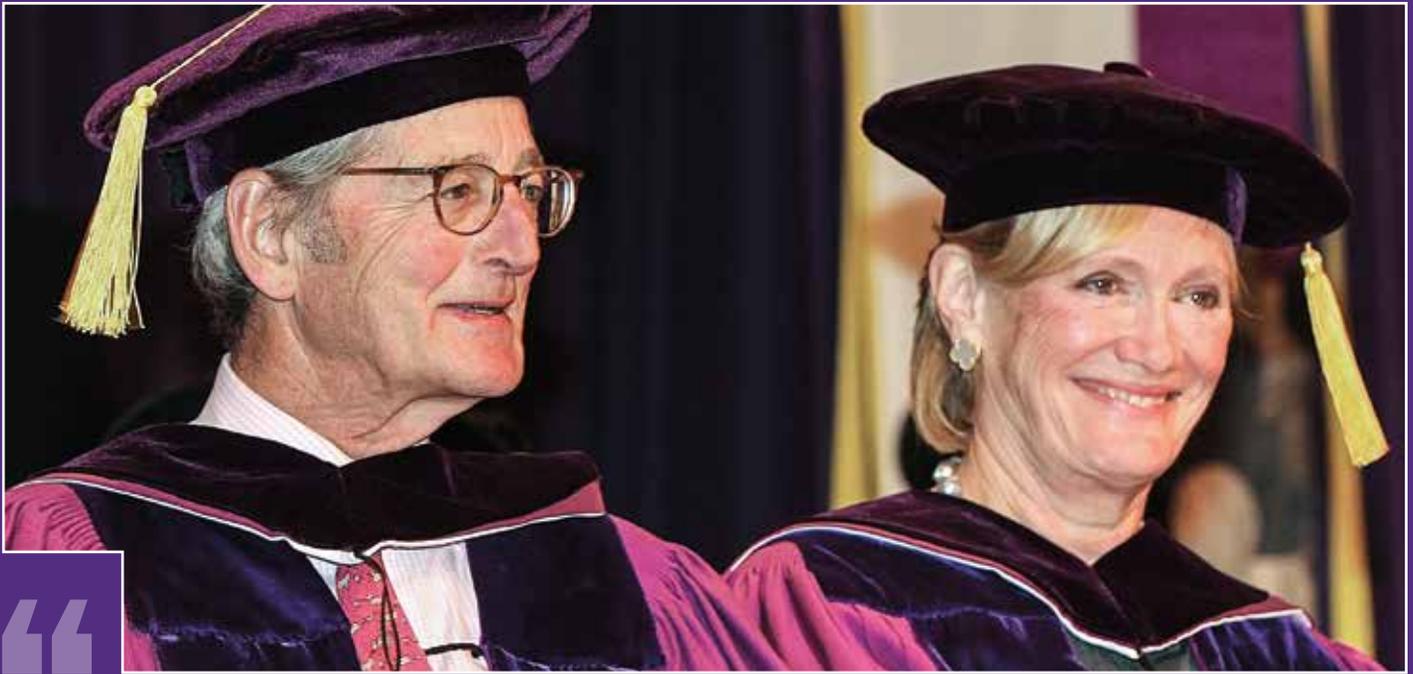
Well-crafted works, whether they are in

writing, music, painting or sculpture, do more than help make our world a more beautiful place. People like Alice also help us make sense of our world and the choices we make. They provoke us into rethinking our assumptions about how humans should behave. They inspire us to become more than we thought we could be and they lay to waste the stereotypes we build up over our lives. They help us discover parts of ourselves we never knew existed.

At Western, we believe strongly in the power of creativity, so much so that the university is celebrating Alice's Nobel Prize through the creation of the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity within the Faculty of Arts & Humanities. Western is committing \$1.5 million to match all donations to establish this legacy in her honour.

Creation of this chair will allow Western to recruit an excellent writer and teacher and provide a creative mentor to students and faculty in our already well-regarded Faculty of Arts & Humanities. This individual will play a leadership role in forging links between the university and the broader creative community. The chair will enhance our writer-in-residence program and allow the university to access national as well as international calibre speakers and writers. And it will serve to culturally enrich the lives of our students.

We believe that, as a university community, there is no better way to pay tribute to Alice than to mentor a new generation of outstanding Canadian writers.

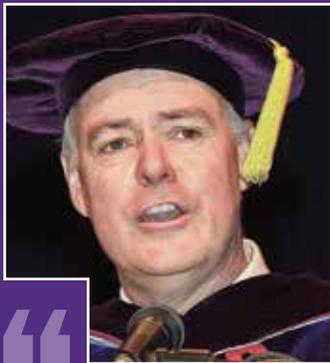


YOU'VE BEEN PROVIDED WITH GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE YOUR CAREERS, BUT ALSO THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE BEYOND, OR THROUGH YOUR CAREER, TO THE BETTERMENT OF THE SOCIETY YOU LIVE IN."

Michael Meighen

"NONE OF US IS IMMUNE FROM THE THREAT OF MENTAL ILLNESS. WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS ON THE STIGMA SURROUNDING MENTAL ILLNESS, BUT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE STILL STRUGGLE..."

Kelly Meighen



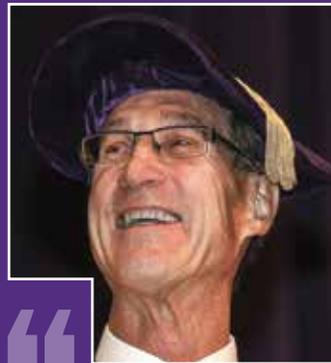
Today, I want simply to suggest that whatever your career, your most important accountability is to yourself. You can't delegate your responsibility for your own ethical conduct to someone else."

Perrin Beatty



It's the comeuppance of chance that is a great gift. Stop and be open to them, and to the surprise of them. There are lessons you've learned here that will serve you in ways you can't conceive."

Adrienne Arsenaault



You have unlimited potential to do great things. (You're) at a turning point in your life where your career really begins... We now live in a truly interdependent world. We can't isolate ourselves; divorce is not an option,"

Dr. Thomas Feasby



You're the ones on the front line, comforting, alleviating suffering, giving hope to those who expectedly or unexpectedly find themselves in a time of stress and fear," Trudeau said.

Margaret Trudeau

INSIDER'S HOCKEY JOURNEY

CONACHER BALANCED SPORT WITH ACADEMICS & SUCCEEDED AT BOTH

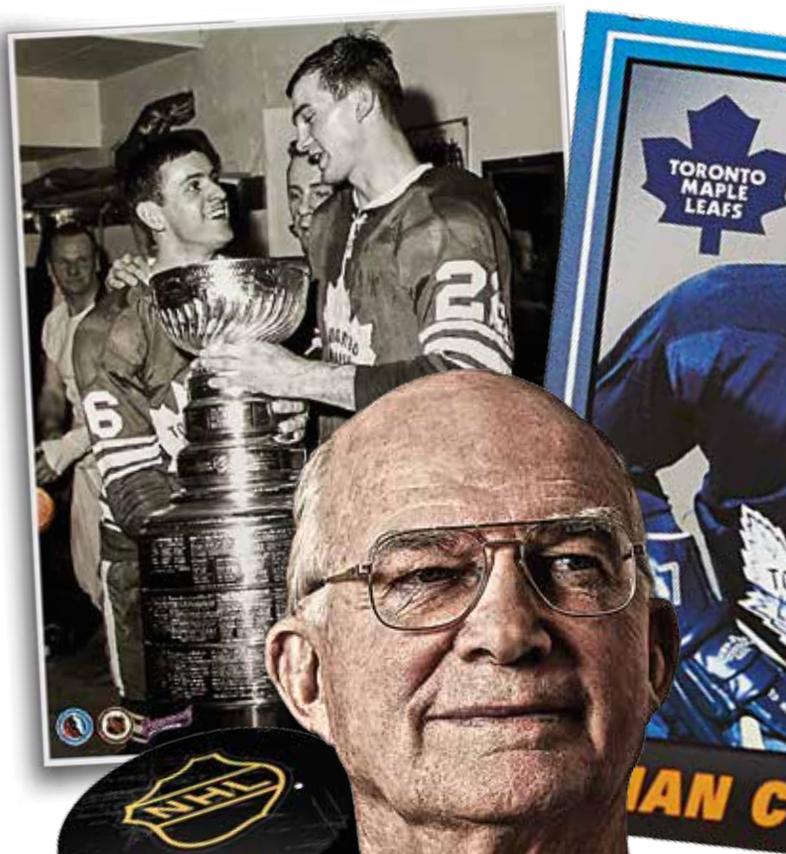
BY DAVID SCOTT

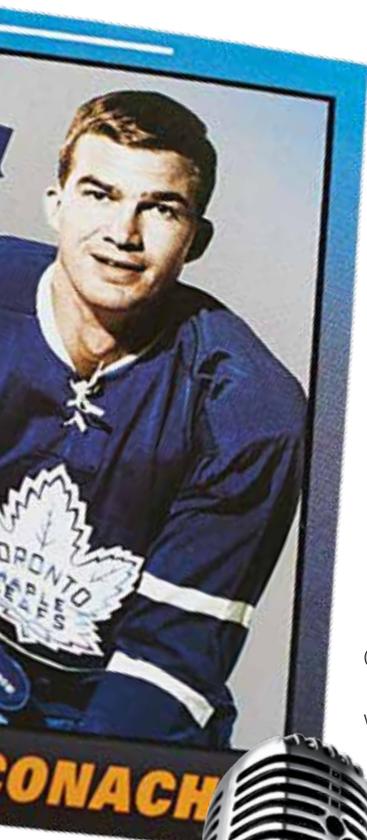
He was on Western's first intercollegiate hockey team in the 1960s. And on the last Maple Leafs team to win the Stanley Cup in 1967. He's witnessed and participated in some landmark hockey moments, like co-commentating the Russian Summit Series with legendary broadcaster Foster Hewitt in 1972; becoming one of the first members of the National Hockey League Players Association (NHLPA) and even being an extra in the 1977 hockey cult classic movie *SlapShot* starring Paul Newman. Aside from that, he's a best-selling author, former GM of the Edmonton Oilers and former CEO of Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto, Northlands Coliseum in Edmonton and Copps Coliseum in Hamilton, among other accomplishments in the world of hockey.

Some might think he had big shoes to fill but Brian Conacher, BA'68 (History, Huron), never felt the pressure to become a professional athlete or to match his father's success. Sports were just something he and his brother Lionel Jr., HBA'60, took to naturally.

His father was Lionel Conacher Sr., voted Canada's top athlete of the first half of the 20th century and MP for Toronto's Trinity district. Nicknamed 'The Big Train,' he died

Brian Conacher poses with his mini replica Stanley Cup from the Toronto Maple Leafs' 1967 victory, in a modern 'vintage' Leafs jersey, with stick in hand. (Photo by Nation Wong). Above left: Celebrating the 1967 Cup victory with teammate Mike Walton. (Image courtesy Hockey Hall of Fame). One of Conacher's hockey cards with the Leafs.





tragically in 1954 when Brian was just 12, while playing a game of softball with fellow politicians versus parliamentary press gallery members on the front lawn of the House of Parliament.

Brian turned out to be, among other things, a pro hockey player, along with five other relatives who have their own place in NHL hockey lore, including the only three brothers (Charlie, Lionel & Roy) to be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame.

From the age of 15, Brian was a member of the Marlies junior team (Toronto Marlboros) affiliated with the Maple Leafs. Sports rotated with the seasons for the young Conacher – football in the fall, hockey in the winter and track in the spring as a student at Upper Canada College (UCC) in Toronto.

“I was a terrible student. My favourite subjects were lunch and recess. I got A-pluses in them.”

He got into the preliminary program at Huron College, in 1962. Legendary Western football coach John Metras, LLD’75, knew Conacher had played high school football. “He was sort of a mentor, as he was to a lot of players. Great respect and respectful fear.”

Conacher describes Metras as “a big, burly guy, who could scare the **** out of you, literally.”

His brother had been at Western and played for Metras. “Lionel was leaving the year I started to play football. Metras was always looking for players. He told Brian, “In your first year, you’re going to come out and practice with the Colts but you’re not going to play. I’m going to keep an eye on you and you have to pass your first year or you’re out.”

Conacher realized he had to “buckle down” on his schoolwork to stay in sports. But as fate would have it, just before the season was about to start for the Mustangs, two of their running backs got hurt.

“My roommate was a guy called Ed Potomski from Windsor. He was a fullback and I was a halfback and we both played on the Colts. And probably because there wasn’t anybody else, we ended up getting called up to the Mustangs.”

Conacher admits the 1962-63 team was decent but not a great team. Personally, he exceeded expectations. “I ended up being an all-star that season. Sort of unexpected, not only to me but to everybody else.”

As soon as football was over, it was work for the rest of the year to pass his

courses. There would be no time for hockey but, as it turns out, Western had not yet entered the intercollegiate hockey league with other Ontario universities.

The summer of 1963, Conacher was invited by coach Father David Bauer to be part of Canada’s first amateur National Hockey Team (Nats) to compete internationally at the 1964 Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck, Austria.

Bauer, a former St. Michael’s Major coach, was given government money to establish this team of amateur hockey players, who would get a university education at UBC while training for the team to compete at the Innsbruck Olympics. Bauer was an accomplished player himself and his brother Bobby had played a successful career with the Boston Bruins. Both brothers are in the Hockey Hall of Fame.

One of the deciding factors to join this program was his father had done everything in sports, except participate in the Olympic Games. “I remember my mother saying that one of his regrets was that he hadn’t gone to the Olympics. He had a chance to go to the Olympics but for whatever reason – whether he turned professional or whatever – he didn’t go.”

Conacher described Bauer as not only inspirational but a knowledgeable hockey coach. “It was a very unique program. It met with a lot of resistance from the NHL.” Conacher wrote about the experience in his first book, *Hockey in Canada: The Way It Is*. (1970) “It was a tribute to Father Bauer and that program because at that time, the NHL was and still is the primary focal point of hockey in Canada. In those days, the combination of going to school and becoming an NHLer just weren’t compatible.”



Brian Conacher stickhandles past Montreal Canadiens defenceman #19, Terry Harper during the 1967 Stanley Cup Finals. Conacher scored the winning goal in Game 5 in Toronto. The Leafs won the series in Game 6 in Montreal. (Photo by Nation Wong of vintage picture from Brian Conacher).



The Nats were a victim of international hockey politics at the 1964 Winter Olympics when Canada was the bronze medal winner prior to the medal ceremony when officials changed the rules at the last minute about qualifications based on goal difference and Czechoslovakia was awarded bronze. The move would mark a tumultuous road ahead in international hockey relations and led Canada to withdraw from International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) competition from 1970-76.

Conacher returned to Western for his second year in the fall of 1964, back to Huron College again. Western, under coach Bill L'Heureux, was now in the intercollegiate hockey league with Queen's, McGill and other schools.

Halfway through hockey season Conacher hurt his knee. "I had bursitis very badly on my kneecap." He was out of commission for a couple of weeks. While that was happening, Canada was going to go to the 1965 World Championships in Tampere, Finland, in March. Father Bauer wanted Conacher to be on the team. He told the coach about the injury but ended up going anyway.

"We didn't do very well in that world championship. Then I came back and I really had to scramble for school. I had to work hard at it but I started to get good grades. In my second year at Western I had a B average. For me it was far beyond anything I thought I'd be able to attain."

"MY BRAIN WAS GOING TO HAVE TO CARRY ME A LOT FURTHER THAN MY LEGS WERE OVER THE COURSE OF MY LIFE."

To complicate his future plans further, that spring the Calgary Stampeders offered to draft him. His brother had played a couple of years with the Montreal Alouettes.

"He was an all-star fullback in intercollegiate football but when you went into the CFL, most of the running backs in the backfield positions were occupied by Americans. As a lot of the CFL was and still is."

Conacher realized as a halfback, he wasn't likely going to make the Stampeders – or end up being pushed out of his position to something unfamiliar like a wide receiver.

"To me, football is a game of collision (and a shorter career) and hockey was a game of avoidance. Although, that's changed now."

Instead, he chose to attend the Toronto Maple Leafs training camp in the fall of 1965. He was awarded a two-year contract with the Leafs' American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate, the Rochester Americans. A few notable players were on the team at the time like Don Cherry and Al Arbour.

Conacher made his decision just as the 1965-66 school year was starting.

"I went and played for Rochester that year and we won the Calder Cup. We had a terrific hockey team. And the Leafs didn't do very well that year. So, the transition was starting to take place between the older players that were sort of getting long in the tooth – they'd won three Cups in a row – and now the bubble had sort of burst and it was creating some potential opportunity for some younger players."

Those younger players included Conacher, Mike Walton, Jim McKenny, Wayne Carleton, Jimmy Pappin, Pete Stenkowski and Ron Ellis.

"To me, to get paid \$5,500 a year was something and to play hockey in the AHL or CHL and give up my education just didn't seem to make sense."

So, Conacher played that season and then returned to Western in summer school at Huron. With no time to waste or "time off" to enjoy he went back to Leafs training camp in the fall of '66 and made the team. Even Conacher admits, it wasn't a great season but that team came together at the end of the season.

The Leafs squeaked into the last playoff spot. They faced Chicago, the runaway first place team that year. They had some of the greats like Bobby Hull, Stan Mikita and Glen Hall in goal.

"We ended up beating them and probably the highlight of my career was



Image courtesy Hockey Hall of Fame.

that in the sixth game in Toronto, I scored two goals, including the winning goal and that put us into the Stanley Cup final."

It was a pinnacle year for hockey in Canada. Not only was 1967 Canada's Centennial, it marked the last season of the Original Six. The final series was Toronto versus Montreal, where the 1967 World Expo was being held from April to October.

Both the series and final game was so close, that Conacher says it wasn't until George Armstrong scored an empty net goal late in the game to make it 3-1, that the Leafs thought "we could win this."

Probably not the way most hockey players launched their careers but Conacher was fortunate to start his pro hockey experience by winning the Calder Cup in his first year and the Stanley Cup in his second.

"I played my best hockey in the playoffs. I scored three goals in the Stanley Cup playoffs. Two of them were winning goals (Game 6 vs. Chicago & Game 5 vs. Montreal). I wasn't really a goal scorer. But I played better under those kinds of circumstances."

In the meantime, in the spring of 1967, he got married on May 15, less than two weeks after winning the Stanley Cup. "Then I was back in summer school."

Conacher played for the Leafs for one final season "on a terrible team" and then it was back to summer school for a final time in 1968 to earn his degree in the fall of '68.

"So, when people say 'when did you go to Western?', I say I went in the Sixties. I thought with my education I could do something better. I realized my brain was going to have to carry me a lot further than my legs were over the course of my life."



To read about Brian Conacher's views on violence in hockey today, his experience during the shooting of Slapshot, the Canada/Russian Series and his other hockey adventures, please go to: www.alumnigazette.ca

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Donna Moore, BA’76, MEd’86
Western staff member and donor

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BY DAVID SCOTT

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WESTERN-SPAWNED DIGITAL NARROWCASTING COMPANY KEEPS GOING AND GROWING

EK3 CEO, Nick Prigioniero, MBA'03, and EK3 co-founder Ken Stuart, MEdSc'99, in the front lobby of their London, Ont. head office. The company was recently acquired by Cineplex Inc. and renamed Cineplex Digital Systems. It will likely open a US office this year with their increasing business south of the border. *(Photo by Shawn Simpson)*

You know EK3 Technologies – even if you don't realize it.

The Western Engineering-spawned digital signage company creates digital merchandising networks – those ever-changing video screens showcasing menus, specials and other information. They employ a concept called 'narrowcasting' – narrowly targeted messages to entice you to buy in an environment where you are already a customer.

"You have to be able to communicate a message that resonates to the right audience," says Nick Prigioniero, MBA'03, EK3 president and CEO. "Television commercials don't work on our medium. The client is in a different environment. You maybe have 15 seconds – at most. They have to get the message right away. I'm not sitting in my living room. I'm not sitting in an airport. I'm not sitting in a sports bar having a beer."

Founded in 1998, EK3 operates across Canada, as well as in 32 U.S. states, the United Kingdom and the Middle East. Its clients include Tim Hortons and McDonald's, Walmart and Target, RBC and BMO, Sony and Disney, Coca-Cola and Pepsico, and many more.

And now, after years of explosive growth, the London-based company prepares to enter a new phase. In August, Canadian movie theatre giant Cineplex Inc. purchased EK3 in a deal that could approach \$80 million.

EK3, renamed Cineplex Digital Networks, will remain under Prigioniero's leadership.

The company represents a true Western success story, one initially nurtured at the university.

EK3 took the name from its co-founders – Ed Elliot and Ken Stuart, both MEng'99. Elliot has since left the business; Stuart remains as senior vice-president of marketing, innovation and product development.

Prigioniero joined three years after the company's inception – first as president and COO, then as CEO three months later.

"I think one of the things I was able to bring to the company was a new approach and perspective by rewriting the business plan and focusing on creative, the media and all those things," he said. "It gave us a bigger scope."

He turned EK3 into "a hybrid" – a company providing clients with hardware solutions as well as in-house creative.

Growing to 150 employees (nearly 20 per cent

of them carrying post-grad degrees from Western), the tech company moved from its offices in Western's Discovery Park to a downtown location in the *London Free Press* building in 2004. EK3 also opened a Toronto office in 2007.

"We needed some room. We needed to hire a whole bunch of people. We actually tripled in size the first time we grew."

And with last summer's blockbuster deal, that growth looks to continue.

The Cineplex acquisition was a friendly takeover. "We weren't looking to be acquired," Prigioniero admits. "We were looking for growth capital."

In early 2013, EK3 was working with RBC Capital Markets, eyeing capital to enter into the U.S. market. The company received several offers from U.S. venture capital and private equity firms. But EK3 management didn't like the deals being offered.

At that point, Cineplex entered the picture.

"The more we talked to Cineplex the more we realized there were synergies there between both of us," Prigioniero says. "We were extremely pleased as we got to know them that they were great people – a Canadian company, well run, great leadership and they saw true value in everything we did."

"They saw the content. They saw the technology. They saw the media sales component. They saw everything we did. They put high value on it. So, we're very pleased with the acquisition."

While continuing to build on its Canadian base, the company is targeting aggressive growth in the United States, and planning to open offices in Chicago or

New York this year. Everything, including creative services, at this point, is run from its Canadian offices.

The company also still has a presence at Western with the EK3 Innovation Lab in the Thompson Engineering Building. That lab enables real-world training opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students as well as professional engineers.

"It was a great resource for us to be able to hire more people," Prigioniero says. "In the future we're probably going to explore doing more research at Western, as well as expand research with other universities."

"What's been part of our DNA has been the tie to academic institutions; Western has been able to keep that alive for us."

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TARGET, RBC AND
BMO, SONY AND
DISNEY, COCA-COLA
AND PEPSICO, AND
MANY MORE.**

CULTIVATING LEADERS

ALUMNA'S G(IRLS) 20 SUMMIT CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE

BY CARLY WEEKS, MA'04

Farah Mohamed, MA'96, is on a mission to find the next generation of female leaders and equip them with the skills to take on the world.

And Mohamed is well on her way as president and CEO of the G(irls)20 Summit, an annual international event that brings together young women ahead of the G20 Summit to find ways to bring economic empowerment to women around the world.

But the seeds for her passion to mobilize young girls and women were planted in an unlikely place: her family's expulsion from Uganda by then-President Idi Amin in 1972.

Like tens of thousands of others of Indian heritage, Mohamed's parents were forced to leave the place they called home and move to Canada, a country they had never laid eyes on, as a result of ethnic cleansing.

Mohamed was only two when her family uprooted and settled into a new life in Burlington, Ont. But the traumatic event had a profound impact on her parents and how they raised their daughters.

So while other girls her age were hanging out at the mall or going to sleepovers, Mohamed and her sister were volunteering at nursing homes and their local mosque. Newspapers were required reading for the teenaged Mohamed girls and Canadian politics was a regular staple of dinner table conversation.

"They grew us up to be pretty engaged in our country and I think it comes from the fact politics kicked them out of their own country," Mohamed says. "Obviously, when I was a kid, I didn't appreciate any of that stuff... But they knew that to make it here, you needed to do certain things, and education would be a part of it."

Now, Mohamed credits her parents and their emphasis on political engagement and education for putting her on the path to success. After graduating from high school, she earned a scholarship to Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. and took a year off to dip her toes in the national political scene before finishing a Master's degree in political science and international relations at Western University.

"When you walk away with a degree from Western then you have accomplished something great," she says.

Mohamed's gap year coincided with the 1993 federal election and she decided to volunteer for Patricia 'Paddy'





2013 G(irls)20 Summit delegates in Moscow, Russia. Over the summer, young women from the G-20 countries, plus one each from the European Union and African Union, met in Moscow for a gathering. The meetings started in 2010.

Torsney, the Liberal candidate for her hometown of Burlington. Jean Chrétien would lead the party to victory.

Before long, Mohamed was working fulltime for Torsney in Ottawa, eventually being promoted to chief of staff. Mohamed's reputation as an ambitious, hardworking and personable young woman soon caught the attention of Anne McLellan, then Minister of Justice, who decided to hire her.

Mohamed was eventually named McLellan's director of communications, a stressful position that required daily interactions with multiple media organizations. Mohamed's grace under pressure not only impressed McLellan; it sparked a friendship that continues today.

"I don't think there was anyone in the national press gallery who did not respect Farah and that is a huge asset for a minister," recalls McLellan. "I listened to her advice and the thing I would say is every time I didn't listen to her advice, I got myself in trouble."

In 2007, Mohamed's life changed. She climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for charity and took the opportunity to visit her home country of Uganda for the first time since she was a child. The devastating poverty she saw shook her.

"I'm not naïve. I've seen [poverty] before, but to see it in a country that you got to escape, it just jarred me."

Returning to life in Canada, where she enjoyed the luxuries of driving a nice car, living in a well-appointed condominium and dining out regularly with friends prompted Mohamed to reevaluate her life's goals. She decided to dedicate her energy to giving back and helping younger generations, particularly those who are economically disadvantaged.

Serendipitously, former Liberal Member of Parliament Belinda Stronach phoned Mohamed, inviting her to help launch a foundation that would focus, in part, on the advancement of girls and women. And that's

**"WHEN I SEE THOSE
GIRLS IN ACTION,
IT'S LIKE BEING A
PROUD PARENT.
YOU'RE IN AWE."**

how G(irls)20 Summit was born.

The summit provides a platform for one young woman from each G20 nation, plus a representative from the European Union and African Union, to learn important leadership skills and gain the confidence to speak on an international stage. In 2014, the summit will travel to Brisbane.

Mohamed gets emotional when she speaks about how the young delegates are transformed into confident, articulate young women who are making a difference in their communities back home.

"When I see those girls in action, it's like being a proud parent," Mohamed says. "You're in awe."

At 43, Mohamed has already earned significant success and honours, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal. But she's not finished yet. In the next few years, she plans on finding a successor who can continue the vision of G(irls)20 while she moves onto the next challenge.

McLellan says Mohamed should run for public office and that she would make "a great Member of Parliament."

No matter where the future takes her, it's a good bet Mohamed will find a way to keep alive her mission to cultivate the next generation of leaders.

"When I do think about my path, there have been many people who have invested in me... so I feel like that's my give back."



Cole and Parker sock co-founders Diana Charabin, former Western rugby player and Ivey guest speaker, and Jeff House, BHSc'07, with some of their colourful creations on display. Twenty per cent of profits go to micro-financing entrepreneurs in developing countries. *(Photo by Shawn Simpson)*

**WESTERN
ALUMNI HAVE
YOUR FEET
COVERED**

**BY WAYNE
NEWTON**

BEST FEET FORWARD





Can buying shoes be good for the soul? Tal Dehtiar, BA'01 (MIT), thinks so. The entrepreneur based in Oakville, Ont., has channelled his energy for business and passion for Africa into the world's first Fairtrade certified shoe company.

A co-founder of MBAs Without Borders, Dehtiar turned to footwear production as a way to demonstrate sustainable jobs are possible in even the most impoverished parts of the world.

"I think job creation is an excellent way to change lives," he said. "I thought, 'What can we do to create an industry?' Africa has the people and raw materials of leather and rubber to be a world leader in footwear."

Dehtiar, who has lived in or visited 50 countries in his 33 years,

self-financed the start up of Oliberte in 2009. The company now employs about 70 people in Ethiopia producing around 35,000 pairs of trendy-looking premium shoes from goat leather, retailing in North America for about \$140.

He took a pitch for investors to CBC's popular *Dragons' Den* show twice. His first appearance, which Dehtiar now admits came too early in the company's development, resulted in an offer from marketing maven Arlene Dickenson to take over the company. A second appearance garnered no investors from among the *Dragons*, but did generate huge publicity and investments from two viewers.

"While he did not invest, (former Dragon) Brett Wilson is a big ambassador for our brand," Dehtiar said.



Dehtiar earned an MBA from DeGroot School of Business at McMaster University in Hamilton after graduating with a degree in communications from Western. He credits an exchange program, which took him to Singapore while a Western student for shaping his commitment to Third World economic growth.

"The exchange to what was then a non-traditional country and not some place like England was the first time I, as a white male, lived as a minority," he said. "It was a great experience."

Oliberte shoes are sold through dozens of retailers.

Dehtiar is not the only Western graduate to put his best foot forward when it comes to creating new businesses.

Jeff House, BHSc'07 (Health Sciences), and Diana Charabin, together co-founded Cole and Parker, a funky sock company that supports global entrepreneurship through microfinancing.

Charabin, who attended Western to study marketing and play on the varsity women's rugby team for one year, eventually returned for the Ivey executive leadership program, where she has also been a guest speaker inspiring other entrepreneurs at the Ivey Business Club.

House, 28, graduated with majors in both health science and psychology and is involved with Opportunity International, which has a close relationship with the Western microfinance club.

"Microfinance is a sustainable way of helping the developing world with

integrity," said Charabin, 29, in an email from California. "Most people in the West get some sort of loan at some point in their lives and microfinance is a vehicle for the developing world to also have access to loans that elevate their lives."

Cole and Parker – named for jazz greats John Coltrane and Charlie Parker – sends 20 per cent of the profit from selling its premium-priced socks to entrepreneurs through Kiva, the world's largest micro-financing organization.

The socks sell for \$24. House and Charabin recommend them for students and professionals who want to stand out.

Footwear – and a quick and convenient way to buy it – is top of mind for a pair of English graduates who became good friends while studying at Western.

Anysley Wintrip Harris, BA'93, and Christine Carlton, BA'93, have launched an online women's designer shoe business based in Toronto.

They christened the website The September, both because it was launched in September 2013, and because it's the month when fashion shows are full tilt and fashion magazines are thickest.

The September's advantage for Canadian shoppers is



Opposite page: Tal Dehtiar, BA'01, with factory manager, Feraw, standing outside of the new factory for Oliberte in Ethiopia. Craftsman below with samples of the leather shoes and boots made in the Fairtrade certified factory. *(Photo provided)*

Left: Anysley Wintrip Harris, BA'93, and Christine Carlton, BA'93, partners in the new online high fashion women's shoe company, The September, based in Toronto. *(Photo provided)*

Right: Rick Cytrynbaum, BA'96, with Nicole Richie, promoting Modern Vintage, a \$50-million international fashion footwear business based in New York. Rick is CEO of Modern Vintage. His brother Brian, BA'94, operates Majestic Mills, an apparel company based in Paris. *(Photo provided)*



avoiding the shipping costs, duties, and currency exchange which can add 40 per cent to the cost of shoes purchased on international sites, Carlton said.

Carlton, a former vice-president at Holt Renfrew, said they intend to make The September the dominant online retailer for women's footwear in Canada.

"Canada is behind the U.S. in online shopping," said Wintrip Harris, a former CBC reporter and director of corporate communications for Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. "But it's very easy. We offer free shipping and returns. It's important to make people feel comfortable online."

Montreal brothers Brian and Rick Cytrynbaum – Brian studied French at Western and Rick studied visual arts – have built several companies since graduation, but none caught the imagination of celebrity Nicole Richie quite like Modern Vintage, a \$50-million international fashion footwear business based in New York.

"We now have Modern Vintage Men's, Modern Vintage Ladies, we do leather apparel and are going into eye wear in 2014," Rick, BA'96, said in an email while flying back to North America from Italy. "We built the brand to really target the advanced contemporary buyer."

Richie and her friends have been fans of Modern Vintage since it was launched in 2007.

"After meeting her many times, we discussed doing a deal together," Rick

said. "So the brand 'House of Harlow 1960' was created in partnership with us. It's a full lifestyle brand today, but has a very Bohemian feel."

Rick is the CEO of Modern Vintage. Brian, BA'94, has the same role with another of the brothers' companies, Majestic Mills, an apparel company based in Paris.

"On trend today are ankle boots – boots all year round," said Rick, who suggests every woman should own at least 12 pairs each of shoes and boots.

Rick lives in Montreal, but travels 200 days a year.

"Western was a great place for me to expand my horizons and learn about life," Rick said. "So many classes like sculpture and other visual arts classes allowed me to conceptualize and create the global brand Modern Vintage."

ON THE WEB

Oliberte: oliberte.com

Cole and Parker: coleandparker.co

Modern Vintage: shopmodernvintage.com

The September: theseptember.com



Right: Western cheerleaders from late 1940s, in uniforms similar to majorette costumes a trio of alumnae found while students at Western.

OPPOSITE PAGE
Top: Bottoms up with a greeting for Mom.

Bottom: The trio of mischief makers, Patti (Dean) Aitken, BA'89, Nina van Gessel, BA'90, MA'91, and Priya (Souza) Bates, BSc'91 reunite last summer. *(Photos submitted)*



THE GIG IS UP

PURLOINED OUTFIT TRAVELS GLOBE

BY JASON WINDERS, MES'10

Nina van Gessel's crime has followed her across the globe.

Packed in boxes alongside baby clothes and her wedding dress, dragged through three countries, a little piece of Western has been at her side since her third year at university. But this fall, the 'guilt' was just too much to handle.

Nina van Gessel came clean.

Van Gessel, BA'90, MA'91, grew up in Toronto, and was drawn to Western by its academic reputation and just-far-enough-from-home location. She planned to study medicine, but organic chemistry "did me in as it did so many others. I was always rubbish at the sciences; I don't know what I was thinking."

Van Gessel changed majors, and went on to earn two degrees from Western, and a PhD from McMaster.

"McMaster is sort of a blur to me; it doesn't have the same power that Western does," van Gessel said.

In high school, she played flute "fairly seriously." Without the money to continue private lessons in London, she

joined the Western Mustang Band as soon as she arrived on campus to keep in practice.

"It was a way to keep up with my flute playing. But it also proved to be great fun and a great way to meet people," she said.

There, she met future co-conspirators Patti (Dean) Aitken, BA'89 (Psychology) and Priya (Souza) Bates, BSc'91.

In third year, the trio lived together in a Lumberlost Road home.

"We always had so much fun together. We were always getting into mischief," she said. "At the time, we thought it was a little bit naughty. But it was so incredibly innocent; it was really sort of proper, undergraduate pranks.

"We were always looking for innocent fun."

At one point, the trio found an old box in the band room of colour guard, majorette costumes from the 1950s. That put the wheels in motion.

"They were just there. It was close to Halloween; we thought they would make great costumes. So we just took them," van Gessel said. "We wore them to some parties



and, as Priya reminded me, we got lots of attention.”

Aitken and Bates returned their uniforms soon afterward, but van Gessel never did.

Years passed. Van Gessel moved from London to Toronto to Calgary, left Canada for Holland, and then England, where today she is an assistant professor at Hult International Business School. The costume followed her every step of the way. The thought never entered her mind to return it.

She lost contact with “the girls” for more than a decade, but after reconnecting via Facebook, the trio reunited last summer. That’s when she broke the news.

“They were fairly shocked I still had this costume. Then I thought, I guess this is fairly shocking,” van Gessel laughed. “I started to feel guilty about it. I thought, this has to go back and this was a good chance to send it back.”

She reached out to Western Alumni Relations, and got in touch with Jacquie Rose, Alumni Engagement Officer, who was quick to absolve van Gessel of her crime.

“I often get questions and comments, but I have never received a criminal confession,” Rose said. “It was a great story, and the fact these outfits drew these friends back together years later is a wonderful testament to the bonds that form for many students while at Western.”

The costume arrived at Western in October. And so far, the story has had a happy ending.

“Nobody has sent me a bill,” van Gessel said with a laugh. “I am waiting, however.”

Founder's Day March 7

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all
ROADS
lead to the Olympics

BY SCOTT RUSSELL, BA'80, BED'81, MA'85
CBC OLYMPIC DAYTIME HOST



Scott Russell in the new Winter Olympics CBC Sports set for Sochi. (Photo courtesy CBC Sports)

When one of the greatest players the NHL has ever known entered Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, he spoke of the Olympics.

"To have the chance to compete at three Olympic Games and see what all those Olympic athletes do in order to succeed is amazing," two-time Stanley Cup winner Joe Sakic said.

"It's actually humbling."

Sakic captured every team and individual honour he competed for in professional hockey. But he is arguably most revered for the landmark performance he delivered in Canadian colours against the United States in the gold medal final at the 2002 Games in Salt Lake City.

Sakic scored four points in that 5-2 victory and was named the most valuable player of the Olympic tournament. In large part what Sakic did resulted in the Canadian men claiming hockey gold for the first time in half a century.

It's that kind of rare occurrence which gives the Games an undeniable mystique and also creates a lasting folklore.

Now as the Olympic season evolves, the anticipation building towards the greatest recurring spectacle on Earth runs rampant. New memories and iconic figures are being forged. Over the next fleeting days and weeks they'll be defined.

At the Olympics there is always something at stake whether it's the pride of a nation or the passion of an individual. On the largest stage in the world, athletes either win or lose and another chance may never again present itself.

That's why the struggle to get there is such a huge part of the story. The journey provides the dramatic element to what may or may not occur at the end of the line.

Kaya Turski of Montreal is hoping to make her Olympic debut

in Sochi. She's slopestyle skiing's reigning world champion and a three-time X-Games gold medalist. But as slopestyle gains entry to the Games program for the first time, Turski is desperately trying to recover from a mid-September knee operation to repair a torn ACL. Normally recuperation takes six to nine months but that would mean missing the Olympics.

For Turski it's not an option.

So she underwent radical surgery at Western University's Fowler-Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic where Dr. Robert Litchfield, MD'86, Medical Director (Orthopedic Surgery), inserted a synthetic ligament in her knee. Her therapy will be aggressive and all consuming. She's determined to get to Sochi and reclaim her place as the gold medal favourite in Russia.

"The expectation is to immerse myself fully in this," she said. "I'm creating my own beautiful story...my unique comeback story of strength and determination."

For each of the athletes who undertake this winter season the end game is identical. And make no mistake, the athletes are the stars of the show. For every one of them there is so much on the line.

It amounts to their life's work.

"The heightened intensity for the viewer is both captivating and inspiring," said 1988 figure skating bronze medalist Tracy Wilson, of the Olympic crucible. "And those who watch know that the stakes are of the highest level and the room for error is often imperceptible."

They are only fields of play in the mysterious south of Russia but soon they will become humanity's ultimate destination. Only by making the journey can the loftiest of ambitions be considered and only then will history on the run reveal itself.

All roads lead to the Olympics now and every athlete understands there's no turning back.

A portrait of Alice Munro, an elderly woman with short, wavy white hair, smiling warmly. She is wearing a dark grey hat, a red scarf with a white floral pattern, and a dark, textured coat with fur-trimmed lapels and cuffs. The background is a dark blue, vertically striped wall.

Munro wins Nobel for literature

BY JASON WINDERS, MES'10

Alice Munro
(Photo by
Kim Stallknecht)

When the call came, Alice Munro, LLD'76, was nowhere to be found.

"The Swedish Academy has not been able to get a hold of Alice Munro," tweeted the arbiter of the Nobel Prize at 7:04 a.m. EST Oct. 10. "Left a phone message. #NobelPrize #Literature."

Moments earlier, the Western alumna and former writer-in-residence was announced as the winner of 2013 Nobel Prize in Literature, becoming the first Canadian woman to take the award since its launch in 1901. Munro, 82, is only the 13th woman given the award.

News quickly made its way around the world. Only problem, the winner had yet to be officially notified by the academy.

"@Nobelprize.org is trying to reach #AliceMunro for our traditional phone interview, still voice mail. #NobelPrize," tweeted the academy at 8:47 a.m.

The search continued until noon when, finally, a connection was made. "We reached #AliceMunro, phone interview soon to follow! #NobelPrize in #Literature."

To be fair, Munro wasn't completely in the dark about her career-defining award. She clued into the news earlier in the day as media started calling her home.

"Unbelief. I really couldn't believe it; I was so happy," Munro said. "Because I work, generally, in the short story form, this is a special thing to get this recognition."

Munro, originally from Wingham, Ont., has been called 'Canada's Chekhov.' Similar to the work of the Russian short-story master, plot is usually secondary. Her stories revolve around small epiphanies encountered by her characters, often when current events illuminate something that happened in the past.

"Alice Munro is Canada's finest writer," said Western professor David Bentley, a Distinguished University Professor and Carl F.

Klinck Professor in Canadian Literature. "We can take special pleasure in the fact that her extraordinary career began here."

Munro's first connection to Western's Department of English came while she was an undergraduate student pursuing an English major. As a student, she published three short stories in Western's undergraduate English magazine, *Folio*, from 1949-51. She left Western without graduating, a victim of finances and circumstances.

However, she returned to Western in 1974-75, when she held the post of writer-in-residence. During that time she was working on her collection, *Who Do You Think You Are?*, which won the Governor General's Award.

"This is the 40th anniversary of the start of our writer-in-residence program, the oldest program in Canada, so we are especially thrilled that Ms. Munro's Nobel Prize came through this year," said Bryce Traister, English and Writing Studies chair. "We are privileged and humbled to be able to play even this small part in her storied career."

Munro is beloved by readers around the world for her striking portraits of women living in small-town Ontario. Her last series of stories is the 2012 collection *Dear Life*, and her excellence has been recognized with numerous writing awards, including the Man International Booker Prize in 2009 and Giller Prize in 1998. In 1976, Western conferred upon her an honorary degree, the only such degree she has ever accepted.

"Most writers and critics agree that she is probably the most important living practitioner of the short story in the Anglophone world," Traister said. "She finds the extraordinary and the wondrous residing in the most ordinary and everyday events, and writes about those things in a way that finds the graceful, the beautiful, the terrible, and the tragic in all of us."



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SIX TIPS FOR INVESTING IN MUTUAL FUNDS



As alumni enter the first two months of a new year, they often shift into investor mode. Six out of 10 Canadian investors buy units in mutual funds. So *Western Alumni Gazette* asked **Jonathan Chevreau, MA'79**, a Western journalism alumnus, to offer six tips for mutual fund investing. Chevreau is Editor of *MoneySense Magazine*, a former personal finance columnist for the *Financial Post* and the author of nine books on mutual funds, stock markets and investing.

1) Use a fee-based financial advisor only if investing mega-bucks.

The first decision a mutual fund investor has to make is whether to rely on a conventional financial planner or a fee-based planner for investing advice. The conventional planner earns their money as commission on the sale of units of the fund. They can only recommend the funds of those fund families they represent. A fee-based advisor, in contrast, can give independent advice; that's because they earn their money by charging either an hourly fee or a fee calculated as a percentage of assets. Using a fee-based advisor, however, can be unduly expensive unless the investment dollars at stake are sizable. "Being serviced by a bank rep or a [conventional] financial planner is probably fine for the first \$50,000 to \$100,000 worth of assets," says Chevreau. "It's not really cost effective for an asset-based advisor to give clients much service until they're above that level of assets."

2) Buy Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs).

These are funds whose portfolio of securities mimics the composition of the Dow Jones Industrial Average or another major index. Because the fund is passively rather than actively managed, there is no steep percentage of the operating expenses – the management expense ratio (MER) – that is paid to the investment manager. "You could buy the Diversified Vanguard Global – one single ETF holds the whole world of equities – for a one-time full-service broker's commission of \$200 on, say, a \$5,000 transaction. That may be a bit stiff, but you could hold it for 20 years and never have another commission, just the underlying MER, which is practically nothing in the case of Vanguard."

3) Hold your mutual funds so as to minimize tax exposure.

To shelter mutual fund income from high rates of taxation during peak earning years, they should be held in tax-efficient vehicles such as Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) and Tax Free Savings Accounts (TFSA). Actively-managed equity funds are better held within an RRSP because they have more transactions (e.g., buying and selling of securities in their portfolio) and therefore,

more taxable events, says Chevreau, while ETFs – which mimic a fairly static index – can be better held within a non-registered account. U.S. dividends are best sheltered within an RRSP, but not in a TFSA, which should be used to shelter purely capital gains and Canadian dividends.

4) Diversify your asset classes and geographical markets.

"Today, in theory," says Chevreau, "a single global balanced mutual fund should be all you need because it's got the major asset classes (stocks, bonds, cash) plus is geographically diversified. But show me an investor who has actually limited themselves to one fund. The funds industry itself is comfortable selling eight to 10 funds per fund family," says Chevreau. But he believes an entry-level investor could be adequately diversified with just three or four funds – 40% of their money could be in a single global bond fund and the remaining 60% could be divided evenly among Canadian, U.S. And international/emerging markets equities. "Admittedly, the 20% in Canadian equities is more than you would justify by their global index weighting, which is only four per cent."

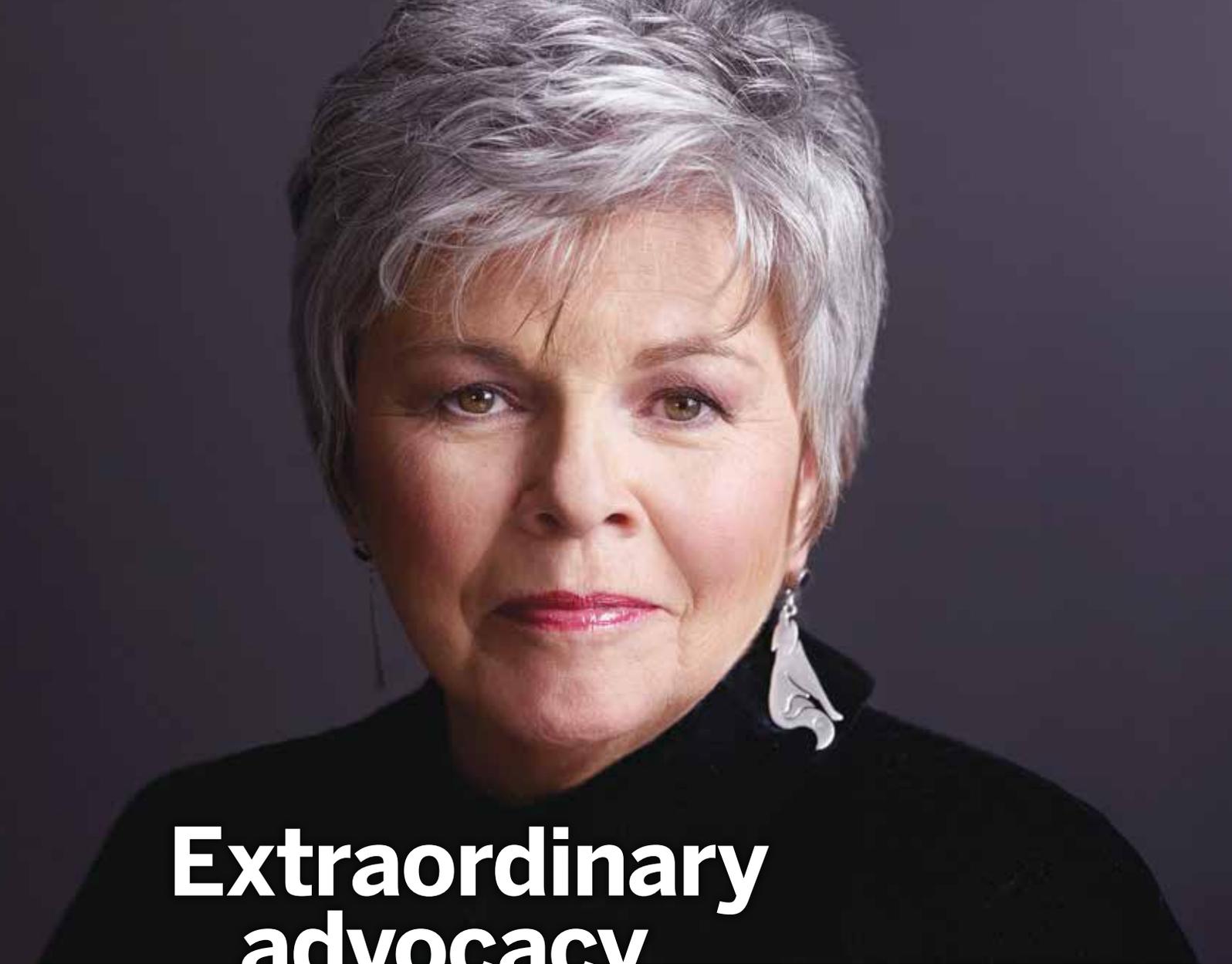
5) Move out of stocks and into fixed-income as your retirement draws nearer.

As an investor grows older and approaches retirement, they should shift increasing amounts of their assets from growth-oriented equity funds to less volatile fixed-income funds. Says Chevreau: "There is a solution to that: target-date or life-cycle funds. They automatically adjust the equity weighting down and the fixed-income weighting up [every 10 years] as the date of retirement approaches. If the investor wishes to adjust the weightings on their own, the old guideline was to have the proportion of fixed-income equal your age: at age 60, fixed-income would be 60 per cent, and at age 70, it would be 70 per cent."

6) Don't judge a fund by its last year's results.

"The gurus will insist on looking at performance over three-, five-, and 10-year periods," says Chevreau. "Certainly one year is not enough. Gordon Pape never used to include a fund in his annual fund guide unless they had at least three years of a track record."





A close-up portrait of Roberta Jamieson, an older woman with short, wavy grey hair, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. She is wearing a black top and a large, ornate silver earring. The background is a dark, solid color.

Extraordinary advocacy starts here.

Roberta Jamieson (LLB'76, LLD'93) is the first First Nations woman in Canada to earn a law degree. A respected leader and skilled advocate, this woman of many firsts has opened countless doors for Canada's Indigenous people. And her commitment to change started at Western.

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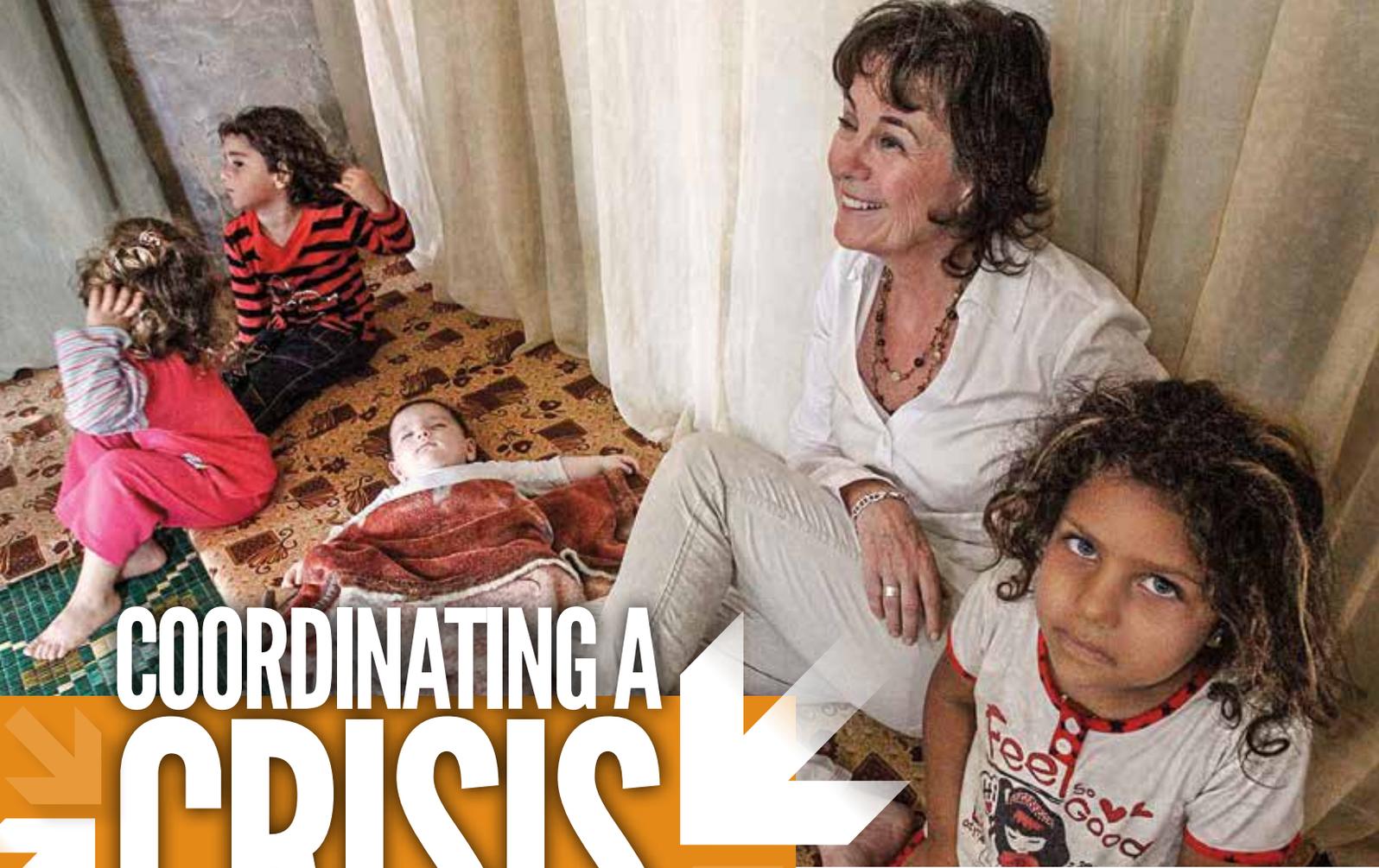
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COORDINATING A CRISIS

UNHCR's Representative in Lebanon, Ninette Kelley sits with Syrian refugee children inside a makeshift room in Alman town, in the Shouf area in Mount Lebanon, during her visit to refugees on World Refugee Day, June 20, 2013. (Photo by REUTERS/Ali Hashisho)

FINDING ROOM WHERE THERE IS NO MORE

BY DAVID SCOTT

For Ninette Kelley, there is no end in sight. Escaping nearly three years of civil war, thousands of Syrians have fled into neighbouring countries, including Lebanon, where more than 800,000 refugees have flooded into the country of 4 million.

In that environment, Kelley, LLB '83, has served as the regional representative for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner (UNHCR) since May 2010. Her organization provides shelter, health care, education, psychosocial support and community outreach throughout Lebanon.

"We are constantly scrambling for resources in order to meet just the minimal needs," says Kelley, who has seen her in-country staff grow to more than 600. "The UNHCR is the lead agency; so we also coordinate among 60 other agencies the response to make sure, collectively, we're doing the best we can with the aid dollars we're receiving."

Even with five field offices and a budget of \$230 million, challenges continue.

"It's a great shame because we're forced to make terrible choices every day, prioritized among equally compelling needs. It's very dispiriting for the government, who feels that it, as a state, which has opened its doors to Syrian refugees, quite literally homes and villages, has not received support from the international community. They really find this terribly frustrating."

Conditions have decreased steadily since Kelley arrived in 2010.

"The massive scale of this problem with no end in sight is one of the greatest human tragedies I think we've seen."

Before joining UNHCR, Kelley served eight years with the Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) of Canada as a member of the Convention Refugee Determination Division (CRDD) and of the Immigration Appeal Division from June 1994 to June 2002.

Kelley, an attorney, was called to the Ontario bar in May 1985.

She has co-authored two books, *The Making of the Mosaic: The History of Canadian Immigration Policy* and *Working with Refugee Women: A Practical Guide*, and published extensively in the areas of human rights law, refugee protection and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedom.

Between 1988-90, Kelley held various policy and consultative roles with international humanitarian agencies including the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) and the International Working Group on Refugee Women, Geneva. In addition, she served as the Executive Director



“WE ARE PUTTING BAND-AIDS ON A HEMORRHAGE...”

of the Working Group on Refugee Resettlement (WGRR), Toronto from 1985-88.

“It’s such a rewarding career choice,” she says. “Young people now are much better prepared for the international community than they were when I went through. They have skills that are useful in places other than Canada.”

Since 2002, Kelley has held legal and change management positions within UNHCR. Prior to her present assignment, she was the acting head of the Organizational Development Management Service at UNHCR’s headquarters in Geneva.

The attorney was drawn to Lebanon originally because of its modest refugee caseload and interesting political dynamic. When the crisis began, most fleeing Syrians were housed in Lebanese homes; some with people they knew, many with people they didn’t. Most of them ended up in the poorest areas of Lebanon. Refugees are spread now across 1,400 localities.

But the burden and risk is becoming too much for the Lebanese, Kelley says.

“The economic impact of the Syrian Crisis has been quite devastating to Lebanon,” she says.

In September, the World Bank estimated the Syrian conflict will cost Lebanon \$7.5 billion by the end of 2014. The number of refugees is also predicted to soar to more than a million by the end of January, and may represent 37 per cent of the country’s pre-crisis population by the end of this year.

There are no official “refugee camps” in Lebanon. Most of the refugees rent. In many instances an entire family will live in a single apartment. In fact, any empty space you can conceive of is being repurposed.

“They rent chicken coops and garages and unfinished buildings,” Kelley says. “They have started to erect tents on land, something we call ‘informal tented settlements’ that are very vulnerable and precarious.”

Lebanon has tried its best to facilitate the work of the international community but its own institutions are also very fragile. “They’ve never had a tradition of any kind of secretariat, for example, to handle a massive humanitarian disaster of this kind,” she says. “So, there are lots of challenges here in terms of the government response but the relations ... across a lot of different political spectrums have been very positive.”

With no immediate end in sight, the single most important long-term goal is an end to the Syrian conflict. “We are putting Band-Aids on a hemorrhage really.”

Most Syrians just want to return to their homes, or what’s left of them, and start to rebuild their lives once it’s safe to do so.

“You just keep your eye on the people who you’re trying to help,” she says. “For me, it’s a great privilege to be put in an opportunity where my life and my efforts can have that kind of meaning. To work with tremendous colleagues, and to work with other UN and international and national agencies, it’s rather inspiring.”

Current Situation*

800,873

SYRIAN REFUGEES IN LEBANON
(in over 1,500 locations)



*As of 24/10/2013

ULTIMATE DONATION BRINGS LIFE TO EDUCATION IN DEATH

BY PAUL MAYNE

It's not an easy decision. But the spirit of these donors, and the profound generosity of their gift, leaves many Western students and faculty overwhelmed with admiration and respect.

"For some people, it's really easy; they are practical and know it (death) is inevitable and are just planning in advance, knowing it's not going to happen any time soon," said Haley Linklater, lab supervisor and body bequeathal coordinator in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology.

Despite the introduction of computer modeling and other virtual technologies, medical education and advancements still depend on, in large part, the generosity of the average person who bequeaths their body to science. Students in medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, kinesiology and other health-related disciplines benefit by gaining a unique understanding of the human body no textbook can teach.

These are students, not physicians, and they are not doing diagnostic post-mortems, but service learning. Dr. Marjorie Johnson, director of Western's Division of Clinical Anatomy, said body bequeathal is essential for the education of students.

Future health professionals and medical researchers at Western benefit greatly from this generous gift. The donation aids in education and medical research, and contributes to the development of new and better ways of treating patients and disease.

Western takes great pains to protect the privacy and dignity of all bodies that are donated. Students and researchers are only given the age, sex and cause of death of the body they will be studying.

"Through this generous donation, students learn about anatomy and respect for the human body," Johnson said. "The donors are our greatest teachers."

On average, 70 to 80 individuals donate their body to the university each year for educational and training purposes.

"A lot of donors that have struggled in life or have had a specific illness within the family, they will call me and tell me that if they can help anyone else, they want to," Linklater said. "Most of the time, people will contact us directly or they heard about it from a friend and want to begin the process. The people who are on board are usually adamantly on board; they want to do this."

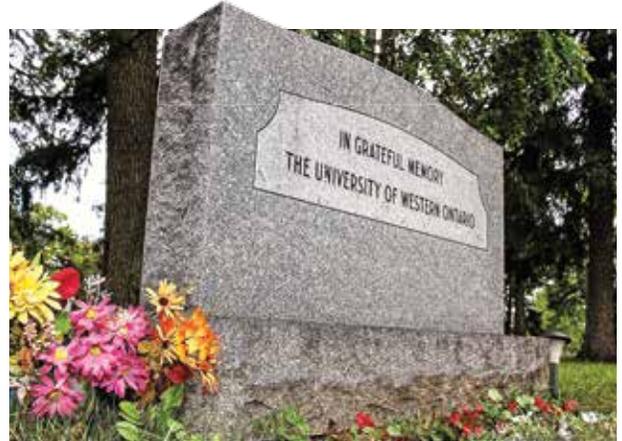
She said the program has even had generations of family participate.

When people inquire about the donation process, Linklater sends out a package, which is not legally binding, to share with family – or even perhaps a doctor or lawyer.

"If it's not the right fit, then we don't do it. We won't accept them," Linklater said. "I will not put people through that wait. We try and figure out the family drama ahead of time."

That wait, before a loved one's ashes are returned to the family, can be anywhere from 18 months to three years. Once the educational component of the bequeathal is complete, not all families request the remains of their loved ones for private burial. So, every year for more than five decades, Western honours these individuals with a ceremony and interment at Woodland Cemetery and Crematorium in London.

Rick Vanstone, Woodland grounds superintendent, has seen the success of the program, and the partnership with Western, grow stronger each year – so much so, the university purchased a second lot in 2006.



At London's Woodland Cemetery and Crematorium, a lone headstone honours the memory of the numerous individuals who have donated their bodies to science at Western. (Photo by Paul Mayne)

"Naturally, I think people who do this should be honoured and recognized for their contribution to science," Vanstone said. "And it is not only the people who donate their bodies we need to thank; it is also their families as well, some who have to wait for a significant time period to receive the cremated remains of their loved ones back so they can complete their interment and get the closure process started again."

Linklater said families often have their own ceremonies, but are always invited to be a part of the university's memorial service. "It's a nice way to say thank you and they (families) think the memorial service is a nice touch," Linklater said.

Students also play a major role in the service, sharing their appreciation and thanks with the families. Their words, preserved from each ceremony, are truly beautiful.

"My donor has taught me about anatomy more eloquently than any lecture or text ever could," said Jacqueline Piggott, MD'11. "I have confidence now in my knowledge of the human body, and I owe this to my donor. As I move forward in my career in medicine, I will never forget his sacrifice. His heart will be my map to all hearts, and in my practice, my memory of his body will be a guide to help me find my way."

Dale Edwards, MD'14, added the individuals who donate their bodies provide a tremendous gift to the physicians of the future. "Although their lamp has been put out, they have shed light on our medical education," he said. "They have been wonderful teachers and, in education, have helped to unite our class as a family."

More information on the bequeathal program: western.ca/anatomy/res_serv/bequeathal.html



eye on **Gold** at Sochi

BY DAVID SCOTT

Chris Overholt in the lobby of the Canadian Olympic Committee offices in Toronto. *(Photo by Nation Wong)*

With the Olympic Games in Sochi, Russia, on the doorstep, Chris Overholt, BA'87 (History, King's), and Canada's winter Olympians are ready to roll.

"Of course, we enjoyed wonderful success in Vancouver. We hope to build on that momentum and we fully expect to contend for the No. 1 position in Sochi," says Overholt, CEO of the Canadian Olympic Committee.

High expectations follow the team's Vancouver Winter Games performance in 2010. Canada netted the most gold medals, 14, ever won by a host country.

Part of that success is attributed to the Own the Podium program, of which Overholt is now a board member. Western alumnus and former Olympic gold medalist Roger Jackson, BA'63, started the not-for-profit organization prior to the Vancouver Games to challenge Canadian athletes to strive for top medal contention in 2010. Its ideals continue into these games.

"We very much believe in that idea of targeted excellence, of nurturing a strategy around high performance that is rooted in analytics and sports science and innovation," Overholt says.

Joining the COC in April 2010, Overholt has served as both chief operating officer and chief marketing officer. He was named CEO in August 2011.

Even before that, Overholt was no stranger to sports. He's held top positions with Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd. (1998-2003) as well as the Bank Atlantic Center and Florida Panthers of the NHL (2003-05). Immediately prior to joining the COC, Overholt was vice-president of marketing partnerships and new media for the Miami Dolphins of the NFL (2006-10).

"This is a far more personal pursuit for me than I have ever encountered in my career," Overholt said of his Olympic executive experience. "The athletes are absolutely authentic to the nation. As Canadians, they're known to us because they are us. They're emblematic of what the nation represents. They're diverse as we as a country are diverse. They're our neighbours, sons and daughters. They're the kids we watched grow up from Hazelton, B.C.; Charlottetown, PEI; and Lambeth, Ont."

That emotional connection makes a "much easier point of resonance" than professional sports represent.

Much of his personal success can be traced back to Western, specifically working with friends in two successful student council presidential campaigns.

Overholt and Jordan Bitove, BA'87, are still friends to this day. They worked on both the R. Loron Orris, BA'86, MBA'93, and Allan Williams, BA'88, campaigns.

"We worked on it with a bunch of people," Overholt said. "That was the first time I came to understand the power of what a collection of people who believe in something can do when they all come together around it."

Fellow Western alumnus Derek Kent, BA'92, took over Overholt's marketing role, although renamed executive director, corporate and brand communications. Kent is formerly the U.S. media relations director of NIKE, Inc.

"He certainly brings great brand experience. Nike is one of

"STRENGTH COMES FROM WORKING WITH A SET OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ALL FOCUSED ON THE SAME THING."

the best storytellers in the world and one of the best sports brands in the world. So Derek brings all of that experience and it's been a great add-on to our team."

While viewers at home might be fans of a particular sport – skiing, hockey or figure skating, for instance – Overholt stresses Canada's Olympians are one team.

"We're an amalgam of sports. We don't have any singular focus as the leaders of the Canadian Olympic Team. But we are well-represented in most every sport. We are a proud sporting nation generally and currently in our

development, particularly strong in the winter side," he said. "So we expect to be competitive in virtually all disciplines."

"Resources in every way" continue to represent the single greatest need for Canadian Olympians, Overholt says.

"Of course, it naturally starts with a discussion around financial resource, but it goes to other things," he continues. "It extends to the development of volunteers and coaches in this country and people who can help develop sport. ... We are a Top 8 nation in the world in terms of our economic standing, but we are not today a Top 8 standing in all of what we do on the Olympic side."

Overholt's COC team said nothing could prepare him for the excitement – and the demands – of the Olympic Games. He was on the ground for the first time at the London Games in 2012.

"It was very intense – long days and just exhausting. In many ways, it was emotional for all of us," he says. "At the same time, strength comes from working with a set of individuals who are all focused on the same thing. It doesn't matter whether you're a competing athlete, supporting coach, team member or whether you're supporting those who are on the field of play; we all understand we have a role to play, and that's as unique an experience as I've ever had in my lifetime. It's very rewarding."

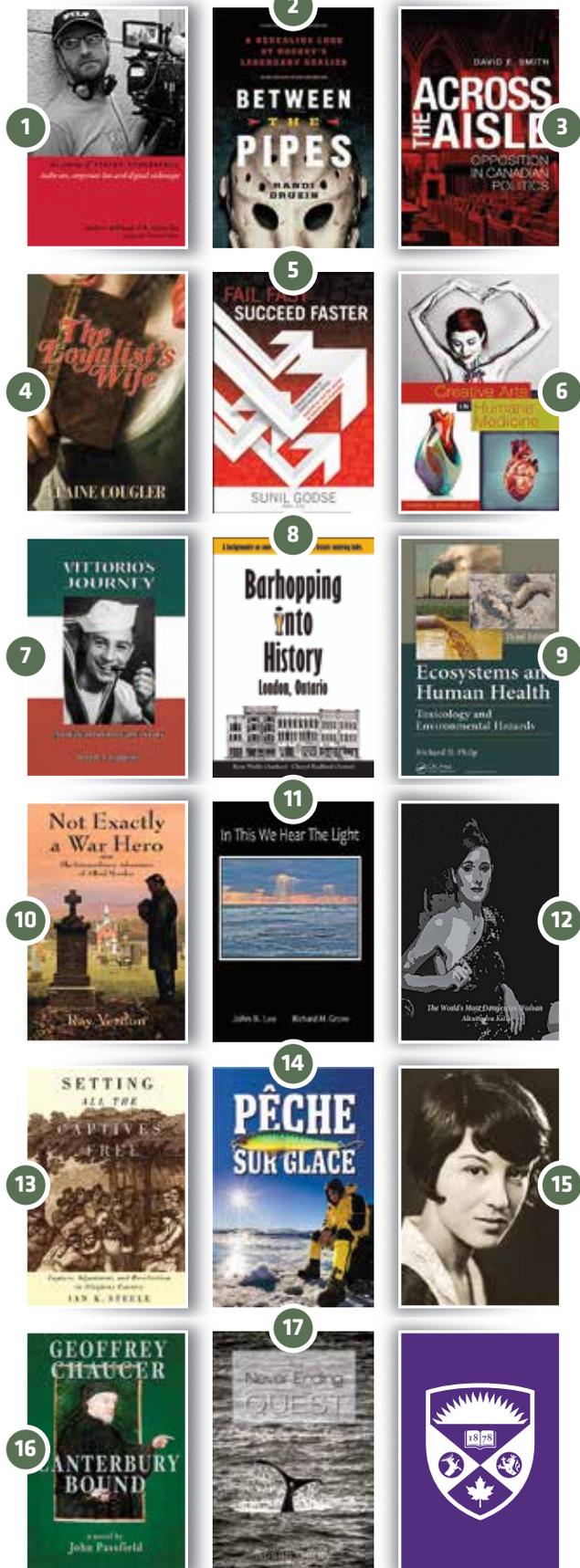


Chris Overholt during the Heroes Parade in Toronto following the London Olympic Games in 2012. (Photo by COC).

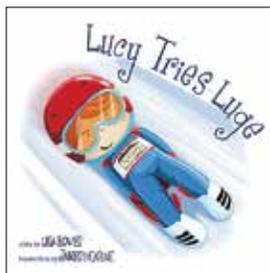
NEW RELEASES

From Western Alumni

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- 2) *Between The Pipes: A Revealing Look at Hockey's Legendary Goalies* by Randi Druzin, BA'89
- 3) *Across the Aisle: Opposition in Canadian Politics* by David E. Smith, BA'59
- 4) *The Loyalist's Wife* by Elaine Cougler, BA'68
- 5) *Fail Fast. Succeed Faster* by Sunil Godse, MBA'04
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- 7) *Vittorio's Journey: An Italian Immigrant's Story* by Ruth A. Rappini, BA'77
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- 9) *Ecosystems and Human Health (3rd Edit.)* by Richard B. Philp, PhD'64
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- 11) *In This We Hear The Light* by John B. Lee, BA'74, BEd'75, MA'85
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- 13) *Setting All the Captives Free* by Ian K. Steele, BA'66
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- 15) *Juanita Wildrose: My True Life* by Susan Downe, BA'52
- 16) *Canterbury Bound* by John Passfield, BA'67
- 17) *The Never Ending Quest* by Susan Corey, BA'63 (PhD'66, U of Glasgow)



Lucy Tries Luge

Lisa Bowes, BA'88, sports media personality and now author, officially launched her book, *Lucy Tries Luge* at Olympic Heights School in Calgary last October. It was held in conjunction with the announcement of Canada's World Cup Luge Team, who will be competing in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. With the support of the Olympia Trust Company, Lisa Bowes is donating 1,500 copies of *Lucy Tries Luge* to every Kindergarten and Grade 1 classroom throughout the Calgary Board of Education with additional copies being sent to school libraries and learning commons. Lucy, the main character in the book illustrated by James Hearne, is a vivacious redheaded girl who overcomes her fear of sliding when she jumps on her new sled for a speedy adventure. *Lucy Tries Luge* was created with the goal of encouraging youth literacy, educating readers on the sport of luge and inspiring children and their parents to enjoy healthy, active lifestyles. In addition to the launch of the book, Olympic Heights students were introduced to nine members of the 2013-2014 Canadian World Cup Luge Team: Alex Gough, Arianne Jones, Jordan Smith, Kim McRae, Sam Edney, John Fennell, Mitchel Malyk, Justin Smith and Tristan Walker. Lisa's vision of "connecting athletes to kids" came to life as the students had the opportunity to sit with the athletes reading the book and interacting with them. *Lucy Tries Luge* is the first book in an anticipated series of Kids Love Sports books focusing on supporting early literacy and connecting Canada's Olympic role models with the nation's youth. The book is being featured by Ron MacLean in CBC Olympic Coverage on Day 1 of Luge competition. Plans are in the works for a donation of books to the Surrey School District prior to the beginning of the Games, to all K/GR 1 classes, which represents a reach of 10,159 students in addition to their 101 elementary libraries. Books are also on sale at the Whistler Sliding Centre. Follow Lucy's progress on Twitter @LucyTriesLuge.



Lucy Tries Luge author Lisa Bowes, BA'88, with illustrator James Hearne. (Photo provided)



VOICE OF ALUMNI WITH ROBERT COLLINS, BA'77

STRONG FOUNDATIONS: PLATFORMS FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

"Roots and Wings" is the often over used expression to help remind us that our past experiences are such powerful contributors to our future performance. And for those of an aging cohort it's much preferable to the expression "your roots are showing"! But hair colour aside, it is important to be reminded of Western's strong traditions and how well they have prepared us for our future growth.

Lots to Celebrate at Western's affiliated University Colleges

On December 2, Huron University College's Sesquicentennial celebrations culminated at their evocative Founder's Day Dinner. An excellent and highly readable history to mark this milestone was produced. Their rebranding, using the Hellmuth font, adding purple and the evocative video "Purple goes with red," were just one of the many other accomplishments of the past year. As widely known, it was Huron alumni who played a leading role in securing provincial approval in 1878 for Western to become a degree-granting institution. Likely less well known, it was Rev. J. Mackenzie Dobson, a Huron alumnus, who was appointed the first director of the University of Western Ontario Alumni Association in 1929. Reverend Dobson is credited with introducing many alumni activities, including annual class reunions around one of the fall football games, a forerunner to our great Homecoming.

While Huron has been busy, so have Brescia University College, which has opened its elegant 310 bed residence Clare Hall and King's University College with its impressive new Darryl J. King Life Centre providing spaces for recreational, spiritual and social activities.

These developments will enrich the lives of multiple generations of students who increasingly come from diverse and far flung communities. Similarly, our alumni (from our faculties and University Colleges) are to be found on

every continent (at least one alumnus must be studying the mating life of the penguin in Antarctica...or on a thrilling alumni excursion!) How can we best serve and support our alumni, wherever they are, is our collective challenge.

Working Together – Council of Presidents

As part of good practice, these realities and a growing sense that Western requires the strong voice of its alumni for its future success, your Alumni Association has been reviewing our Constitution and By-laws. At a duly called Special Meeting on December 18, 2013, a new constitution was adopted 'in principle' which has provision for the formation of a Council of Presidents. While respecting the mandate of each entity, it is our vision that we can create a forum of sharing best practices and exploring opportunities to better serve our alumni, whatever their affiliation, through bringing together the leadership of our alumni organizations.

On the Horizon

Shortly, Western will be releasing its next strategic plan. With this perspective in hand, we will, in turn, be consulting you as we seek input as to what areas of endeavour are most meaningful to you and will most fulfill our Mission. Together, we can build on our strong foundations and secure great platforms for future success.

Robert Collins is president of Western's Alumni Association. alumni@uwo.ca.



Photo: Kim Stalknecht

Celebrate Alice Munro

In her writing, Alice Munro (LLD'76) captures our imagination, daring us to see beyond the borders of our own lives. This is the power of great storytelling, the wonder of literature. We want to inspire more of this at Western.

Join us in celebrating our Nobel laureate. Support the **Alice Munro Chair in Creativity** to honour her dedication to the creative process and her ties to Western. We have committed \$1.5 million to match all donations to establish an enduring legacy for a literary icon.

Visit extraordinary.westernu.ca/munro to give today.

#CelebrateAlice

Be Extraordinary.
The Campaign for Western



ALUMNI EVENTS

Connect with old friends and make some new ones at Western Alumni events happening in locations around the world. Many of our events are family friendly and offer a great opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow alumni. Our full events listing can be found at: alumni.uwo.ca/connect/events

FEATURED EVENTS

FEB. 1 – Mustang Swimming Wall of Honour Dinner (London, Ont.)

FEB. 1 – A Night at the Opera (Toronto, Ont.)

FEB. 4 – Contrarian Investing 101 with Benj Gallander BA'78 (Toronto, Ont.)

FEB. 4 & 6 – Hockey Night in Florida (Sunrise, Fla and Tampa, Fla)

FEB. 20 – Music and Memories (Los Angeles, CA)

FEB. 27 – A Taste of Forked River Brewery. (London, Ont.)

MAR. 6 – Pacific Dental Alumni Reception (Vancouver, B.C.)

MAR. 6-7 – Founder's Day Celebrations (various locations globally)

MAR. 27 – Reception with Paul Berton, BA'87 (Hamilton, Ont.)

APR. 19 – Easter Eggstravaganza (London, Ont.)

APR. 23 – Ripley's Aquarium Talk & Tour with Dr. Charles Trick, Faculty of Science (Toronto, Ont.)

MAY 1 – President's Reception (San Francisco, CA)

MAY 13 – Networking Reception (Calgary, Alta.)

JUNE 6 – Reception (Edmonton, Alta.)

JUNE 7 – Rick McGhie (Calgary, Alta.)

JUNE 15 – African Lion Safari Family Day (Cambridge, Ont.)

JUNE 18 – 74th Annual Elgin County Alumni Dinner Picnic (Port Stanley, Ont.)

Find us on Facebook



Purple & White

An Extraordinary Evening

March 6, 2014

Trump International Hotel & Tower Toronto

Extraordinary Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Extraordinary Cocktail Party at 9:00 p.m.
Dinner \$250 and Cocktail Party \$50

Join us as we celebrate Founder's Day and this year's Purple and White Award recipient, Perry Dellelce, BA'85.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit
www.westernconnect.ca/purpleandwhite



Western
Alumni

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

Categories, criteria and nomination form can be found at www.alumni.uwo.ca/connect/awards/merit.html

The nomination deadline is Friday, Feb. 28, 2014. Awards will be presented on Homecoming weekend, September 18-21, 2014

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



2013 Alumni Award of Merit Recipients

Hugh John Cook,
HBA'56

Community
Service Award

Margaret Kavanagh,
BA'74, MD'78

Professional
Achievement Award

Robert Farley,
BA'50, MD'54

Dr. Ivan Smith
Award

Ritu Bhasin,
LLB'00

Young Alumni Award

ALUMNI NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



James and Rev. Margaret Fleck (1950s)

1950s

Susan Downe (Thompson), BA'52, has published *Juanita Wildrose: My True Life*, with Pedlar Press, 2013, her novel based on the life of her mother, wife of Walter A. Thompson, former professor and Associate Dean (1930-1972) of UWO School of Business, to become Ivey Business School. **Alice Munro, LLD'76**, says of Downe's writing, "I have been reading with great delight – I think *Juanita Wildrose* is simply wonderful – but one has to say something more than wonderful. So I thought I'd say, 'A heap of treasure out of a living past.'"

James D. Fleck, HBA'53 (DBA'64, PhD'64, Philosophy, Harvard), and his wife, **Rev. Margaret E. Fleck, BA'53**, pictured at their 60th class reunion at Homecoming 2013. They are holding a photo from their school days when Margaret was a cheerleader and Jim was a cymbals player with the Western band. Both Jim and Margaret were recently honoured by the Association of Fundraising Professionals with the Outstanding Philanthropists Award. Jim also won the Legend of Ontario Public Service award.

Joseph Rotman, BA'57, LLD'09, has been reappointed as Chair of the Canada Council for the Arts for a term of five years.

David E. Smith, BA'59, has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. His most recent book, *Across the Aisle: Opposition in Canadian Politics*, appeared in May 2013.

1960s

Roger Jackson, BA'63, has been appointed as Interim President of Alpine Canada.

Rev. H. Suzanne Wilkinson, DiplNurs'63, was recently recognized for 55 years of volunteer work with the Canadian Cancer Society. Her father, **Dr. Wm. S. Dick, MD'31, MSc'32**, was a pathologist in London, with expertise in the popular cancer treatment of the time – Cobalt bomb. He moved his family to West Virginia to treat patients there. Wilkinson's interest in cancer research bloomed in high school when she won \$50 for an essay titled *Cure for Cancer*. She bought her first record player with the money. For more than five decades she has canvassed neighbourhoods, sold daffodils and occasionally has driven cancer patients to their treatment.

Robert Bryce, MBA'64, has been elected as a Director to the Board of Knick Exploration in Val-d'Or, Que.

In June 2013, **Gordon Walker, BA'64, LLB'67**, was appointed a commissioner to the International Joint Commission. The International Joint Commission (IJC) is an international organization created by the Boundary Waters Treaty, signed by Canada and the United States in 1909. The IJC prevents and resolves disputes between the US of America and Canada and pursues the common good of both countries as an independent and objective advisor to the two governments.

Alan Thicke, BA'67 (English), was inducted to the Canada's Walk of Fame on Sept. 21.

Lisa Gerrard, BA'69, has been honoured with the Juror's Choice Award for her abstract painting "Big Ooze" in the Woodstock Public Art Gallery's juried show, Visual Elements. The show ran from Oct. 12 to Dec. 7.

1970s

Congratulations **Dr. William Wall, MD'70**, on receiving the Medical Achievement Award from the David Foster Foundation. Dr. Wall was presented the award on Dec. 5, at the Foundation's annual fundraising gala in Toronto. Dr. Wall is being recognized for his outstanding medical



Ted Fuller, BSc'77, enjoying the great weather in June during the Ride To Conquer Cancer.

accomplishments and pioneering work with transplantation. His innovative contributions to organ donation and transplantation in Canada include performing some of the earliest successful liver transplants, using the first living liver donors, developing the high school education program *One Life. Many Gifts*, and creating a Donor Medal which is now given to donor families across the country. The David Foster Foundation provides financial support for the non-medical expenses of families with children who need organ transplants. Their mandate also includes increasing public awareness about the importance of becoming a registered organ donor.

Seventy-three year old **Don McLeish, BA'70 (Huron)**, teamed up with Peterborough's Mike Moloney to win the men's T-7 2X doubles category at the Canadian Sculling Marathon

10.5 km distance on the Ottawa River. McLeish, member of London RC, and Moloney posted a personal best time of 52 minutes 40 seconds. Rowers from Ottawa New Edinburgh Club, Beachburg RC, Hanlan RC, London RC, Peterborough RC and Sault St Marie RC competed in excellent conditions in 1X, 2x, and 4X categories. McLeish/Moloney have been successful in this event at 10.5 km distance in 2010, 2012, and this year. Don also went on to row with the UWO Alumni 8+ at the Head of The Trent in October having a great race in the 4 km distance.

Donald Hunter, BEsc'70 (Mechanical), has been appointed a hearing officer of the Canadian Public Accountability Board, the board that helps regulate auditing firms. He continues to sit on the Independent Review Committee of CIBC Asset Management's mutual funds, the Board of Knowledge First



One of her many trips, here **Elizabeth (Csafordi) Erskine, BA'76, BEd'77**, is in front of the Three Sisters, Blue Mountains in Australia.

Financial, an RESP company and the Advisory Committee of Terra Fund Management, a tax assisted resource fund.

Alfred Mamo, LLB'71, was recognized by his peers as one of the Best Lawyers in Canada, 2014 list.

Roger Castle, Cert'72, has been appointed Manager, Education Services for Western Hockey League, Calgary.

Carol Perry, BESC'72, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of The Celestica Inc., a global leader in the delivery of end-to-end product lifecycle solutions. Celestica recently received the 2013 Supplier of the Year award. The distinction was awarded during EMC Corporation's annual Supplier Day in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Stratford Festival has named **Berthold Carrière, MMus'72**, to the honorary position of Director of Music Emeritus. Carrière, who served as Director of Music from 1975-2007, first joined the festival as a conductor in 1973 and the following year wrote the music for the new Sandra Jones play *Ready Steady Go* at the Third Stage (now the Tom Patterson Theatre). He went on to compose or arrange the music for more than 80 Stratford productions.

Western professor **Ingrid Connidis, BA'72, MA'74** (Sociology), is a recipient of the 2013 Alexis Walker Award, which honours original scholarship in family studies. The award was presented

by the National Council on Family Relations Nov 6 in San Antonio, Tex.

Elizabeth (Csafordi) Erskine, BA'76, BEd'77, recently returned from an extended four-year teaching contract at a Canadian programme in Malaysia, with several detour trips to Southeast Asian countries of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Nepal, Indonesia, Borneo, China. She would like to connect with anyone who requires employment assistance in any educational/human resources related positions, permanent, temporary, part-time in the Halton/Hamilton regions. elizabetherskine878@gmail.com

Graham Gow, BA'76 (Economics), has been appointed to the Board of Bridgepoint Foundation. Bridgepoint Health is a rehabilitation hospital in Toronto and affiliated with the University of Toronto. Its mission includes rehabilitation, treatment of complex chronic disease and management of disability.

Bruce Durham, BSc'76 (Geology), president and CEO of Goldspike Exploration, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Solvista Gold Corporation of Toronto. Solvista is a gold-exploration company in pursuit of Colombia's next gold discovery. The company has 100 per cent ownership of two projects covering approximately 60,000 hectares in the province of Antioquia.

Margaret Chan, BA'73, MD'77, DSc'99, Director General of the World Health Organization, has been ranked by *Forbes* as one of the Most Powerful People. She was one of nine women on the annual list of 100.

Earlier this year, **Dennis Beck, BMus'77, BEd'79**, was honoured by the Canadian Band Association with its National Band Award, the premier band award in Canada. He joins a list of 23 other Canadian musicians who have been so honoured since 1976.

Dr. Ted Fuller, BSc'77, completed his third B.C. Ride To Conquer Cancer in June. This is a 235 km two-day cycling event from Vancouver to Seattle. He is keeping fit and busy, now training for his fourth marathon.

Ken McKeen, BSc'77, recently retired from GE Canada in Peterborough after a rewarding career of designing large motors (2,000 to 50,000 hp) and hydro generators (100 to 550 MW) currently operating in countries around the world.

Rosemary McCarney, LLB'77, President & CEO of Plan International Canada Inc., has been recognized as one of the Top 25 Women of Influence by *Women of Influence* magazine.

Richard Nesbitt, HBA'78, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of SickKids Foundation in Toronto.

Guy Pratte, BA'78 (Hist/Phil), has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Terence Kavanagh, LLB'78, has been appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors of Kingsway Financial Services Inc. in Toronto.

Barbara Legate, LLB'79, founder of Legate & Associates LLP in London, has been recognized as the Lawyer of the Year in Personal Injury in London and Windsor by *Best Lawyers* – a peer reviewed guide to the legal profession worldwide.

Gloria Pearson-Vasey, BA'79, MDiv'95, has simultaneously published two novels: *The Belvedere at Stone Gate* and *The Duns*. They are beautiful books with cover art by artist, Ariel Lyons, and are available at Indigo Chapters and other bookstores. *The Duns*, sequel to *The Shushan Citadel*, is in the genre of speculative fiction. The story follows three subterranean communities surviving in the former Michigan-Ontario region of the Great Lakes 12 years after the Desolation. www.gloriapearsonvasey.com

Stephen Poloz, MA'79, PhD'82 (Economics), Governor, Bank of Canada, was chosen as one of the top 50 most powerful Canadians by *MacLean's* magazine.

John Nyholt, HBA'79, MBA'83, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Mad Catz Interactive Inc., an American worldwide provider of interactive entertainment products marketed under its Mad Catz and GameShark (gaming products), TRITTON (audio products) and Saitek



Gloria Pearson-Vasey, BA'79, MDiv'95, participated in the Alumni Authors' Event October 27, 2011.

(simulation) brands. Mad Catz develops flight simulation software through its internal ThunderHawk Studios, develops flight simulation and chess hardware under its Saitek brand, publishes games under its Mad Catz brand, and distributes games and videogame products for third-party partners. Mad Catz has offices in North America, Europe and Asia.

1980s

Michael Downey, HBA'80, has been appointed CEO of the Lawn Tennis Association in the UK effective Jan. 6.

Marcel Coutu, MBA'80, retired as CEO of Canadian Oil Sands Ltd. in Calgary on Jan. 1.

Dale Ponder, LLB'80, is one of the winners of 2013 Lexpert Zenith Awards: Women Leaders in the Legal Community.

Carol Hansell, BA'81 (History), has been appointed to the Board of Directors of SickKids Foundation in Toronto. She was also named one of the winners of the 2013 Lexpert Zenith Awards: Women Leaders in the Legal Community.

Bruce Barran, BSc'81 (Mathematics), has been inducted into the Western University Wrestling Hall of Fame.



Marianne Ryan (1980s)

Assistant Commissioner **Marianne Ryan, BA'82** (Sociology), has been appointed the new Commanding Officer for "K" Division RCMP in Edmonton. In her new role, Ryan assumes the responsibility of leading Alberta's Provincial Police Service. There are 112 RCMP detachments in Alberta and more than 1.5 million Albertans live in the Division jurisdictions. She will assume the rank of Deputy Commissioner and will become a member of the Commissioner's Senior Executive Committee. Her RCMP career spans 31 years and, since January 2011, she has served as the Officer-in-Charge of Criminal Operations in Alberta. Ryan also brings considerable administrative experience to the role of Commanding Officer of the more than 4,000 RCMP employees working in communities throughout Alberta.

The Thirteenth One a play by **Denyse Gervais Regan, BA'83**, which opened at the Blyth Festival in 2005, had its premiere in French in Regina in November 2013. *Le Tresieme* was produced by Oksana Theatre Company and played to enthusiastic audiences.

Dr. Nancy Cullen, BA'79, MD'83, Dr. Janice Pasioka, MD'83 and former Western anesthesia resident, **Dr. Ruth Connors** travelled to Junbesi Health camp, Nepal in 2013. Cullen's daughter's school needed volunteers to help staff a health camp in Nepal. It took very little persuasion to convince J.P. to join her, along with Connors. They trekked into Junbesi. In 3 days more than 550 patients were seen, 700 specialist consults. Cullen saw 87 patients. J.P. saw 50. After the camp J.P., Nancy and Ruth set off for a 3 week trek up Goyko Ri (aka Goyko Peak).

Jonathan Lexier, MBA'83, has been appointed President CEO and a Director

of the Maple Leaf Resource Co. in Vancouver.

George Cope, HBA'84, LLD'12, president and CEO of Bell Canada and BCE Inc., was named the 2013 Ivey Business Leader for his outstanding business leadership and his contributions to the community, including the launch of the Bell Let's Talk mental health initiative and his role as Chair of United Way Toronto's 2013 campaign.

Carolyn Cross, HBA'84, has been appointed Founding Member of Ernst & Young Global Women in Business Advisory Council in Vancouver.

Kelly Jean Michalicka (nee Moffatt), BEd'84, is the recipient of one of the 'Canada's outstanding Principals' awards for 2013. She is a principal at the Provincial School's Branch of the Ministry of Education. She was nominated by her staff, who recognized her instructional leadership in overseeing a province-wide program for children who are blind/low vision, deaf/hard of hearing or deafblind. Kelly has demonstrated strong leadership skills in leading and motivating others in achieving centres of excellence. Under Kelly's vision and leadership the scope of Resource Services at the Provincial Schools Branch has grown significantly.

Barbara Motzney, BA'84 (ACS), has been appointed in 2012 as CRTC Chief Consumer Officer of polices review in Ottawa.

Lisa Pankratz, HBA'85, has been appointed a Director of Sherritt International Corporation of Toronto. Sherritt is a world leader in the mining and refining of nickel from lateritic ores with projects and operations in Canada, Cuba, Indonesia and Madagascar.

Stephen Nicolle, BSc'85 (Computer Sci), has been appointed to the board of Directors of BioNova in Halifax.

Nora Osbaldeston, BA'85 (Phys-Ed), is one of the winners of 2013 Lexpert Zenith Awards: Women Leaders in the Legal Community.

Mark Skeffington, MA'86 (Journalism), is co-founder of a new online art gallery called FineArtCollector.ca. The gallery specializes in selling Canadian fine art to people across the country. "We think an online-only gallery makes the most sense in today's Internet world," said Skeffington, 51, of Thorold, Ont. The website has featured works by major artists such as David Blackwood, Conrad Furey, J.W. Beatty and others.

Ian Whyte, BA'86, MLIS'96, has recently accepted the position of Chief

Librarian at the University of Toronto Mississauga from Dec. 2013 to Dec. 31, 2016. This follows an international search. Before coming to the UTM Library in August 2003, he was Head, Research and Instructional Services, Allyn and Betty Taylor Library at Western. In the role of Associate Librarian, Teaching & Learning at UTM, he was accountable for the management of the Library's teaching and learning mandates, including oversight for the Library's instruction program, use of instructional technology, Blackboard support services, reference and research, and the Learning Commons. He also managed front-line services and lead service assessment, marketing, and communication initiatives. Ian has served as UTM's Acting Chief Librarian since April 16, 2012.

Robert MacIsaac, LLB'87, has been appointed President and CEO of the Hamilton Health Sciences effective February 1, 2014.

John Anderson, BA'87 (Huron), has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Viscount Mining Co. in Vancouver.

Tom Kornya, BA'87, was elected as a Fellow (FCPA, FCA) by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario



The Huq family was recognized last spring for their \$200,000 donation to the St. Catharines Public Library. The former Grantham branch of the library is now named the Dr. Huq Family Branch in recognition of the family's donation. **Dr. Nasimul Huq, MD'93**, Dr. Sarah Danial and their children Musa, Eesa and Yousuf. (Photo provided)

in 2013. Fellowship is awarded for outstanding career achievements as well as outstanding service to the community and the profession. Tom is the Assurance Managing Partner for EY Canada and is a member of the firm's Executive Committee.

Joan Helson, BA'87 (Psychology), is one of the 2013 Progress Women of Excellence winners chosen by the Canadian Progress Club Nova Scotia.

Erik Sande, MBA'88, has been appointed President of Medavie EMS in Dartmouth, N.S. which manages nine subsidiary companies in the fields of pre-hospital emergency medical services (EMS).

Tania Goodine, BA'88 (Psychology), was honoured with the London Chamber of Commerce President's Award for her outstanding volunteer role with the organization.

Wayne Kozun, BESC'88, MBA'93, has been appointed Senior VP Teachers' Fixed Income & Alternative Investments portfolio of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

Mark Hagemoen, MDiv'89, has been appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith based in Yellowknife.

1990s

Kelly Watson, BA'90 (Political Science), recently published her first book, *The Orange Line: A Woman's Guide to Integrating Career, Family, and Life*. The study was conducted with Canadian and US participants. Available at [Amazon.ca](#)

Jordan Banks, BA'90 (PoliSci), has been appointed to the Board of Directors of SickKids Foundation in Toronto.

Patrick Olney, HBA'91, President of Volvo Construction Equipment, has been appointed COO of TRW Automotive Holdings Co., a major American-based global supplier of automotive systems, modules and components to automotive original equipment manufacturers and related aftermarket.

Peter Liabotis, BA'91 (Sociology), has been appointed CFO of the Honey Badger Exploration Inc. in Toronto.

Mark Ram, MBA'91, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Guarantee Company of North America, the largest purveyor of contract surety and fidelity bonding in



Imagine A Cure for Leukemia Directors **Brian Abrams, BSc'90**, **Nara Segal (Abrams), BA'96**, **Jennifer Shulman** & **Todd Feinstein, BA'88** (Philosophy).

Canada. It started out providing fidelity bonds for the employees of the railways in the 1800s.

Colleen Mooney, MBA'91, has been appointed executive director of The Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa.

The second novel by **Deborah (Fidler) Shaftoe, BSc'91**, *Assassin's Trap* (2012), has won the national Word Guild 2013 award for contemporary novel. Her most recent novel, *Lethal Intentions: the battle for Gideon*, was released in January 2013 and weaves her 20 years of experience working with autistic children into an action story of international drugs, betrayal and redemption.

Dr. Nasimul Huq, MD'93, and his family were recognized for a \$200,000 donation to the St. Catharines Public Library in April. A celebration took place at the former Grantham branch of the library — now named the Dr. Huq Family Branch in recognition of their donation. Dr. Sarah Danial, psychiatrist, said she and her husband, Dr. Huq, both grew up with a passion for reading and books. She said they recall trips to the library, or the local bookmobile, and said reading was an important part of the lives of their children — Musa, Eesa and Yousuf. Dr. Huq has a plastic, reconstructive, hand and microsurgery practice in Niagara Falls.

Jeff Kahane, BA'93, of Kahane Law Office in Calgary was recognized as the Top Family Law Firm in Calgary in 2013 by the Top Choice Awards.

Paul Robertson, BA'93 (English), has been appointed CFO of Sunward Resources Ltd., a Canadian-based company focused on the exploration in Colombia.

Lauraine Woods, BA'93 (King's), has been appointed as program director of the National Newspaper Awards. Her husband, **Paul, BA'80**, worked for The Canadian Press for 31 years, and has taught journalism at Ryerson University. He recently published his first book.

Deborah Sall, LLB'93, qualified as a lawyer in Ontario and England. After working as a prosecutor and for law firms in Europe, she returned to Canada in the summer of 2013. In November 2013, she published a legal thriller, *A Face You Wouldn't Remember*, under her pen name, H.O.N. Thornhill. This eBook, which is the first in a series, is available on [Amazon.ca](#) and [Amazon.com](#).

Nicholas Nikolakakis, MBA'94, has been appointed VP and CFO of the Rubicon Minerals Co. of Toronto.

Gregory Ryckman, BMus'94, has received the Cultural Advisory Board 2013 Community Recreation Award for

Performing Arts (Music) from city of Sault Ste Marie.

Todd Humphrey, BA'94 (Phys-Ed), is the EVP, Business Development at Kobo. He was previously Director, Business Development at [Amazon.com](#).

Eric Moncik, BA'94 (Economics), a partner at Blake Cassels & Graydon LLP was named as one of Lexpert magazine's Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers under 40 in Canada in 2012.

Andrew Claerhout, BA'94 (ASF), HBA'96, has been appointed Senior VP Teachers' Infrastructure Group of Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan.

Craig Stanley, Dipl'94, BA'97, MSc'02 (Geology), has been appointed VP Corporate Development for McEwan Mining in Toronto.

Lorraine Wood-Gaines, BA'95 (Psychology), recently started a business, Today's Office Solution, in Mission, BC. Services include customized training in MS office software, custom document templates, and consultation in office administration process improvement. For more information, visit [todaysofficesolution.ca](#).

Western associate professor **Sandra Smeltzer, BA'95** (MA, PhD, Carleton), has been recognized as one of the Top 25 most influential women by the *Women of Influence* magazine.

Colin Knight, BA'95 (Political Science), recently had his first book, *Some People Deserve To Die*, published in the U.S. Available at Amazon.com

In 2006, **Nara Segal (Abrams), BA'96** (Sociology), founded Imagine A Cure for Leukemia and along with three others have been raising money, which has benefitted leukemia research. On May 30, they reached their fundraising goal of \$1,000,000 (cumulative since 2006). They have some exciting fundraising events planned for 2014. imagineacureforleukemia.com

Barry O'Shea, BA'96 (Geography), has been appointed VP of Rainy River Resources of Toronto. He was a VP, Corporate Controller at New Gold Inc.

Melaney Wagner, BA'96, LLB'99 (English), is a Partner at Goodmans LLP. She was named a "corporate Lawyer to Watch" by the 2013 Lexpert Guide to the Leading US/Canada Cross Border Corporate Lawyers in Canada

Lara Pella, LLB'96, assistant general counsel and corporate secretary at Imperial Oil Canada in Calgary, has been awarded the Commodities Deal of the Year Award by Western Canada General Counsel.

Andrew Chunilall, BA'96 (Economics), has accepted a role as Chief Operational Officer of Community Foundations of Canada in Ottawa.

Jonathan Foreman, BA'97, LLB'00 (Psych/Engl), has been named one of the Top 20 local leaders Under 40 by *Business London* magazine.

Lori Higgs, BA'98 (ACFEc), a CFO and VP Corporate Services at St Joseph's Health Care has been named one of the Top 20 under 40 for 2013 by *Business London* magazine.

Tania Testa, BA'98 (Engl Lang/Lit), a marketing communications director at Trojan Technologies Inc., has been named one of the Top 20 local leaders under 40 by *Business London* magazine.

Martin Painter, BA'98, LLB'01, BEd'07, the Western Mustangs head coach for Women's Soccer, was named CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) Coach of the Year.

David Lederman, LLB'99, is a partner at Goodmans LLP. He was recognized in 2012 as one of *Lexpert* magazine's Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

William Simpson, BA'99, has been selected by *Lexpert* in 2012 as one of 40 Rising Stars under the age of 40 from across Canada.

Kevin O'Callaghan, LLB'99, partner at Fasken Martineau in Vancouver, was named one of *Lexpert* magazine's 'Rising Star: Leading Lawyer Under 40' in 2012.

Luke Vanneste, MBA'99, has been appointed to RioCan's Board of Trustees.

Richard Schler, MBA'99, has been appointed CEO of Red Pine Exploration in Toronto. Schler has worked for the company and been a director since October 2003. During that period he held various positions including CFO and COO. Before joining Red Pine, he held various senior management positions with noted corporations in the manufacturing sector. He has more than 30 years of financial management, engineering and business operations experience.

2000s

Carolyn Bonta, MSc'00 (Zoology), is manager of the Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre for Queens University in Kingston, Ont. The Centre was recently established to serve as a major site for environmental outreach and education in the community. Carolyn will be building capacity and promoting the many uses of the Centre including workshops, school field trips, field courses, club meetings, individual or group retreats, and small conferences, as well as fostering partnerships with like-minded educational and conservation organizations. She also holds a BSc from Carleton University.

Michael Barr, MBA'00, VP at Ortech Data Centre Inc. has been named by *Business London* magazine as one of the Top 20 Under 40.

Ray Novak, BA'00 (PolySci), Chief of Staff, Prime Minister's Office, was chosen as one of the top 50 most powerful Canadians by *MacLean's*.

Carrie Yakimovich, HBA'01, has been appointed as Research Analyst at Jarislowsky Fraser Ltd-Investment Counsel in Toronto.



Brian Lanoue, BHS'08, and his girlfriend Thea Treahy-Geofreda, BHSc'09, and Thea's parents, Greig and Tracie, celebrating life overlooking Queenstown, NZ.

Marco Malerba, BA'01, HBA'01, a VP of Metropolitan Maintenance has been named one of the Top 20 leaders under 40 by *Business London* magazine.

Lindsay, BA'01 (Eng/CLC), and **Jeff Sage, BA'02** (PoliSci), were each named one of the Top 20 local leaders under 40 by *Business London* magazine.

David Brebner, HBA'02, has been named one of the Top 20 local leaders under the age of 40 by *Business London* magazine.

Lawrence Loh, BSc'02, MD'06, recently received the Jay S. Drotman Memorial Award from the American Public Health Association (APHA). He is thankful for his time at Western that gave him training and opportunities to be recognized in this manner. Loh is the Medical Officer of Health for Burnaby and Tri-cities, Fraser Authority.

Major Prem Rawal, LLB'02, moved to Ottawa this summer where he continues to serve with the Canadian Military Prosecution Service.

Andrew Crook, BA'03 (Hist/Phil), has been named one of the Top 20 local leaders under the age of 40 by *Business London* magazine.

Shelby Austin, LLB'05, founder of ATD, for being named as one of the 2012 Lexpert Rising Stars: Leading Lawyers Under 40.

Jordan Valente, BHSc'05, has opened a new training facility, Combine Centre East, with one of the largest indoor turf fields in London.

Carol Down, Cert'01, BA'05, MPA'08, has been elected to the Board of Governors of Western University for a term July 1, 2013-June 30, 2017.

Matthew Wilson, BA'06, BA'07, LLB'10 (History, King's), has been named one of the Top 20 local leaders under 40 by the *Business London* magazine.

Mitchell Moxley, MA'04, has published his first book *Apologies to My Censor: The High and Low Adventures of a Foreigner in China* - a funny and strange account of life as an ex-pat Canadian in pre- and post-2008 Olympics China.

Farishta Zarify, BA'06, owner of online business Zarify Luxury Designer Gowns, was recently named by eBay Canada as the Entrepreneur of the Year.

Dustin Haw, BSc'06, PhD'12 (Physics), has been appointed VP Investment of Clarke Inc. in Halifax.

Jennifer Lomax, HBA'07, MBA'11, has been named one of the Top 30 Under 30 by *Marketing* magazine. Lomax is a consultant with Satov Consultants.

Bonnie Brooks, MBA'08, has been appointed to RioCan's Board of Trustees. She was also appointed to the Board of Directors of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Foundation.

Kathryn Buczko, BA'08 (BMOS), has been named one of the Top 30 Under 30 by *Marketing* magazine. Buczko is an account executive with Twitter Canada.

Brian Lanoue, BHSc'08, and his girlfriend Thea (together since their days at Western) moved to New Zealand in 2011 to pursue their dream of becoming chiropractors. They are both currently in their third of four years of study in New Zealand and looking forward to returning to Canada upon graduation and serving their communities. They have also kept the Western spirit alive by organizing and hosting the first and second ever Western Alumni events in Auckland, NZ over the past couple of years. It was great for them to meet and reminisce with both recent and not-so-recent grads living in Auckland.

Kyla Woodcock, MBA'08, has been named one of the Top 20 local leaders under 40 by the *Business London* magazine.

Whispers of Life (2013), written and directed by **Florian Halbedl, BA'09** (Film Studies, Medical Sciences), and produced by **Joshua M. Ferguson, BA'09** (Film Studies), has been awarded the Audience Choice Award and the Jury Choice Award at the 26th Annual Reel Pride Film Festival in Winnipeg, Man. *Whispers of Life* was one of 10 films in the festival's Canadian GLBTQ Short Film Competition on Oct. 16. *Whispers of Life* tells the story about the interdependence of imagination and survival of Tom, a gay teenager, who is threatened by a bully's homophobic words. As Tom sits on his park bench, a stranger named Charles suddenly appears next to him and strikes up a conversation that forever alters the teenager's future and life. *Whispers of Life* has been accepted into nine film festivals around the world so far including festivals in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Italy, Germany and Australia.

2010s

Lauren O'Neil, MA'10 (Journalism), has been named one of the Top 30 Under 30 by *Marketing* magazine. Lauren is a digital journalist at CBC News.

Lt. Chad Skubicky, BSc'10, was born in Trenton, Ont., where he attended St. Peter's Catholic School and graduated Albert College in Belleville in 2006. His father spent his early career as an Air Force pilot and then turned

to civilian aviation with Air Canada. Flying had a strong pull throughout Chad's upbringing. It wasn't until the third year of Chad's tenure at Western studying Biology, that he felt the need to fly again. He initially joined the Royal Canadian Naval Reserves in an attempt to pad his resume and bide his time until the military pilot trade reopened. In October 2012, Chad arrived at No. 2 Canadian Forces Flying Training School in Moose Jaw, Sask. More than a year of hard work culminated on Nov. 6, when he received his Royal Canadian Air Force Wings – his dream of becoming a jet pilot had finally come true. Chad is now awaiting training at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, to fly with the United States Air Force. This will be followed by a posting to Cold Lake, Alberta, where he will pilot Canada's CF-18 Hornet jet fighter. Chad would like to thank all his teachers, mentors and friends for their guidance and inspiration throughout the years. Mission accomplished.

Andrew Steele, MBA'11, has been appointed the VP, Strategy for TVO in Toronto.

Christopher Compton, BA'12 (Creative Writing), has published his first book of the trilogy *Eternal Dreams: The Curse of Memories* in July 2013. Available at Amazon.ca

Salman Alvi, MBA'12, and Ghaznia Khan, MSc'12 (Management, Ivey) are excited to announce they got married on March 9. They had a gorgeous three-day wedding in the GTA with family and friends. The first day they sang and danced with close family and friends, on the second day Salman and Ghaznia



Lt. Chad Skubicky (2010s)



Salman Alvi, MBA'12, and Ghaznia Khan, MSc'12, (Management, Ivey)

performed the religious ceremony, and the final day was a modern reception that celebrated the couple's unity. This was followed by a fabulous honeymoon in Hawaii, where the couple visited the lovely islands of Maui and Oahu.

Adam Moryto, BA'13, is an actor whose big screen debut was the role of Jimmy in David A. Armstrong's 2013 feature film *Pawn*.

Tashi Phuntsok, LLM'13 (Business & Tax Law), has been awarded a Dalai Lama Trust Scholarship. He was among 10 worldwide candidates of Tibetan descent selected to receive the scholarship.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Anne Fellowes Carswell, BA'34, on July 24, 2013, in Toronto, Ont.

Eugene Aristoff, BA'41, on September 10, 2013, in Broomall, Penn.

Frances Olive (Ward) Eastman, BA'43, on June 20, 2013, in Toronto, Ont.

Ann W. Lowry, BA'48, on July 27, 2013, in Arva, Ont.

Glenn George Allen, BA'49, on July 23, 2013, in St. Thomas, Ont.

Isabella Sara (Lamont) Berardini, BA'52 (Honors Medical History), on Oct. 13, 2013 in London, Ont.

William 'Bill' Burton Wadland, HBA'55, on August 19, 2013, in Newmarket, Ont.

Constance Jane Murray (McKay), BA'60, February 2, 2013, in London, Ont.

Robert Allen Anderson, HBA'61, on August 22, 2013, in Orangeville, Ont.

Nancy Elaine Schofield (Johnson), BA'62, on July 25, 2013, in London, Ont.

John Peter Klassen, BA'64, on August 4, 2013, in Ottawa, Ont.

Isobel Jean McLeod, Dipl'65, on February 3, 2013, in Oshawa, Ont.

Ildiko Munro (Yorke), BA'65, on July 4, 2013, in Ottawa, Ont.

Dr. Donald B.W. Miskew, MD'69, on June 8, 2013, in Overland Park, Kansas.

Ira David Abraham, MBA'71, on July 28, 2013, in Toronto, Ont.

Jean Pearl Hogg (Bennetto), BA'72, on July 20, in Toronto, Ont.

Dr. Russell J. Lingard, DDS'73, on August 20, 2013, in Zurich, Ont.

Dr. Grant C. Lee LEE, DDS'74, on July 9, 2013, (of Clinton, Ont.) in Budapest, Hungary.

Dr. Thomas John Barlow, DDS'75, on July 13, 2013, Hamilton, Ont.

Paul B. Temple, BSc'75, on May 1, 2013, in Guelph, Ont.

Dr. Allen Robert Pratt, BSc'91, PhD'96, on July 2, 2013 in London, Ont.

Katey Marie Campbell, BA'03, on July 18, 2013, in Niagara Falls, Ont.

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Did I mention I wrote a book? It's called *The Longer I'm Prime Minister: Stephen Harper and Canada*, and Random House published it in October. It's about how Stephen Harper manages to keep winning elections, and why he wants to. The response from readers has been really encouraging. On the social website Goodreads, 96 per cent of readers who rated the book liked it. Writing in the magazine *Policy Options*, David Emerson, who served as Harper's minister for trade and foreign affairs, called it a "must-read" and added: "Wells has given me a new and richer understanding of the political machinations of the past decade in Canada with this book."

It's really true that half the fun of writing a book is getting out to sell it once it's published. Writing a book is a lonely business. You can't even tell anyone what you're up to, or at least I couldn't, for fear of jinxing the whole project. So it's not until the book tour that you can discuss everything you've learned and thought about. At the end of November my tour took me to Western. As luck would have it, it also took me to another Ontario University, which I will

call AOU, just before I hit Western.

AOU is a wonderful school, one I'm always happy to visit — as I enjoy getting out of Ottawa to visit any university. In Ottawa, people make up things to shout about. At universities, people discuss ideas thoughtfully and with a measure of respect. But AOU has a grim, purposeful campus, not very pedestrian-friendly. Students trudged between classes, gaze lowered. My hosts included two profs who once attended Western as students. "There's nowhere to sit here!" one of them said, and it's true: even in what I took to be the main student building, AOU doesn't have a lot of places to take a load off, read a book, recharge their batteries between lectures.

**IF A UNIVERSITY OFFERS
A LOUSY EDUCATION OR
DOES TIMID, INCREMENTAL
RESEARCH, IT DOESN'T
MATTER HOW FLUFFY THE
SEAT CUSHIONS ARE.**

On to Western. There are campuses as lovely in Canada, but not many. Even on a slushy day, students walked in chatty groups between buildings. The Centre Spot was always a great place to relax but there are more than ever before. (And more food choices, now that the dreaded Food Services monopoly of the '80s is a distant memory.) One corner of the UCC where aerobics classes used to work out has, now that the sweaty workouts have moved south to the Student Recreation Centre, become yet another lounge.

The new Ivey Business School building across Western Road from the main campus is one of the most impressive university buildings I've ever seen. Infrastructure investments on this scale for buildings that don't include high-tech science labs. Big-boned and generously appointed, the new Ivey building reminded me of the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The faculty members I spoke to there are head over heels in love with the place. The sprawling, mid-century modern cafeteria was like something out of *Mad Men*.

I don't want to overstate the significance

of all this. If a university offers a lousy education or does timid, incremental research, it doesn't matter how fluffy the seat cushions are. Western's real strengths are in its lecture halls and labs. But I was reminded how, despite its largely utilitarian function — the simultaneous education of tens of thousands of young people — Western remains a pleasant place to be.

This matters because the traditional model of the university — a physical place where people convene in large numbers for extended stays to learn and exchange ideas — doesn't look like it's going away anytime soon.

The other model, one whose advent I've heard trumpeted every few years for more than a decade, would radically decentralize post-secondary education through information technology. But a study released in December by the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education suggests that model isn't doing too well.

The study examined massive open online courses, or MOOCs, which permit many thousands of students to follow a given university course's lecture component online. This technology's advocates say it could profoundly democratize the experience of higher education. Well, it could, were it not for human nature. The study found that only half of those who registered for such a course ever looked at a single lecture. Only 4 per cent completed the courses.

There are a bunch of reasons for this. I think one of them is that doing university-level coursework is really hard. If you have any way to avoid it, you're likely to take the escape route. It's not really something you can dip into at leisure. Misery loves company, and the shared experience of being on a university campus with thousands of colleagues who face the same grind you do makes a university education, not just tolerable, but something a student can conceive of seeing through to its proper end.

So, a campus isn't just a luxury from an earlier and more genteel era, it's starting to seem central to the work a university does. And Western's lovelier-than-average campus is starting to look like a considerable competitive asset.

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

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