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ALUMNIA’S INTERNSHIP AT WHO, PLUS MARGARET CHAN SHARES WORLD HEALTH PRIORITIES

INCREASING RELIABILITY OF ONTARIO ELECTRICITY – HYDRO ONE/ WESTERN PARTNERSHIP

RESEARCH PROMISES TEARS OF JOY FOR DIABETICS BY PAUL MAYNE

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

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

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

But no. “Own the podium” was the name. Not just make it to the podium a few times for the national anthem, this was a call for worldwide domination. Not something usually in the national character. We’re more the diplomat, the peacemaker, and the producers of great comedy. And if you thought the title was bold what about the prediction? More medals than any country. Okay, what really happened to our athletes during the Winter Olympics? We know steroids are a no-no. What kind of training and equipment and facilities did OTP acquire?

Does extra attention, funding and resources really make that much difference? In the end, the total number didn’t matter but the colour of the medal did. Canada broke two records: most gold medals by a host country at a Winter Olympics and most golds and two records: most gold medals by a host country at a Winter Olympics and most golds and two records: most gold medals by a host country at a Winter Olympics and most golds and two records: most gold medals by a host country at a Winter Olympics and most golds.

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

A combination of factors is necessary to achieve successful leadership including initiative. And you can’t teach initiative. Confidence (without arrogance), intelligence (without pretention), resourcefulness (while still being a team player), attitude (that’s not entirely selfish), risk-taking (that doesn’t sacrifice members of your team). It’s all a balancing act. Has Western produced leaders? Yes. In more than one field? Yes. Do we need a proactive approach to creating leadership abilities in our current students and offer more opportunities for those abilities to emerge? Our president thinks so.

While academics might not get the spotlight that Olympic sports do, it’s time for Western to own its own piece of the world’s academic podium by achieving excellence and not being afraid to tell our own story. Alumnus Roger Jackson took a bold chance. And it paid off. In Gold.
COMING BACK TO WESTERN TRANSFORMS LIFE

BY OWEN THORNTON B.A.‘93 (ENGLISH) AND 2010 (HONORS PHILOSOPHY)

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

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

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

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

I had two major hurdles in going back to school. One was my worry about being able to do the work. Donna directed me to one-off classes on how to extract material from text books, how to take notes in class and how to use the library. For each of my four papers that year I went to the Writing Support Centre where Ryan Robb, MA’99, PhD’08 (Philosophy), offered special essay assistance to philosophy majors. I received the best grades of my scholastic career in that course.

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

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

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

Were you to ask me if you should go back I’d say, “GO!”

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

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

You just might become a giggler, too.

*P.S. Philosophy comes from ancient Greek and literally means ‘lover of wisdom’.

YOUR RIGHT TO PRIVACY

Western respects your privacy. At any time you have the right to request that your personal information cease to be used for alumni programs, to provide information about alumni services, or for fundraising purposes. For more information, please go to the following website http://www.advser.uwo.ca/Privacy-Statement.htm or contact Advancement Services Phone 519-661-4176 or 1-800-420-7519 (Canada & U.S.), Fax 519-661-4182 or email advser@uwo.ca

OPINION

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Mary’s endowed bequest to Foundation Western is an expression of her hope that future generations of students will forever benefit from receiving the kind of education she had at Western.

Hope

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

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WESTERN SETTING FOR TVO’S THE AGENDA

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

The panel also discussed whether London welcomed diversity, including members of visible minorities and persons with disabilities. “The problem we have right now, we are not known,” says Chakma. “When immigrants are looking for possible places to settle, London is not known.” Chakma says London must market itself as an ideal place to live and work. Preston challenged the community to look at areas that need improvement and work to dispel myths about the employability of a person with a disability.

Western Development Corporation President Peter White, BA’87; Western President Amit Chakma; mother and Fanshawe College student Chantelle Diachina; London Free Press editor-in-chief Paul Berton, BA’87; and Western PhD candidate Jeffrey Preston, BA’06, MA’08, discuss issues about the economy and diversity. Photo by Heather Travis

LIFETIME COLLECTOR DONATES COMICS TO LIBRARY

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

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

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

With an estimated value in the tens of thousands of dollars, the Dr. Eddy Smet Comic Book Collection includes rare Batman appearances from the seventies and eighties written by living legend Denny O’Neil, Frank Miller’s revolutionary run on Daredevil, Alan Moore’s complete runs on Watchmen, Mime, and Swamp Thing, and the first 14 issues of Captain Canuck, arguably Canada’s most popular and important superhero. He also has an extensive collection of rare Superman, and complete run of Spider-Man comics produced in Canada during the Second World War. These homegrown comics were developed out of an importation ban of U.S. comics into Canada during the war. This is believed to be the largest and most valuable collection of comic books ever donated to a Canadian university.

NEW VP OF EXTERNAL RETURNS TO WESTERN

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

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

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

As Vice-President, External Goldthorp will lead a staff team of more than 90 people involved with Alumni Relations & Development, Advancement Services, and Communications & Public Affairs. “I am honoured to have been selected to serve Western, its alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students and volunteers,” says Goldthorp, who will also work in partnership with Foundation Western.

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

Goldthorp officially starts on April 1.
A newly established institute at Western will hold a mirror up to the social, economic and political linkages between Canada and the United States.

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

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

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

It encompasses three existing Western research centres and five faculties:

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

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

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

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

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

NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL FACULTY PRIORITY FOR INCOMING DEAN

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

Dr. Michael Strong says he is “humbled” and “excited” by the appointment and looks forward to building on the legacy of Dean Carol Herbert, who will have completed two terms and 11 years as dean when her term expires in June. Strong will serve as dean until 2015. One of his priorities is to find new space for growing programs in a school “bursting at the seams.” “Everybody needs space. At Schulich, it is a critical issue. We need to have a new medical school facility.” Locally, Strong calls Schulich “the game in town” for training the next generation of health-care professionals for southwestern Ontario. The school has built an impressive reputation, but Strong wants to add to its international profile.

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

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

CULTUREPLEX TO STUDY CULTURAL COMPLEXITY

A collaborative laboratory space, scheduled to open August 15, along with supporting information technologies will be called “CulturePlex: A Laboratory for the Study of Cultural Complexity” (The CulturePlex). The research carried out in The CulturePlex will be unique to Canada and at the forefront of international research initiatives on communities and culture and also in the development of novel digital platforms to preserve, enrich and support new explorations into our global cultural heritages.

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

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

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

NEW ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM FOR MUSIC

Glamorous, talented and world-famous, the husband and wife pianists were not typical professors at Western in the 1950s. Margaret Parsons and Clifford Poole balanced a career under Poole’s direction in Gilbert and Sullivan productions still going strong in London today.

To honour the legacy of this dynamic duo, an Artist-in-Residence program will be launched in 2010, thanks to the commitment of a group of alumnae who studied with Parsons and Poole. It is fitting recognition for the couple that, due to their own prestige, attracted other accomplished teachers and students to Western. On April 16, in the Paul Davenport Theatre, the piano duo Anaganoğlu & Kinton will perform a concert to launch this new program.

Both James Anaganoğlu and Leslie Kinton studied with Parsons and Poole in Toronto, and were encouraged to form their own piano duo. Anaganoğlu, now dean of the Glenn Gould School, was an assistant professor of piano at Western. Kinton is a current member of the Don Wright Faculty of Music. The Artist-in-Residence program will give students an opportunity to study with musicians who bring the same acclaim and expertise as Parsons and Poole. These students will follow in the footsteps of such performers as baritone Victor Braun, who began his singing career under Poole’s direction in Gilbert and Sullivan productions.

The goal is to raise $500,000 in an endowed fund through Foundation Western so the Parsons-Poole legacy will continue forever.

“Art at Western is in its infancy in this country, the Parsons-Poole duo piano team who performed internationally and had Columbia Artists as their agent brought prestige, stature and glamour to a small provincial music school,” said Dorothy Hodgingworth, BA ’56. “Their legacy is still felt by those of us who knew and appreciated what they did for so many.”

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

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

To learn more about this initiative please contact John Nolan, alumni and development officer at jnolan6@uwo.ca or 519-661-2111, ext. 80533.
OBSTACLES OVERCOME IN PATH TO SUCCESS
BY DAVID SCOTT

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

There is nothing but white for as far as the eye can see. There is no change in the landscape. There are no tracks of animals in the snow. There are no birds flying by, not even vultures circling. The only sound is the wind and the scraping of skis passing over the frozen ground. If your solar-charged batteries haven’t drained for the day you might be lucky enough to hear your favourite songs on your iPod – the only thing connecting you to a familiar environment thousands of miles away and several degrees warmer. You dream of a warm fresh cup of Tim Horton’s coffee.

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

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

His father was Western’s wind tunnel pioneer, Alan Davenport, who passed away July 18, and the youngest to reach the North Pole at age 18, and the youngest to ski to the South Pole at age 24. Davenport was mesmerized, and reading the tragic story of his expedition fascinated me as a teenager, ” says Davenport. “It wasn’t uncommon for me to have some kind of malady stemming from my travel,” says Davenport, whose work in private sector development for the International Finance Corporation at The World Bank Group sends him on frequent trips and long-term programs and graduated with a BA in political science in 1983, taking an extra year. His adventures continued after graduation. At age 24, he spent six months hitchhiking throughout Africa, covering elections for African publications. Davenport’s fascination with polar exploration began at an earlier age though. As a teenager he read about Norwegian Roald Amundsen, the first pioneer, Alan Davenport, who passed away July 18, and the youngest to reach the North Pole at age 18, and the youngest to ski to the South Pole at age 24. Davenport was mesmerized, and reading the tragic story of his expedition fascinated me as a teenager, ” says Davenport. “It wasn’t uncommon for me to have some kind of malady stemming from my travel,” says Davenport, whose work in private sector development for the International Finance Corporation at The World Bank Group sends him on frequent trips and long-term programs and graduated with a BA in political science in 1983, taking an extra year. His adventures continued after graduation. At age 24, he spent six months hitchhiking throughout Africa, covering elections for African publications. Davenport’s fascination with polar exploration began at an earlier age though. As a teenager he read about Norwegian Roald Amundsen, the first
discovered a bug from the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada (CCAC) covered with messages of encouragement when he reaches the ceremonial South Pole marker. In an effort to increase awareness and encourage screening for the disease, he raised nearly $60,000 in conjunction with the expedition for the Colorectal Cancer Alliance and $7,000 for the CCAC.

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

- BARRY STEIN, PRESIDENT OF COLORECTAL CANCER ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

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

Davenport’s youngest sister Clare, 38, had been treated for breast cancer a year earlier, so he had encountered similar news in the past. But he says he found dealing with her illness “more austere” in my own because “well, she’s my younger sister, I was always going to deal with it.”

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

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

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

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

Tom takes a much-appreciated snack break in the foreground photo. In the background, you can see a 1937 Antarctica. A welcomed break from the flat landscape, making the hiking more enjoyable.

Get Screened if you are 50 or older www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/screening/screening-tests

PREVENTING COLORECTAL CANCER

First obtain the basic knowledge at: www.colorectal-cancer.ca

CRC WARNING SIGNS

Blood in or on the stool (either bright red or very dark in colour)

• A persistent change in normal bowel habits such as diarrhea, constipation or both, for no apparent reason

• Frequent or constant cramps if they last for more than a few days

• Stools that are narrower than usual

• General stomach discomfort (bloating, fullness and/or cramps)

• General tiredness

• A strong and continuing need to move your bowels, but with little stool

• A feeling that the bowel does not empty completely

• Weight loss for no known reason

• Constant tenderness


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

Follow health lifestyles. Check out our website www.colorectal-cancer.ca/en/nutrition/

nential of his expedition fascinated me as a teenager, ” says Davenport. “It became something I always

- BARRY STEIN, PRESIDENT OF COLORECTAL CANCER ASSOCIATION OF CANADA
supplies to be organized before they landed at the Patriot Hills’ blue ice runway in Antarctica to begin. Davenport, a guide and three other explorers reached the pole on cross-country skis, each pulling a sled attached to a harness burdened by 160 pounds of food, fuel and gear—and into a fierce headwind. The 1,200 km burdened by 160 pounds of food, fuel and skiis, each pulling a sled attached to a harness took advantage of the trailing winds. The others flew back.

return trip aided by kites that took advantage of then skied back to the base camp in 12 days, the gear—and into a fierce headwind. The 1,200 km burdened by 160 pounds of food, fuel and skiis, each pulling a sled attached to a harness took advantage of the trailing winds. The others flew back.

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

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

When time and technology would allow, Davenport blogged about his journey at: www.fromend2end.net.

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

When time and technology would allow, Davenport blogged about his journey at: www.fromend2end.net.

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And when he finally reached the South Pole and saw the U.S. research station (Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station) and reached his goal, he said: “At my Dad’s memorial service, my sister in her eulogy said she asked my Dad (years ago) if he had any regrets, anything he would do differently. He said ‘take more risks.’ I think that’s what matters to me. Putting yourself in a situation where you’re going to be pushed a little bit. ”

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

From someone who has overcome challenges and achieved his goals, “Tom Davenport’s advice is sincere. He said ‘take more risks.’ I think that’s what matters to me. Putting yourself in a situation where you’re going to be pushed a little bit.”

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

The University of Western Ontario

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yet, as he charts his course toward that horizon, Chakma doesn’t see the need for a radical renovation of the university’s...
traditional pillars, nor does he espouse the kind of pop philosophy that might be found in the latest buzz-lit bestsellers. Instead, he harks back to Western’s past and speaks of the need for fine-tuning.

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

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

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

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

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

“What I’m looking for is a menu of options. Some will play a leadership role in student government or athletics; some will play a leadership role in helping out on committees. Students from our faculty of education will go out and play a leadership role in education reform. Students from the law school will play leadership roles in the legal clinic, for example.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Socially, the multi-cultural nature of UWO helped me to know more about other countries and to be involved in debates ranging from the South Africa Free Mandela Campaign to nuclear energy issues. One of my PhD students is now at UWO as an exchange student, funded by Western. This is a step in the right direction. What would also be very beneficial is for students from UWO to spend times in other laboratories outside America and Europe. I think spending time in Africa would be good, since that will be truly a different experience.

Ivan Vesely
BSc’81, PhD’87
Founder and chief scientific officer, ValveXchange Inc., Aurora, Colo.

When I was going through my doctoral program, biophysics had a very effective student mentoring program. Participation in weekly scientific seminars was mandatory and students were routinely “picked on” by the senior faculty to chair the seminar and ask questions. It was very stressful for the young students and many times we were caught off guard and were publicly humiliated. However, after a while, we developed a thick skin and did not take feedback and scientific criticism personally. Being a scientist is not only being good at research — it also means being good at presenting your work to an audience.

Jeffrey Turnbull, MD’90
President, Canadian Medical Association, Ottawa

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

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

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

We have developed a leadership style that is quite different from the leadership style of Asia. We value openness, frankness and transparency and these can contribute positively in international business settings. At a time when organizations worldwide are searching for ways to attract and retain talent, some of our leadership skills can be leveraged to enhance work life in other parts of the world — perhaps parts of the world where hierarchical systems inhibit an individual’s ability to become fully engaged with the corporation.

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

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

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

SPRING 2010 EDITION
"One of the troubles in most universities is, where you have a research-dominant culture, the faculty is not hardwired to deliver learning experiences to the students that meet their needs," she says. UWO, on the other hand, “has invested, for many years, in a teacher-scholar orientation. It takes a long time to develop that kind of culture in a university. Another university can’t just turn on a dime and do that; you just don’t have the collaborative engagement of the faculty," she observes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

“When people think of good leaders, they think of people who have a sense of purpose, a sense of mission and certainly a sense of passion." DARREIN MEISTER

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

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

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

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

Alongside this trio, Chakma places references three extraordinary Canadians as models — one from the political left, one from the centre and one from the right.

“For Chakma and his twin goals, it is still early days. He is a patient man, accustomed to accomplishing goals over a span of years, not months, inviting collaboration and building consensus as he goes. Though it won’t happen right away, he’d eventually like Western’s Senate to recognize leadership activities on campus (student council, clubs, athletics, residence roles, etc.) and through study-abroad programs, community-service learning, “alternative” spring breaks and volunteerism as part of a student’s core academic program. Meanwhile, Chakma finds inspiration in the example of UWO president George Edward Hall, whose tenure spanned two decades (1947-1967). “He was the first one to articulate a global vision,” he says. “This was 1965. He dared to think of the next 100 years and thought that Western should become one of Canada’s greatest universities.”

“If you can dream in 1965 to become one of Canada’s greatest institutions, we can aspire to become one of the world’s top universities,” he says. He readily acknowledges that there is a certain “audacity” in that aspiration. But that, too, is an essential leadership quality.

DOUGLAS FINCH

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

“I believe I learned more in the first two years of my undergraduate degree in London, Ontario, than I did at the Julliard School in New York...”
Canada came, saw and conquered Gold at Vancouver

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

VENI, VIDI, VICI

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

Specifically, alumnus Roger Jackson, BA’43, along with $110 million in seed money from corporations and the federal government, established the Own The Podium (OTP) program in 2005, when John Furlong and the organizers of the 2010 Vancouver games realized that staging an excellent Games and placing well just wasn’t good enough. They wanted to win. So they brought in Jackson, past president of the Canadian Olympic Committee and gold medalist in rowing at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

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

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

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

Jackson also defended the name Own the Podium in various media outlets during the Olympics, saying it was not an attempt to present Canadians as arrogant or unwelcoming at the Games.

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

Other Western connections to the Vancouver Games include Carol Stephenson, Dean of the Richard Ivey School of Business, who headed west to serve as the head coach of the Canadian figure skating team, and John Furlong, past president of the Vancouver Organizing Committee and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) Board of Directors. Stephenson was a member of the Vancouver figure skating team, was at the Olympics to support her son, Scott, compete in the figure skating – ice dance competition, along with long-time partner Tessa Virtue in three dance programs that captured gold – and the hearts of Canadians. It was a first-ever gold for Canada in ice dance.

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

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

Steves Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New Steven Dengler, BA’93, carried the Olympic Torch in Timiskaming, Ont. (near New
BY JANIS WALLACE, BMUS’75, BED’76

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

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

‘Kanye West meets rock. ’ We have one aggressive, electric tones conceived as

snowboarders. The melody is played in

call one ‘The Extreme Version’ for the
different colours as I call it, “ he said. “We

were doing a master’s. “

He was like ‘c’mon in. ’ And the next thing I knew I

says Forsyth, referring to ICOS’s affable founder.

upon a sign for the Olympic centre and was

was wandering the halls, contemplating her next

and honors diploma in history, Forsyth says she

degrees over 14 years at Western.

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

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

“As students here we would always talk about what we would do if we were director.”

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

responsibilities.

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

“I opened the door and we met Bob Barney,” says Forsyth, referring to ICOS’s affable founder. “He was like ‘I’m on. ’ And the next thing I knew I was doing a master’s”.

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

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

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

Forsyth’s interest in the Olympic centre grew

and she became a member of the board of directors while a student.

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

In addition to being a board member with

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

“I’m a person that has had a number of different options, such as government, and the opportunity to stay in academia also came up, “ adds Forsyth, who is teaching Olympic history

in the Department of Kinesiology. “But this was easy. The position came up and I applied. It was a no-brainer. I wanted to return.”
LEGAL PATH LEADS TO
HELPING WOMEN OF YEMEN

BY LAURIE BURSCH

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

Unless you’re Donna Kennedy-Glans, LL.B., chances are that you’ve never encountered this situation: a Yemeni government official beseeching you to continue your corporate work with a Canadian energy company because he sees the benefits of having women in the management structure. Kennedy-Glans trained as a lawyer – she graduated from Western Law in 1984 and her career trajectory evolved from law to corporate negotiations for Nexen, Inc., the large Canadian-based energy company that brought her to the Middle East in the first place. “I became a negotiator, and then I became responsible for above-ground risk management. In the energy sector, that’s community.”

“I came from a family farm where the name on the barn was our family farm in Southwestern Ontario to a conversation with a president in the Middle East. ‘I became a negotiator, and then I became responsible for above-ground risk management. In the energy sector, that’s community.’

“Facilitating capacity building – bringing volunteer doctors, nurse and midwives, teachers, lawyers and judges, journalists, and politicians from the west to share and exchange expertise and insight with their professional counterparts in Yemen – has been, for the most part, rewarding. Kennedy-Glans enthusiastically calls it, ‘quite wonderful.’ Then she pauses and corrects herself: ‘…until recently, it’s been quite wonderful.’ Until recently, when al-Qaeda forces spread into Yemen. “I struggled so much, dealing with the fact that a small group of people, hateful people, could disrupt a society so greatly… the impacts on the ground in a place like Yemen are absolutely shocking. I know a lot of people in a place like Yemen – I know them as friends, I know them as colleagues, I respect them, I admire the work they do. Watching what happened to them was devastating for me personally,” and was the catalyst for her second book, Unveiling the Breath: One Woman’s Journey into Understanding Islam and Gender Equality. “I was writing because I had to deal with my response to those issues.”

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

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

“...and what outsiders can do to support at-risk youth in isolated communities. ‘It’s very exciting!’ Kennedy-Glans says, but adds that the program is still growing, and there are many ways for new people to get involved. ‘We need mentors, we need support, we need funding, we need learning coaches, we need people who are committed to working with youth leaders who can be agents of positive social change in the communities where they live.’ And from there, perhaps it’s just a few steps until you’re talking to a president.”

Kennedy-Glans is a lawyer, author and advocate who calls Calgary home. For more information about her work, visit: www.canadabridges.com

**Donna Kennedy-Glans**

**Unveiling Youth Potential** (www.unveilingyouthpotential.com), a program set in motion by Yemeni youth who came to Bridges when they saw al-Qaeda in their country nearly two years ago. Working with these young people, and other youth from Canada and around the world, they facilitated 18 months of conversation about what outsiders can do to support at-risk youth in isolated communities. “It’s very exciting!” Kennedy-Glans says, but adds that the program is still growing, and there are many ways for new people to get involved. “We need mentors, we need support, we need funding, we need learning coaches, we need people who are committed to working with youth leaders who can be agents of positive social change in the communities where they live.”

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US anthropologist & popularizer of anthropology (1901-1978)

“...and what outsiders can do to support at-risk youth in isolated communities. ‘It’s very exciting!’ Kennedy-Glans says, but adds that the program is still growing, and there are many ways for new people to get involved. ‘We need mentors, we need support, we need funding, we need learning coaches, we need people who are committed to working with youth leaders who can be agents of positive social change in the communities where they live.’ And from there, perhaps it’s just a few steps until you’re talking to a president.”

Kennedy-Glans is a lawyer, author and advocate who calls Calgary home. For more information about her work, visit: www.canadabridges.com
Macklem manoeuvres
Money markets on world stage

BY SHELDON GORDON

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

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

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

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

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

Macklem admits that the Western world’s financial regulators initially underestimated the systemic risk. “What at first appeared to be a problem of insufficient liquidity then was perceived as a matter of a few insolvent banks. Only belatedly did it become apparent that the global financial system was ‘undercapitalized’ and that it had to take decisions on. It became a problem of insufficient liquidity then was perceived as a matter of a few insolvent banks. Only belatedly did it become apparent that the systemic risk. What at first appeared to be a problem of insufficient liquidity then was perceived as a matter of a few insolvent banks.”

But as the crisis worsened, many were about how to support markets, “says Depression loomed.

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

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

At Western, he earned an MA (1984) and a PhD (1989). He chose Western, he says, because it “had the country’s strongest macro-economic faculty. The department was a real powerhouse, and professors such as David Laidlaw and Michael Parkin had a profound influence on me.”

In between his two graduate degrees, Macklem spent a year at the Bank of Canada, Ottawa’s most hallowed institution. He joined the Bank’s research department in 2000, and for a year earlier. He serves as Finance’s deputy at international forums such as the G-8 (the seven major industrialized countries plus Russia) and the G-20 (which embraces new economic powers such as China and India). It’s his job to brief Prime Minister Stephen Harper for the G-8 and G-20 summits.

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

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

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

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

Our next generation is counting on us

Every year, thousands of students come through the doors of Ontario’s universities – expecting no less than the best education and advanced training.

But Ontario’s universities have hit a crossroad in their ability to meet those expectations. And the direction we take today will be felt for a lifetime by our next generation of graduates.

We’ve already seen the damage done in going down the road of underfunding: soaring tuition, overcrowded classrooms, and less quality learning time for students.

It’s time to move forward – in a direction defined by high-quality education, research and innovation, delivered through secure funding for Ontario’s universities.

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Visit quality-matters.ca to find out more.
FIVE CANADIAN FILMS YOU SHOULD SEE BEFORE YOU DIE

BY JEFF RENAUD

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

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

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


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

HIGHWAY 61 (1991) dir. Bruce McDonald

Hilarious, beautifully written, another terrific entry from Bruce McDonald, getting a vast assist here from his actors, Don McKellar and Valerie Buhagiar. A whimsical trip for a would-be jazz musician who determines, against all odds, to accompany him one year. A picture of a technology, a people, and a woman all in wondrous states of change.

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

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

LES ORDRES (1974) dir. Michel Brault

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


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

TENT CITY

CONTRIBUTED BY ALAN NOON

Western had begun Summer School classes while still renting space in the old Huron College on St. James Street. When the present campus was opened in 1924 the Summer School students were the first to occupy the new buildings. Many of them were teachers hoping to upgrade their qualifications and work towards a degree. By 1930 Canada was in the grip of the Great Depression and to help keep costs down the University supported the founding of “Tent City.” Students, with their families in some cases, set up tents and trailers near the bottom of the hill near the Power Plant. Washing and showers were available in the nearby J.W. Little Memorial Stadium and the University provided an electrical hook up to each site for a seasonal fee of $5. Arrangements were made each summer through the camp supervisor to provide a community washing machine and iron and receive daily deliveries of ice, milk and bread.

The campers elected their own “Mayor and Aldermen” to ensure that the camp provided a pleasant environment for summer study. No dogs, pets or radios were allowed. Circa 1942 the city’ was relocated further up the hill near the site of the present day Business School. At this time the University grounds were yet to be annexed by the City of London to the south, and were officially part of London Township. In 1947 the Township Council passed a new bylaw. It stated that persons other than tourists could not use lands within its jurisdiction for a trailer camp. With a great deal of regret the Board of Governors complied with this ruling and Tent City was discontinued.
ALUMNI GAZETTE

NEW RELEASES

CANADA’S FIRST WINE & FOOD MOBILE APP GOES GREEN
Which Canadian wines go best with “green food,” such as asparagus, peppers and peas? How about other fresh vegetables that we’ll enjoy this summer? Natalie MacLean, MBA’92, editor of Canada’s largest wine site at www.natalemaclean.com has just launched a new mobile application for iPhone, iPod Touch, BlackBerry, Droid and other smartphones. Developed by Canada, this app builds on the success of her Drinks Matcher and includes all the pairings in the original app, plus thousands of wine reviews, recipes, articles, blog posts, glossary definitions, cellar journal and winery directory. You can access the new app at: www.natalemaclean.com/mobileapp.

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

AND NOW...HERE’S MAX
And Now... Here’s Max is the Leacock Award-winning memoir of CBC radio host Max Ferguson, BA’46. It has been reissued with a new introduction by fellow broadcaster and alumnus Shalegh Rogers, LL’02. Ferguson’s 52 years as an announcer on CBC television and radio included such programs as After Breakfast Breakdown, The Max Ferguson Show, Tabloid, Gazette, Inside From The Outside, 55 North Maple, and Telescope, and earned him many honours: the Order of Canada, the Governor-Generals Performing Arts Award, the John Drainie Award, the Gordon Sinclair Award, the Stephen Leacock Award, three ACTRA awards, and honorary degrees from several universities. www.sybertooth.ca

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

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

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

SUGICAL HEIGHTS
Based on real surgical cases, the novel Surgical Heights by Paul Hardy, MD’96, follows Dr. Jim Smythe through the most tumultuous six months of his career thus far. At 44, the general surgeon is at the top of his game. Yet with doubts about his health, he finds himself under escalating pressure from the Medical Licensing Authority and his own hospital administration to a series of complaints. The situation reaches breaking point in the emergency room, leading to a showdown where everything is on the line. Surgical Heights offers a fascinating inside view into the stress, risks and humour in the life of a busy surgeon. www.surgicalheights.ca

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

AUTUMN
Award-winning Ottawa author, Emily-Jane Hills Orford, BA’78, is releasing her recent novel, Autumn, her third book in the Four Seasons series. Autumn is a story about Martha Kakabada, a young mixed girl with a passion for music. She has a talent and an instrument that was passed down to her by her ancestors. She is a self-taught pianist because in Inuktitut, the capital city of Canada’s newest territory, Nunavut, there are no piano teachers. In fact, her piano is the only real acoustic piano in the entire community and it is sadly in need of repair and a good tuning. www3.sympatico.ca/mystmo

SPRING 2010 EDITION

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Western’s “Founder’s Day” is March 7, the day upon which the UWO Act was proclaimed in 1878. Last year, the Alumni Association launched a grassroots initiative to celebrate Founder’s Day and honour the historic roots of the University, one of Canada’s oldest.

Robert Collins, BA’77, Director of the Alumni Association Board and Chair of the Alumni Outreach Committee has been leading the charge to “reinforce that pride of going to Western and staying connected to Western.”

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

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

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

This past month, as I pored through the many treasures that my late mother had tucked away, I found amongst them a program from the “First Annual Alumni Show,” presented by the Alumni Homecoming Committee, held at Convocation Hall on October 10, 1952. Yellowed and dog-eared, the formal engraved program was obviously a keepsake from this memorable event that Mom had kept all these years. There were names on the program that I recognized from her stories and recollections – the people and the experiences behind these treasures that continually renew our bonds and memories.

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

So whether your memories are tucked away in a treasure box, downloaded to a computer file, or simply recollections, they remain in our form, or our mementos over the years.

Our alumni events can and do serve as lasting mementos of our bonds and Western friendships. Over the years, our alumni programs, events and services have evolved to meet the changing interests and needs of our growing international community of Western graduates. Attendance has grown and we now offer more than 300 events while we endeavour to stay connected with alumni living in more than 150 countries around the world, a reflection of our growing global presence and lasting local ties to Western.

And while these keepsakes have evolved in their form to meet changing times, they are no less important. While we may no longer have engraved programs on fine bond paper for most events, the memories live on just the same, renewable each time we reconnect with other Western alumni. I am certain that this program renewed many stories and memories for my mother, just as my ragged rugby shirt from Delaware Hall (circa 1979) does for me each time I pull it out of the cedar chest. It’s the people and the experiences behind these treasures that continually renew our bonds and remind us of our lifelong membership in the Western community.

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

To learn more about Alumni Western, visit us at www.alumni.uwo.ca.

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

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

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

Anyone with thoughts or ideas about how to expand Founder’s Day is encouraged to contact Natalie at ndevereu@uwo.ca.

For more on Founder’s Day and Bishop Isaac Hollmhuth, Western’s founder, visit www.alumni.uwo.ca/celebratingfoundersday.html.
FEISTY ROWER HAS GOLDEN RECORD

BY DAVID SCOTT

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

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

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

“Td say I’ve got somewhere around 475 gold medals that I’ve won over the years,” says Mcleish. “That’s a conservative number.”

He won five gold medals in 2009, with the most recent coming mere days after his 70th birthday in October when he teamed up with Mike Maloney, Paul Marshall, Jennifer McLeod, and Peter Burpee to take the 20-kilometre birthday in October when he teamed up with Mike Maloney, Paul Marshall, Jennifer McLeod, and Peter Burpee to take the 20-kilometre marathon in Belleville for the Wilson Island Rowing Marathon in October when he teamed up with Mike Maloney, Paul Marshall, Jennifer McLeod, and Peter Burpee to take the 20-kilometre marathon in Belleville for the Wilson Island Rowing Marathon in Belleville for the Wilson Island Rowing Marathon in Belleville for the Wilson Island Rowing Marathon in Belleville for the Wilson Island Rowing Marathon in Belleville for the Wilson Island Rowing Marathon in Belleville.

As far as distance and crew size, Mcleish has just about done it all. “I have been successful in all distances: 2000m, 1000m, 5000m, 42km, 21km, 10km, depending on crew makeup and distance, I choose 4-, 4+, 8+, 8X, 2X. I choose cycling as my cross-training sport averaging 4,000 kilometres per summer.”

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

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

“Will he ever give up rowing? I haven’t been told by the medical professionals to quit,” he says. “This is my life.”

“Melanie, set two sixes in 1984. She is a very competitive rower and has been in very fine condition ever since 1985 and I spend many hours in physiotherapy and sport clinics. Each year it is more difficult but this is where I belong,” says Mcleish. He hopes to be back rowing sometime this year. He says the benefits of the sport are ennumerable “health, friendship, pride, helping others, an extended family of athletes,” and personally “identity of being someone who overcame polio.”

He started rowing in Westdale Secondary School in Hamilton in 1955. “I rowed high school, then competitive out of Leander Boat Club, Hamilton, and years later at age 27 represented Leander, B.C. as the lone Canadian gold medal winner in the 8+ crew in the international regatta in St. Catharines at the North American Championships in 1967,” recalls Mcleish.

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

“My choice of rowing as the sport to excel in was a wise one because of the physiological aspects of the sport,” says Mcleish.

“I taught Melanie to cox and she has won medals also. I am inspired by my daughter who has believed in me throughout my career.”

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“At a young age, the potential of what I could achieve in rowing was very clear,” says Mcleish. “I was the only Canadian to win a medal at the World Rowing Championships in 1968.”

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1940s

John McCauley, BA'40, and Mary McCauley, BA'40, have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept 7, 2009, in Huntsville, Ontario. The occasion was celebrated with friends and family, including daughters Sue McCauley BS'77, and Jane McCauley BS'75, MA'79 and granddaughter Brenna Camac, BA'07.

1960s

Douglas Allen Morrison, HBA'64 (PhD, U of Ontario) was recognized last September by his academic colleagues, with the presentation of the University's 50 Years of Service Award. As a University Certified Psychologist, he has provided psychological counseling to returning veterans from Vietnam and the Middle East who have been admitted to the Syracuse and Cornell Universities. He continues to also enjoy serving as Faculty Advisor to the Graduate Student Association and the students of the Syracuse University campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

2010s

Alistair Rennie, BA'87, MBA'89 (English) was recently appointed to the board of directors of Covenant Resources, an early-stage natural resource company based in Surrey, BC. Mark Bliss, LLB'87, is recently appointed as Partner to Touche LLP.

**Gazetteer notices, like all portions of the print magazine, appear in an online version of Alumni Gazette and in Alumni Gazetteer.**
Simon Adell, MBA'98, has been appointed Chief Financial Officer at Level3, providing a level of expertise and experience to the company's leadership team.

Courtney Marie (Dowson) Hirata, BA'97 (Political Science), and Aaron Hirata are proud to announce their marriage on September 5, 2009 in St. Catharines, Ont. They currently reside in Winnipeg, Man.

Trevor R. Walker, BA'99, Dip'09 (PhD), has been appointed Chief Executive Officer for Venture Lakes Mining Inc., an advanced exploration company seeking gold, platinum group and rare metal deposits in Ontario.

2000s

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

Nicholas Moore, BA'81, PhD'96 (Chemistry), was recently awarded 100,000 after being named a Polak Prize winner for his work on the chemistry of fulfilments.

Phillips Gau, MBA'93, was appointed as VP, National Sales to Quebecor Media Inc.

Colin Caladine, HBA'85, LLB'85, MBA'94, has recently joined Hillier Thomsen as an associate in the Business Law Group in Toronto. His practice focuses on corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, securities regulatory matters and corporate and commercial law.

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

Myriam Prefontaine, BA'06, BED'09, has just recently become a member of the First Nations Student Success Initiative and is employed full-time as a Student Success Leader in a team environment that gives support to on-reserve students.

Brett James Skinner, PhD (Political Science), was recently appointed President to the Frasier Institute.

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

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret (nee Canyon) Gibson, BA'73, (1955-2009), retired Senior Social Worker and Social Worker Consultant in the community, and secretary of many health clinics. She was the mother of Andrew Canyon (1982) and Sarah Canyon (1984), and is survived by her husband, John Gibson, and the families of both her sons.

Beverly A. (“Bev”) McKechnie, BA’58, passed away on September 5, 2009 in St. Catharines, Ont. She was the wife of Howard McKechnie, Jr., and the mother of Jennifer, Mark, and Susan.

Matthew Christopher (“Matt”) Wilson, BA'97, was appointed as Accounts Manager in the GTA and Eastern Ontario.

Philippe Guay, MBA'03, has been appointed as a senior manager at GolinHarris in Toronto. His practice focuses on public relations, regulatory matters and corporate and commercial law.


Eric Ash of Westport, Ontario, sister Susan (Ron) Lindsay of Toronto, and brother & sister-in-law Robert Loudon (Margaret) and sister-in-law Fiona Loudon, Winston and Geneva. Dear brother of Bette O’Neill of London and Wil Herold of London. Dearly loved grandfather of Marissa, Keely and Matthew McCutcheon of Barrie. Survived by his mother, Wanda McCutcheon (Suzanne Motluk) of Sault Ste Marie. Only brother of Michael McCutcheon (G. Ann McCutcheon) of Minneapolis and Joshua Aubrey of San Antonio; her mother Irene T. (Lo) Irene Tak Chong Lo, BMus’83, age 49 of Bellevue, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2009, with family by her side, after a courageous three-year battle with cancer. Born in Hong Kong, she was deeply loved and cherished by her family and friends around the world. Irene was Senior Manager of International Services for BCB Wealth Management in Seattle. She had vast experience in the Trust and wealth management industry with major financial institutions including Royal Trust, HSBC and Credit Suisse for which she developed business in the Asian Region and Pacific Rim. She held numerous professional certifications and was highly regarded by colleagues throughout her banking career which included positions in Vancouver, Hong Kong, San Francisco and Seattle. Irene was a graduate of St. Stephen’s Girl’s College in Hong Kong, Western and Trinity College of Arts in Ottawa. Trained as a classical pianist, Irene was a piano and English teacher, loved music and the love of music of children. Irene is survived by her husband, Dan McCutcheon of Bellevue and her children Jessica, Jayson McCutcheon of Westport and Jayna of Barrie.

Sarah Marie Grand, BSc’06, of Bellevue, passed away peacefully on December 18, 2009, with family by her side, after a courageous three-year battle with cancer. Born in Hong Kong, she was deeply loved and cherished by her family and friends around the world. Irene was Senior Manager of International Services for BCB Wealth Management in Seattle. She had vast experience in the Trust and wealth management industry with major financial institutions including Royal Trust, HSBC and Credit Suisse for which she developed business in the Asian Region and Pacific Rim. She held numerous professional certifications and was highly regarded by colleagues throughout her banking career which included positions in Vancouver, Hong Kong, San Francisco and Seattle. Irene was a graduate of St. Stephen’s Girl’s College in Hong Kong, Western and Trinity College of Arts in Ottawa. Trained as a classical pianist, Irene was a piano and English teacher, loved music and the love of music of children. Irene is survived by her husband, Dan McCutcheon of Bellevue and her children Jessica, Jayson McCutcheon of Westport and Jayna of Barrie.

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polite people are not normally cutthroat people as funny. We’re said to be polite, and somehow. OK, it’s obvious why it struck some there was to win. This struck people as funny an attempt by Canadians to win everything but the mere fact of its existence: A concerted wasn’t Own the Podium’s success or failure to dominate the competition in sport after sport. In so many fields, you learn at university that the only way to excel is to be excellent. That sort of talk probably strikes some people as elitist. But to me it’s always been tremendously democratic and egalitarian, because your social background and your connections don’t matter in these tests as much as your wit and your will. No better tool for shattering glass ceilings than a good university education has yet been devised.

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

And when university funding comes up, it won’t be hard to find voices saying this is fancy-pants stuff that only a few eggheads care about. Better to spend on the essentials and cut this frippery. It’s true that some people say we can’t afford our universities, but the argument is no more convincing than the argument that that kid, and every other kid in town can get only so far in life and no further — and that they’re fine with that. That’s the truly elitist talk, because it ensures that the only way to get ahead is to be born ahead.

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THE FINAL SAY
WITH PAUL WELLS, BA’89

OLYMPIC EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITIES CAN BREAK GLASS CEILINGS

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

The Olympics were amazing. They really should do it every four years. But as you’ll recall, there was a lot of controversy over the whole thing. The weather, the cancelled tickets, the malfunctioning flame and the lack of French at the Opening Ceremonies, the rowdy crowd that forced an outdoor concert to be cancelled because of injuries. It was a rocky couple of weeks there. But at the heart of the controversy was the Own the Podium program, a half-decade campaign to fund and train Canadian athletes into a position where they could compete with peers around the world for grants and for space in the top journals. You learn early in physics or chemistry that the whole history of competition is the ground you have to perform on, and the most that’s ever been known is knowledge is the ground you have to perform in these tests as much as your wit and your will.

In so many fields, you learn at university that the only way to excel is to be excellent. But high stakes and limitless possibility are also part of the life of academic researchers, who compete with peers around the world for grants and for space in the top journals. You learn early in physics or chemistry that the whole history of competition is the ground you have to perform on, and the most that’s ever been known is knowledge is the ground you have to perform. But even if you’re no longer there.

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

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