

AlumniGazette

WESTERN'S ALUMNI MAGAZINE SINCE 1939

SUMMER 2010

WESTERN'S BRAIN GAIN

**HOMECOMING
2010 ISSUE**

WESTERN TIES TO
DONNELLY MYTH

UP CLOSE WITH
KEVIN O'LEARY

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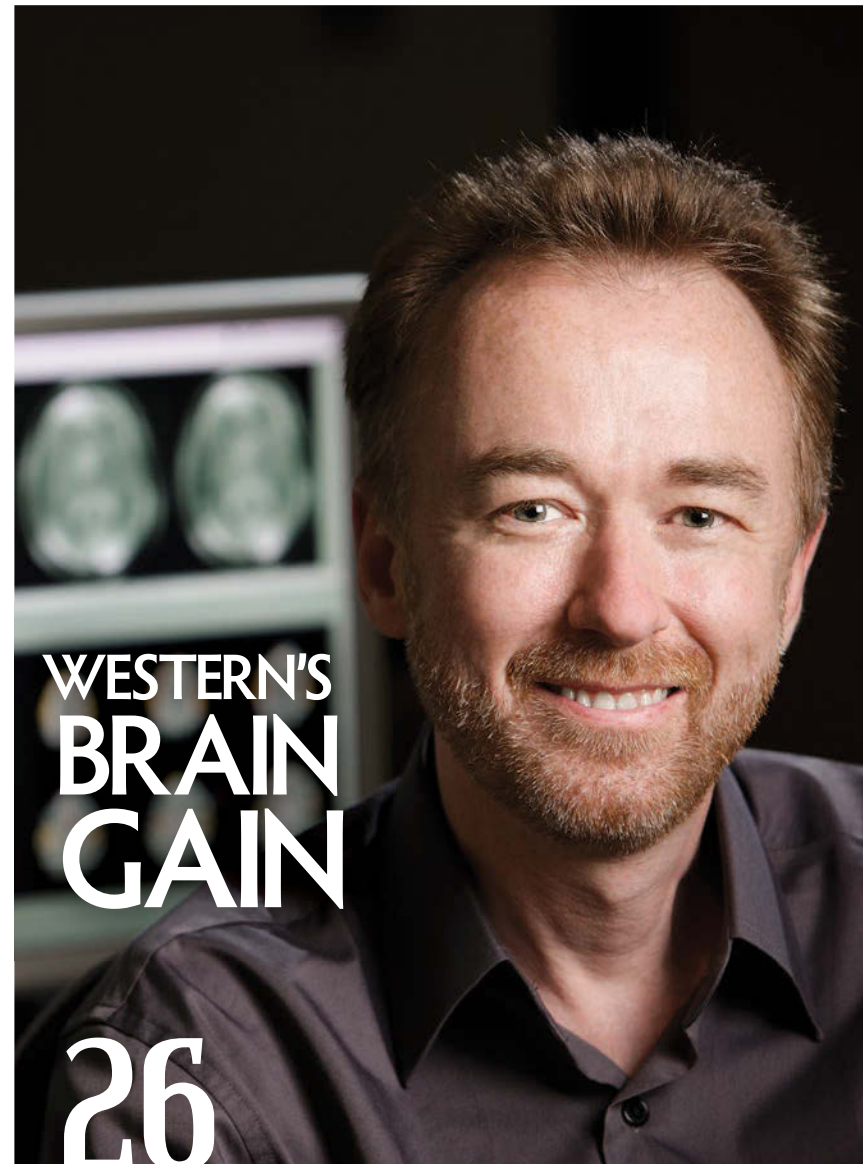
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On the cover: British neuroscientist Adrien Owen will be landing soon at Western. See related story on page 26. (Photo by Shawn Simpson)

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

WITH DAVID SCOTT

FINDING THE STORY WORTH RETELLING

We are a country of immigrants. When some of our ancestors arrived in an intimidating forested landscape in the 1800s, they tried to cling to and replicate whatever home country culture they could for their own comfort. The wilderness offered none. They brought with them their belief systems and definitions of what was considered civilized and uncivilized behaviour. They built churches and schools.

Sometimes communities and institutions worked, other times things went terribly wrong – like the story of the Black Donnellys near Lucan, just north of London. On the 130th anniversary of the Donnelly massacre and trial, we bring you a feature story with several Western ties, most of them being the storytellers of this university, in faculty and alumni, who have penned their own versions of this tale. As an institution with a rich library and archival system, we house many "Donnelly Family Documents." Cold pieces of aged paper like post mortems on the massacre victims, property deeds, court documents and arrest records.

Western and the Donnellys share some history together. The university was founded only two years before the murderous night near Lucan. As reason waned and anger waxed, what civilized community had formed in Biddulph Township in a few generations, was torn apart in flames, clubs and axes that February night in 1880. And we're still talking about it. We're still trying to reason.

It should be no surprise that curious intellects who have taught here and attended here continued to revisit one of Canada's most intriguing myths. Not everyone likes to turn over the stones to see what's underneath. In trying to discover the meaning of those events we learn a little more about ourselves. Tolerance, acceptance, community, trust. And

their polar opposites.

We have to tell stories. It's in our nature. For entertainment, education, history, habit, myth creation, politics, propaganda, religion and nurturing young minds. But it's not all bloodshed and violence that is worth repeating. We have grown here at Western in our 132 years from an institution offering arts and medicine to local learners, to an internationally recognized institution with leading researchers attracting students from around the world.

We have our own stories to tell. We have neuroscientist Adrian Owen coming to join us in January. Owen is emigrating from England. He will bring with him his wife Jessica Grahn who is also a neuroscientist, a team of researchers, and other things he is familiar with to the wilderness of research at Western. We have already cleared the trees, made the roads and built the structures needed.

What his research into the human brain will discover, we cannot predict. But it will be something worth talking about and sharing to generations beyond ours.

Before Owen's arrival, tens of thousands of Western alumni will descend on campus for Homecoming 2010. Homecoming is all about stories and reconnecting with people.

We always like to hear your stories – whether it's how you're spending your career or retirement, to what you think of Western's direction or how you feel about your alumni magazine and the stories we share with you. Write, call, e-mail and keep the story going.

DAVID SCOTT dscott24@uwo.ca

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ALUMNUS SPEARHEADED VANCOUVER BID

(Re: *Veni, Vidi, Vici, Spring '10*)

Just read with great interest your article regarding alumni who were involved with the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. As an FYI you should know that probably the single most influential person in winter sport and the man responsible for spearheading the bid for Vancouver to get the Games is a UWO alumnus.

Robert Storey, BA'65, went on to have a successful career as a bobsledder and as an entrepreneur. Robert has been President of the International Bobsleigh Federation (FIBT) since 1994 and well respected in the sports world.

On a personal note I was responsible for what became the absolute "place to be" at the Games: Hockey House. The concept was the brainchild of my company's based on my involvement and attendance at eight Olympic Games and a long history of involvement in hospitality, sports and entertainment. Our venue was not only the home to the hockey world but was the best spot in Canada to celebrate our country's success in all sports.

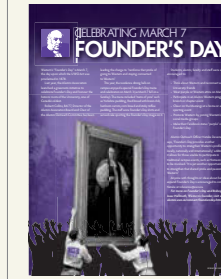
As a side note I had the honour of carrying the Olympic Torch in Windsor on December 22.

JORDAN BITOVE, BA'87 (POLITICAL SCIENCE),
MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW HISTORICAL CONTEXT

(Re: *Celebrating March 7 – Founder's Day, Spring '10*)

Further to the request in the Alumni Gazette about suggestions for Founder's Day, I wish to say first that this is an excellent idea and should be both continued and extended.



Of course, it does reinforce our connection to Western. But I believe it strikes other equally important notes.

Today's students have never been more in need of historical context, the context that is essential in these tumultuous times. The students have a hunger for this historical background. As a professor of economics, I see this in my own classroom.

Moreover, we can use the Founder's theme to highlight other founding accomplishments of Western's alumni and faculty - founders of companies, charities, public policy initiatives and so on.

Now more than ever, we need to nurture the "founding mentality" in our students. In today's environment, Western's grads need to rise to higher challenges and none are higher than to found a business, institution or major initiative.

This could be a very robust theme and would relate to other elements of Western's present direction.

LARRY SMITH, DIPED'69 (ALTHOUSE),
ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

'SPY HOLE' USED TO CHECK ON RADIO AUDIENCE

(Re: *Best Kept Secret - Spy hole for professors?, Spring '10*)

Evidence of professors spying through the 'secret door' of Somerville House's Great Hall is not available here but I can reveal one use it served during my era as president of the UWO Broadcasting Society, long before Radio Western was a gleam in anyone's eye.

The little 'cupboard' contained a microphone linked to a P.A. system that served the Great Hall and the downstairs Somerville House cafeteria, both of which served as places for eating lunch in the primary noon breaks. During part of the 1962 to 1964 period, members of the Broadcasting Society spoke to those lunch audiences with 'public service' announcements and a promo for a half-hour program about Western that the Broadcasting Society produced and was broadcast on Sunday nights on CFPL Radio's 980 AM frequency.

After I was employed full-time by CFPL, a Radio Western concept was developed through overnight musical broadcasts on CFPL FM, which eventually aided in the founding and licensing of Radio Western. As for the 'spy hole,' I confess I opened it a few times to see if our captive audience was ready.

GORD WHITEHEAD, BA'65 (JOURNALISM)
ALUMNI PRESIDENT '76-78



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HOT YOGA OR HOT AIR?



BY BARBARA CRISP BSC'78, MD'82

I'm not really sure what compelled me to try Hot Yoga a couple of months ago. Curiosity perhaps, paired with some discontent over my exercise regimen at the time. If you've never heard of Bikram Hot Yoga, please allow me to summarize it for you; it is comprised of a series of 26 yoga postures and two breathing exercises performed over 90 minutes, led by an instructor, in a room heated to tropical levels and humidity to match. In other words, torture in a sauna. My impression was that it was practised by the young and nubile and I, being neither particularly young nor nubile, approached the whole exercise with both skepticism and trepidation.

As expected, the postures were difficult, painful and nausea-inducing. Extremely nauseating, in point of fact. I realize there is a period of acclimatization involved for this sport, particularly for someone like me who would never even sit still in a sauna for an hour and a half, much less move around in one. In spite of all this, I had a deep feeling (perhaps hypoxia-induced?) that if I could get past the nausea phase and so more completely participate in all the stretching and strengthening business, then it would be a wonderful form of physical activity for me.

Also, I'm a natural! Well, at two things anyway. One is the Savasana, or "dead body" pose. I could do this one in my sleep. The second is the part where you have to make a double chin while lying supine on the floor. No problem there. In fact, I feel that in some ways I have spent my whole life perfecting the art of making a double chin, and finally yoga has given this facet of my life true meaning. Ah, I allow myself to wonder, perhaps I have found the

real reason why I was drawn to yoga in the first place – it's all about the chin.

What every physician needs to know, though, is that performing the postures is not the most difficult thing about Bikram Hot Yoga. As I have mentioned, there is an instructor who guides each class with a running dialogue which is meant to both tell you what you're supposed to be doing and also, I believe, to distract you from the messages of pain your body is screaming at your brain. Mixed into the stuff about where your hands, feet and other body parts should be, there are always little pseudo-scientific bits about the benefits of each posture on your anatomy. For example, during one pose where one is doubled over while standing on one leg, we are cheerily told we are "massaging the ascending colon." Oh, really? Not too sure how that would be happening, and even if it is, would that actually be a good thing anyway? I seem to recall that the colon massages itself quite nicely from the inside thank you very much – a little trick we doctor types call peristalsis.

In another posture we are told that the optic nerve is being stretched. Never mind the how, again the question is... to what purpose? Do I want my optic nerves to resemble some Gumby-like cartoonish things stretched out like fraying rubber bands with a couple of eyeballs hanging on for dear life at the ends?

I suppose the yoga people think all this anatomical name-dropping lends them credibility. My all-time favourite, though, is how during a posture with extreme forward flexion of the cervical spine, we are told that this is tremendously helpful to our immune system due to the stimulation of the thyroid, parathyroid and pituitary glands at the base of our neck. Oh boy. This Bikram fellow must

be pretty impressive, to be able to artfully rearrange anatomical structures like that! The first time I heard this one, I nearly broke out laughing. This would not, let me assure you, be seen as a good thing. There is absolutely no talking allowed in the room except for the instructor, and I'm quite certain belly laughter would be seen as heretic. So, you see, the hardest thing about the classes is not in actuality the postures themselves, but rather the stress of selectively blocking the teacher-babble that forms their soundtrack.

Here's another thing I found curious; on one occasion our group was informed that each time you participate in a hot yoga class, you add 16 days to your life. How precise! Not 15 or 17, but 16. How on Earth would it be possible to measure such a thing? Of course it is impossible to prove or disprove such a statement, but assuming it might be true, then does this mean that after completing a yoga session I've barred the grim reaper from the door for a couple of weeks or so? Kind of a cosmic "Get out of jail free" card. Extrapolating further, could one then live forever? All this existential thinking is giving me a headache. Or maybe it's just dehydration.

I have grappled with the idea of educating the instructors about the error of their ways, but so far have not done so. By the end of class I'm just too tired for confrontation, and in my experience small-'z' zealots such as these folks do not respond kindly to correction from someone as mainstream as myself. And there might be consequences. So for now I am content to attend class knowing that I have, in spite of what you have just read, seen tremendous improvements health-wise, and that no one ever died from stifling a guffaw. Maybe that, for me at least, should be the 27th posture. ■

Western

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE AND POSTDOCTORAL STUDIES



"My graduate education at Western was about more than getting a degree. It taught me to think analytically and has opened doors that I never imagined existed."

Muhammad Kamran Khan,
MEng '05
Geotechnical Engineering

Project Soils Engineer,
Ontario Ministry of
Transportation (MTO)

For Muhammad Kamran Khan 'the rubber hit the road,' when he began his career with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation. Armed with a MEng in Geotechnical Engineering, Khan is a soils engineer overseeing 5,000 KM of highways. His latest project? The Detroit River International Crossing where he's using his Western education to build bridges that join countries and connect economies.

To see where a Western graduate degree can take you, visit: GRAD.UWO.CA

The University of Western Ontario



ANDRÉ ALEXIS IS WESTERN'S WRITER IN RESIDENCE

The Department of English's James A. and Marjorie Spenceley/Canada Council Writer in Residence for 2010-11 is author André Alexis. Alexis has published two novels (*Childhood*, 1995; *Asylum*, 2008), a collection of short fiction (*Despair and Other Stories*, 1994), a children's novel (*Ingrid and the Wolf*, 2005), a play (*Lambton, Kent*, 1999) and a number of journalistic pieces for *The Globe and Mail*, the *New York Times Book Review*, the *Village Voice*, the *Toronto Star*, the *National Post*, *This, Shift* and, most recently, *The Walrus*.

He has served as Playwright in Residence at the Canadian Stage Co., and three of his plays and three of his libretti have been performed. He has recently premiered a play with Tarragon Theatre (*Decalogue 2*) and has a book of essays (*Beauty and Sadness*) coming out this Fall.

Alexis' collection of short fiction was nominated for the Commonwealth Prize, and *Childhood* won both the Chapters/Books in Canada First Novel Award and the Trillium Award (shared with Alice Munro) and was shortlisted for the Roger's Communication Prize. *Ingrid and the Wolf* was nominated for the Governor-General's Award for Children's Literature. Alexis' work has been widely anthologized and translated.

Alexis has also produced and hosted radio shows for CBC Radio, including the popular *Skylarkin'*. He is an Editor at Large with *This* magazine. He also brings to the residency his experiences of teaching writing at the University of Guelph, the University of Toronto, and the Banff Centre for the Arts. While he currently resides in Toronto, he has local connections: he attended a London secondary school and spent time as a child in Petrolia, Ontario (west of London); the region features in his writing.

In his capacity as Writer in Residence, Andre will hold weekly office hours, meet with student writers one-on-one to discuss their work, give readings at Western and in the local community, and make appearances in classrooms -- in addition to working on his own writing projects.

NEW PROVOST, VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC) 'SEASONED LEADER'

A Canadian expert in sport performance and authority on Ontario graduate programs is the new Provost and Vice-President (Academic) at The University of Western Ontario.

Janice Deakin, formerly Associate Vice-Principal (Academic) and Dean of Graduate Studies at Queen's University, assumed Western's top academic position for a five-year term beginning August 1.

Western President Amit Chakma describes Deakin as "a high-energy, seasoned, academic leader."

"Her track record shows her to be a strategic thinker and an extremely capable leader who can build effective teams and networks."

Deakin says Western held a strong draw for her. She was impressed with the commitment to student accomplishment inside and outside the classroom.

"I look forward to a process of listening to and learning about the people, the programs, the opportunities and the challenges that face Western as a community of students, faculty, staff and alumni," says Deakin.

Deakin holds three undergraduate degrees from Queen's - education, psychology and physical education. She earned a Master of Science degree at McMaster University and a doctorate in kinesiology at the University of Waterloo.

Deakin will succeed Fred Longstaffe who has served as Provost and Vice-President (Academic) since 2005.

The Provost portfolio includes academic units, Faculty Relations, the Office of the Registrar, student recruitment, Institutional Planning & Budgeting, the university library system, and Information Technology Services.

As for what lies ahead, Deakin says her first step will be to watch and listen.

"It will in fact be the people



New Provost, VP Janice Deakin
(Photo by Heather Travis)

of Western who collectively set the course for the successes of the future. I look forward with great enthusiasm to becoming part of the Western community."

PRINCIPAL LUMPKIN TO LEAVE HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Ramona Lumpkin, Principal of Huron University College, will be leaving September 30 to assume the appointment of President and Vice-Chancellor of Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax.

Since July of 2001, Dr. Lumpkin has served as Principal of Huron, an undergraduate liberal arts institution affiliated with The University of Western Ontario, where she is the first woman leader in the College's 147-year history.

"The Huron community is profoundly grateful for the strong leadership provided by Dr. Ramona Lumpkin," said John Leitch. "She

has served the College well and with great dedication. I wish her equal success in her new role at Mount Saint Vincent University."

Huron has benefitted tremendously under Dr. Lumpkin's vision and excellent stewardship.

Since her appointment,

student enrolment has increased by 40 per cent and now stands at almost 1,300 students. Unlike other universities, who in recent years have experienced staff layoffs and cutbacks, Huron has been able to maintain its full staff complement and has achieved a balanced budget for the past eight years. In the 2009 February *Maclean's* magazine, Huron placed first in Canada in two categories – supportive campus environment and overall educational experience – well above the North American NSSE benchmark. Huron's "Touch the Future" Capital Campaign, is on track for completion in 2011, already having raised over \$10 million of its \$12.5 million goal.

PURPLE BIKES TURN CAMPUS GREEN

Alison Fine wanted to fix the inner tube on her bicycle, but there was one problem. The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry student couldn't find the bike co-op office at Western. That's because there wasn't one - until now.

Welcome to Purple Bikes, where students, staff, faculty and the greater London community will get access to everything they need to know about cycling – from repairs to temporary use of a bike.

"It's meant to be a grassroots kind of program," says Fine, co-chair of the Purple Bikes program with staff member Diane Burns. "There's the fun aspect, the health aspect, and it's a great way for students to connect with the community, go to the parks and head downtown instead of being stuck on campus."

A former McMaster University student, Fine was all too familiar with the idea of a bicycle program. MACycle operates on a \$10,000 annual budget, providing a bicycle support service to students and local Hamilton residents.

Almost half of Canada's universities have bicycle programs, including the University of British Columbia, University of Ottawa, University of Toronto, University of Waterloo and Guelph University. Fine felt it was time for Western to saddle up.

The Purple Bikes program - an offshoot of



Schulich students Alison Fine, co-chair of the Purple Bikes program, and Mimmi Thompson, who will co-chair the program in the coming school year, want to make it easier to use two wheels.
(Photo by Paul Mayne)

EnviroWestern - consists of two components. The ride-share program, which is geared towards students, will offer free rental for 48 hours. The only cost will be a \$5 annual membership fee. Depending on the number of bicycles available, students can continue to rent bicycles throughout the year.

The co-op branch of the program will offer low-cost repairs to the campus and London community by providing parts to members at cost and assistance in repairing their bikes. Student volunteers will be trained by mechanics to guide members in repairing their own bikes or can charge (\$30 an hour) to make the repair.

"The co-op is open to everyone in the community to encourage people to start taking bikes and stop taking cars," says Fine. A campus-wide survey of students and staff indicated more than 90 per cent of respondents were interested in beginning to bicycle or currently bicycle and would be supportive of a Purple Bikes program.

The test program started in early May from Elgin Hall. Purple Bikes has 12 bikes in its fleet - painted purple, of course. With the donation/acquisition of additional bikes the program will expand to Saugeen-Maitland, Perth Hall and University Community Centre (UCC) in

September. To assist the Purple Bikes program, contact the group by visiting their office in the UCC (Room 315C), e-mail purplebikes.london@gmail.com or search for 'purple bikes' on Facebook.

HEGELE PART OF WORLDWIDE STUDY

Roberts Research Institute scientist and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry professor Robert Hegele participated recently in a worldwide study involving the genetic testing of more than 100,000 people has identified the genes that control lipid levels, in particular LDL (bad cholesterol), HDL (good cholesterol) and triglycerides.

It found 95 genes associated with lipid levels, including 59 identified for the first time. The study by the Global Lipids Genetics Consortium, made up of more than 200 researchers worldwide and led by Sekar Kathiresan of Harvard Medical School is published in the August 2010 issue of *Nature Genetics* (www.nature.com). ■

André Alexis

(Photo by Julie Enfield)

RECOGNITION THAT STICKS

DIGITAL BOOKPLATES A FIRST FOR CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES

BY DAVID SCOTT

Paper and paste is now 'old school' when it comes to giving a gift to Western Libraries. The traditional method of gift recognition was to physically paste a bookplate in the opening page of a designated book, something that was labour-intensive, against the philosophy of not defacing publications and offered no guarantee the donor's name would stick around the pages forever.

Enter the digital age and the brainchild of Sherry Wells-Foster, Alumni and Development Officer, and Karen Marshall, Assistant University Librarian (Information Resources and Access), resulting from investigation into best practices at American universities like Duke, Harvard and University of Las Vegas. The Digital Bookplate Program is almost one year old now at Western and takes an idea used specifically south of the border for recognition of endowed gifts only -- to a pragmatic way to raise funds and recognize donors who give gifts of \$150 and more to Western Libraries.

The idea of a digital bookplate program to use as a fundraising tool is a first for Canadian universities, and possibly a first for North America. "We think we're the pioneers in this type of usage," says Wells-Foster.

"The older program where you got a little piece of paper glued in the front of a book was fine for its day and age," says Marshall. But the digital version is a better option "because it's much more public, the donor themselves can see the bookplate (online), the books they've purchased for us or the books they've donated to us. It's a much more effective way to honour our donors. And it's visible around the world."

When a library user searches the online catalogue, they are alerted to the fact that a book is dedicated and donated before they ever sign it out. Aside from a link in the electronic record of the book, there is a special page that lists all digital bookplates, titles and



Christena McKillop, Director, Education Library, presents outgoing Dean of Education Julia O'Sullivan with a digital bookplate in her honour.

donors. Traffic to the Western Libraries website in the last academic year was more than 3.7 million visits, which is another reason why the chances are greater that library patrons will notice a donor's gift.

"It's visible on Western Libraries' homepage, which links right over to the Digital Bookplate homepage. So right through our main virtual gate, people have access. It's also available through the library campaign landing page and through Alumni Western's library page," says Wells-Foster.

The recognition tool is multipurpose to celebrate retirements, goals achieved, personal milestones, and has already gained traction within the campus community. One of the first public bookplate presentations was to outgoing Dean of Education Julia O'Sullivan, presented to her by Christena McKillop, Director of the Education Library. "This is a wonderful tribute to my time at Western and I am so grateful," said O'Sullivan about the gift.

During this presentation, a group of PhD students were inspired to have a digital bookplate designated for their mentor. "Wendy Crocker and a group of Faculty of Education PhD students call themselves 'Hayden's Scholars' because they work with Dr.

Rachel Hayden. They've pooled their resources. They're supporting (library) collections through one of our priority projects, and they're honouring Dr. Hayden with a bookplate. They're so excited," says Wells-Foster.

"A bookplate makes a wonderful gift. It is a permanent tribute that doesn't go out of style," says McKillop.

University Librarian Joyce Garnett also recently honoured all members of Western Libraries' staff for "ongoing commitment to excellence" with a digital bookplate. When asked why she was moved to honour staff in this manner, Garnett explained: "I feel it is important to recognize the fact that our staff educate, inspire and motivate students and other patrons on a daily basis. They go above and beyond what is required of them to meet the needs of our users."

There are plans to also offer the digital bookplate program to members of the community outside of Western so that others can recognize members of their organization with this gift.

Another appeal to a digital bookplate as a donation is that it is sustainable. "It doesn't end up in a landfill. It's a green way to honour someone, foregoing the watches and the clocks. It's a permanent way to honour someone special in our lives," says Wells-Foster. She has been invited to speak this fall on October 7 at the Leaders' Forum at Western. "The organizers thought there was a real link between Western's leaders and staff honouring each other, paying tribute to each other in a sustainable way through the bookplates."

Because of outside donors, students can now see clearly that their knowledge base, the catalogue, the information that's in libraries, isn't just supported by the university, it's also supported by alumni, colleagues, by staff, says Marshall.

Donations to one of Western Libraries' four priority projects can be made through an online pledge form available on Western Libraries Digital Bookplate Homepage at www.lib.uwo.ca/catalogue/bookplates or directly at www.westernconnect.ca/libraries.

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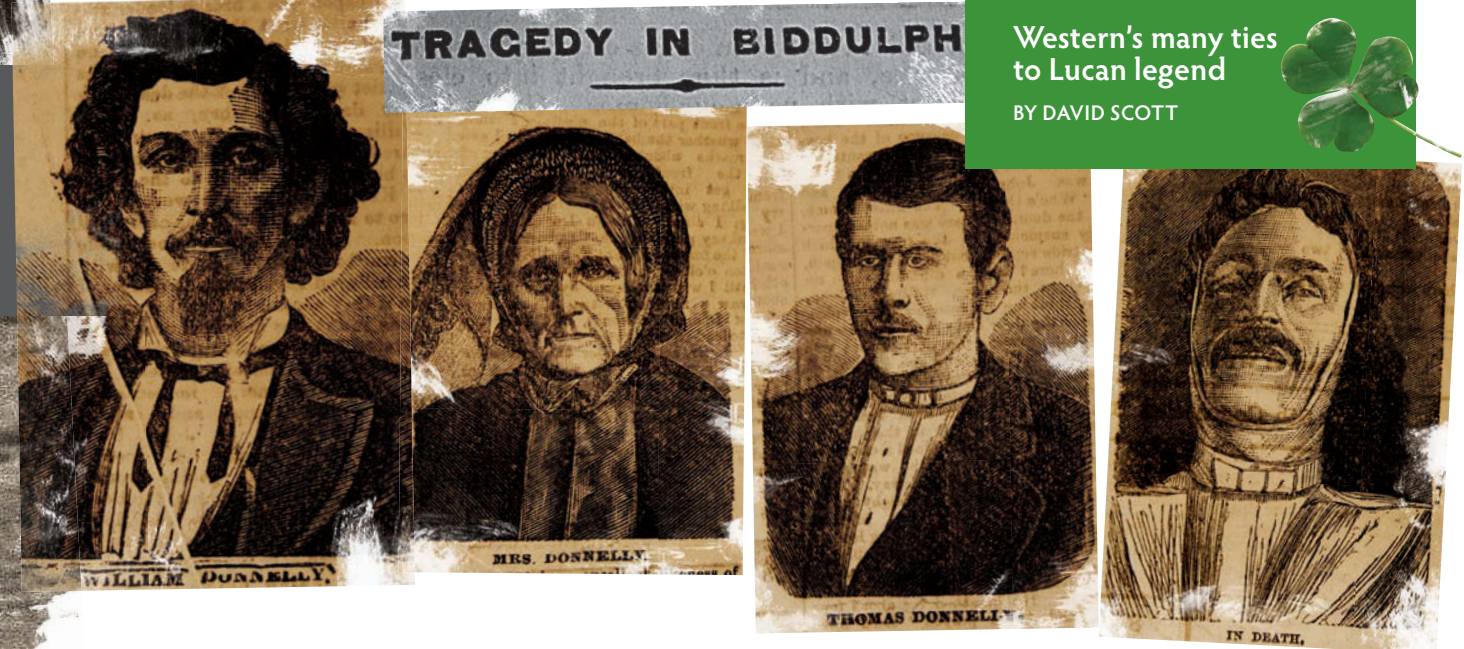


Stagecoach scene from Blyth Festival's 2001 production of *The Outdoor Donnellys*. Pictured here is driver Dale Wanless, actor Eric Coates playing William Donnelly and Kelly McIntosh playing Maggie Thompson. The stagecoach used in *The Outdoor Donnellys* is now on display at the Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum on Main Street, Lucan. (Photo by Derek Ruttan, Sun Media)

DONNELLY MYTH ENDURES TEST OF TIME

130 YEARS SINCE FAMILY MASSACRE

TRAGEDY IN BIDDULPH



Western's many ties to Lucan legend
BY DAVID SCOTT

What makes a story so enduring it's retold more than 100 years after its main characters have perished?

There are not many Canadian tales of mythic qualities that have stood the test of time better than the Black Donnellys of Lucan and Biddulph Township. And there are as many Western connections to the historical tale of murder, mayhem and vengeance as there are versions of the story that culminated on a February night in 1880 at a log cabin near Lucan when an armed group of local vigilantes murdered five members of the Donnelly family and set fire to their home. There are enough dramatic elements in the story for endless seasons of theatre.

Once taboo to speak of the Donnellys, the village of Lucan is now embracing its colourful ancestors with a new Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum that opened earlier this year, front and centre on Main Street with a vast collection of memorabilia on loan from Hamilton lawyer and author Ray Fazakas - *The Donnelly Album* (1995) & *In Search of the Donnellys* (2001).

"A few years ago the annual visitor total was about 1,000 people. And we had over 1,200 people through in May," says curator Laura Garner. "Local museums are saying 'oh my gosh, are you kidding?'" Even last year the entire year was about 4,000 people."

The museum had been operating for a few years in a building on the same block as the new location. Attendance shot up after the Lucan Area Heritage society funded a new museum to house the Fazakas collection that not only highlights the Donnellys but also history of the Biddulph-Lucan area.

Garner went out into the Lucan community and interviewed seniors from each of the long-standing families - with both Donnelly and vigilante ties - and made recordings of the meetings. "That encouraged many of them to donate more items, so we have more of a collection to work with."

One interview was with an elder member of the Hodgins family, who have always lived on Concession 5, Biddulph Township (Concessions 1 to 5 were Protestant and Concessions 6 to 10 were Catholic. Concession 6 being the Roman Line where the Donnellys lived).

"He talks about how his grandfather was out working the field when Johnny O'Connor (the lone survivor who hid under a bed in the Donnelly log cabin)

↑ Headline from February 6, 1880 issue of *The Weekly Globe & Canada Farmer*. And sketches of four members of the Donnelly family from the February 13, 1880 issue of the *Western Advertiser & Weekly Liberal* newspaper. Left to right: William, Johannah, Thomas and John. Newspapers from The J.J. Talman Regional Collection, The University of Western Ontario Archives. (Photos by Heather Travis)

came running across the day after the massacre and you can see how that would happen. You look out their kitchen window and sure enough you can see the Donnelly homestead and picture Johnny O'Connor tearing across the field saying the Donnellys had been killed. It was a really great, awesome opportunity to get those kind of stories."

Garner believes the Donnelly story doesn't only have a place in the past but with new generations. "I think it's a great story we can teach a lot of the kids about. Because immigration happens all of the time...it's the same issue Muslims face - the persecution. How does a group of 30 decide to kill an entire family? They can't all be bad people. You don't really have the answers because nothing was resolved in court. No one was found guilty, so it keeps getting people interested"

Somehow this enduring tale has made its way on to some school curriculums. "Some high schools study it - not in Lucan that's for sure. Some teachers just do it as the Black Donnellys story and read it as a novel. And some do it where they get their students to read Thomas Kelly (*The Black Donnellys*, 1954 & *Vengeance*)



This 1860 log cabin on the museum property is from the same era as the original Donnelly Homestead and has almost the same floor plan. It was found in Bruce Township, moved to Lucan and refurbished to replicate the Donnelly home. (Photo by David Scott)

of the *Black Donnellys*, 1962) and then read something more factual and compare it – and show how history can be told in two different ways. Plus it's got just the right amount of violence that kids like," says Garner.

Playwright Paul Thompson, BA'63 (Huron), DLitt'10, found the intrigue he needed in the Donnelly story as a student at Western – enough so to create two plays on the legendary Lucan family: *Them Donnellys* in 1974 at Theatre Passe Muraille and *The Outdoor Donnellys* in 2001, 2002 & 2004 at the Blyth Festival. That production involved the entire community – with live horses and stagecoaches, a blacksmith's shop and an outdoor stage with nature as the backdrop.

"My first literary connection with Donnellys was out of *Alphabet* (Magazine) that James Reaney (English professor, playwright and author) published when I was at Western that did a review of the most recent Orlo Miller book (*The Donnellys Must Die*, 1962) as I remember it," says Thompson.

Following the productions of *The Farm Show* and *1837* by Theatre Passe Muraille in the early 1970s, Thompson felt there was an appetite and audience for theatre portraying local Canadian culture.

The Donnellys were on the minds of more than one writer with a Western connection during that era. Reaney produced the first of his *Donnelly Trilogy* of plays in 1973 with *Sticks & Stones*. It was followed up in the next few years with *The St. Nicholas Hotel* (1974) and *Handcuffs* (1975).

Thompson's *Them Donnellys* hit the boards in 1974 and was a lively show with music throughout. "We were trying to do for

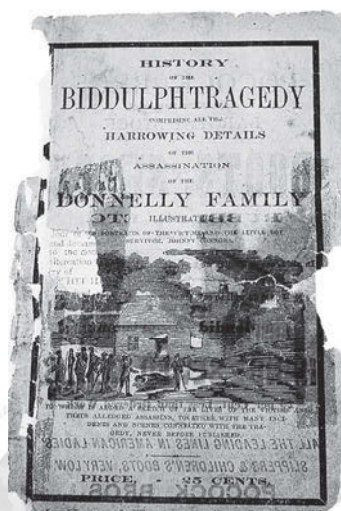
theatre what Stompin' Tom was doing for the music culture. We wrote some original songs for it, had a great singer singing in it. We focused on the fiddle music that drove people crazy," says Thompson.

After developing his Donnelly plays for many years, Reaney reconnected with Western grad Keith Turnbull, BA'65, who had co-directed the premiere of Reaney's *The Sun and the Moon* for London's Campus Players in 1965. Turnbull directed experimental works for the Second Stage of the Manitoba Theatre Centre (MTC) from 1968-70, and was Artistic Director (AD) of MTP in 1971-72. In 1973 he was AD of Neptune Theatre's Second Stage.

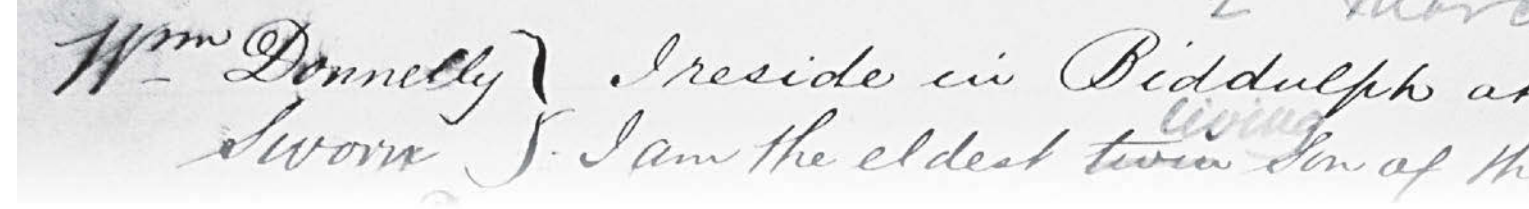
But according to the Canadian Theatre Encyclopedia his theatre career is most notable for the development of Reaney's three-part epic docudrama, *The Donnellys*. His company, inexplicably named NDWT, toured *The Donnellys* across Canada in 1975. The trilogy was revived at the Banff Centre for the Arts in 1996-97.

"There was a bit of theatre mafia gang out of Western in the early 1960s. Keith Turnbull, BA'65; Martin Kinch, BA'66; Bill Webster, BA'69 (Huron, co-founder of Souleppper Theatre) and David Fox, BA'63, who went off to teach for

"...Most of the people in that part of the world live in an isolated house where somebody could come in and do them in."



→ Souvenir pamphlet published by Western Advertiser & Weekly Liberal, complete with illustrations, for 25 cents. The University of Western Ontario Archives. (Photo by Heather Travis)



about 10 years before I corralled into the *Farm Show* in 1972," recalls Thompson.

Although they were competitors in a sense at the time with their theatre companies, Thompson was very much interested in the Reaney take on the Donnellys and went to see all three of his plays.

"My favourite was *Handcuffs* (Part III) – I thought that's really where they embraced the potential of the violence with the theatricality they were dealing with. When they acted out the business of Michael's death I thought that was really powerful, very menacing."

While the Thomas Kelly books vilified the Donnellys, Thompson felt that Orlo Miller's book in response kind of 'angelfied' them.

"I thought the audience we were dealing with would be more interested in a less-angelic version... For me, the theory of why Donnellys has remained important is it's one of the myths, legends, actual historical incidents that remind us that we have an inner violence that was very useful externalized when we were clearing land. But not so useful when we started setting up civilization."

It's that sense of the landscape that new immigrants faced, as a physical challenge to overcome and tame, that Thompson revisited the story again with *The Outdoor Donnellys* in Blyth.

"I wanted another shot at the ode to the landscape because we'd come up with the idea of the town being the vehicle through which we told the story. The landscape got to play it in a really interesting way. When we did *The Outdoor Donnellys* the trees looked like they had been silent witnesses to the whole thing. The real horses, carriages, the real fire onstage, just for me allowed us to bring, to use in powerful theatrical ways, the kind of touchstones to life out there."

From the land, Thompson believes is where the myth of the Donnellys springs and the violence originates.

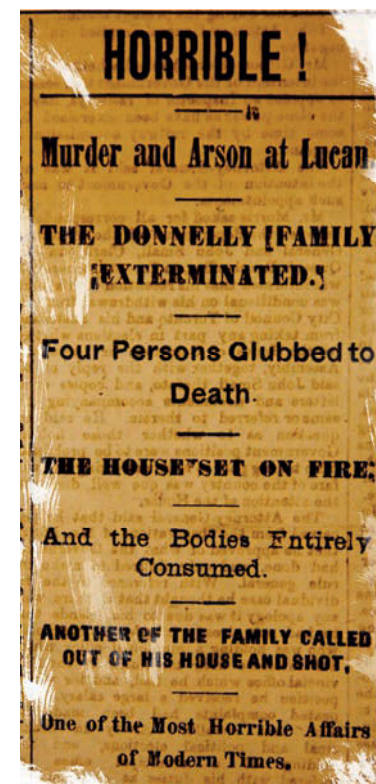
"The myth has to do with the vulnerability of newcomers in a fairly absent landscape if you'd like. So there's a kind of natural frisson (def. A moment of intense excitement; a shudder) when you talk about the Donnellys.

The Outdoor Donnellys is narrated by the character of William Port. The framework of the

narration draws in the audience to offer parallels to modern existence.

"One of my favourite parts of *Outdoor Donnellys* was at the end when the narrator says 'well, most of the people around here still don't necessarily take the keys out of the car and lock the back door.' It's still at the heart of our psyche that even if we do take in the car keys and do lock the door, we're still pretty vulnerable out there. This way of living is built upon a certain amount of trust and co-operation with neighbours. Because most of the people in that part of the world live in an isolated house where somebody could come in and do them in."

Port's actual diary is one of many pieces in The University of Western Ontario Archives. Many of the Donnelly Family Papers are housed at the J.J. Talman Regional Collection including "Post Mortem Reports on the Bodies of James, Julia (Johannah), Thomas, John and Bridget Donnelly, February 5, 1880."



"The best of the documents in a mile by my opinion is William Port's diary. When we did the research for *Outdoor Donnellys* you could still touch that with your hands, breathe the dust off it. And see the parts people had cut out because they wanted to protect their relatives," says Thompson.

Someone who spent months, maybe years reading through original paperwork on the Lucan legend was the late James Reaney.

The English professor emeritus intellectually digested every existing Donnelly document available. He pored through hundreds of pages of documents that Anglican minister and author Orlo Miller had compiled during his book research. Reaney then took it upon himself to read every word of every document

that was housed in Western Archives regarding the Donnelly family of Lucan and Biddulph. The result was an amazing breadth of publications and drama that he would share with readers and audiences in the 1970s through to the new millennium culminating with *The Donnelly Documents: An Ontario Vendetta* published by The Champlain Society in 2004.

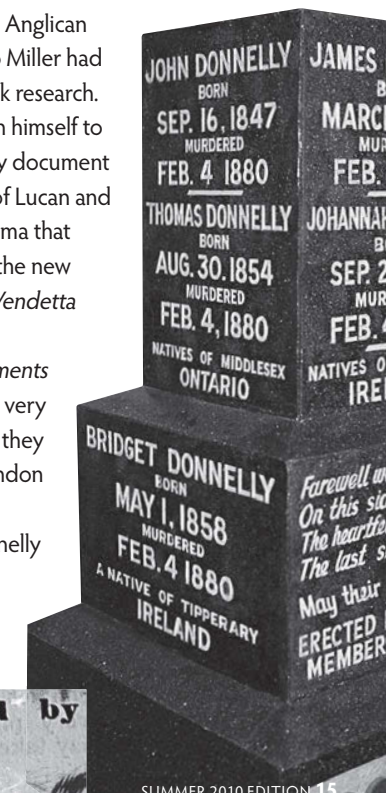
"I sense in the plays there's one kind of presentation; in the *Documents* there is certainly another kind. And I can hear Dad, the footnotes are very much in Dad's voice where he'll correct something or say 'why didn't they ask this' or 'ironic that...' and it's as if he's right there," says his son, London journalist James Reaney Jr.

London area alumni weren't quite finished offering up other Donnelly perspectives for audiences. Sure the Donnellys had their bad side. They were fiercely competitive with their stagecoach business from Lucan to London. Did they really cut the tongues out of

↑ William Donnelly's witness statement following the massacre. The University of Western Ontario Archives. (Photo by Heather Travis)

← Headline from February 6, 1880 issue of The Weekly Globe & Canada Farmer. The University of Western Ontario Archives. (Photo by Heather Travis)

↓ Replica Donnelly family tombstone on display at Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum built by the CBC props department for a TV documentary. (Photo by David Scott)



Five Persons Murdered by Masked Men

The House Fired and the Re-mains Consumed.

competitors' horses? Could it be that kind of hearsay culminated into driving vigilantes into a murderous rage?

SEVERAL ARRESTS MADE.

The outcome of the massacre was really anti-climatic. No one was found guilty in the ensuing trial held in a London courtroom. That's where the late Chris Doty, BA'89 (English, Political Science), MA'91 (Journalism), stepped in with a great vision to recapture not only the evidence presented at the time but took his theatrical creation *The Donnelly Trial* a step further by inviting some audience members to be actual jury members, to render a verdict to audiences each night and finally to stage the play in the original courtroom where the vigilantes were tried in 1880. Doty premiered *Trial* in 2005, the 125th anniversary of the massacre and the trial, to great success and sell-out crowds.

"I think I was in the jury (for one production). It demonstrated it was a powerful work and beautifully organized and beautifully presented. It demonstrated the power of the Donnelly story. I was pleased that James Carroll, the weasel murderer, was found guilty when I was there," says Reaney Jr. An overwhelming majority of the productions of *The Donnelly Trial* ended in a guilty verdict for the vigilantes from the modern day jurors.

Doty's Donnelly creation "meant a lot to Dad," says Reaney Jr. "It speaks to Chris' brilliance and one of the aspects of him that we continue to miss."

Sadly, Doty took his own life in February 2006. His death was a great loss to the London arts community. Later that year in June, *The Donnelly Trial* was reprised by Grant Doty, BA'95 (Political Science), Chris' younger brother, and director Jeff Culbert, BSc'78 (Physics), BEd'79, MA'86 (Philosophy), originally from Lucan, at the Old Middlesex County courthouse in memory of Chris Doty.

"The courthouse was going to be the setting (for Chris). There was no other way you could do it. The only time he didn't do it that way he did two shows before the *Trial* itself in Lucan. He kind of gave back to the Lucan community by doing it inside the Lucan Community

Centre...and all the money went to the heritage society," says Grant.

But the essence of the *Trial* was to transport audiences back in time, to relive in the same venue with the same evidence the process of trying render a verdict on the Donnelly massacre.

"You're trying to capture the emotion of what took place. Even when you sat in the audience and they read the verdict – there was reaction from the cast – but even the people in the audience reacted to it...people gasped. That's what he (Chris) wanted."



The Donnelly Family

James Donnelly - patriarch (1816-1880)

Johannah Donnelly - (née Magee, or MacGee) his wife, and mother of all the children (1823-1880)

James Donnelly Jr. - son, (1842-1877)

William Donnelly - son, born with a clubfoot (1845-1897)

John Donnelly - son, the first child born in Canada (1847-1880)

Patrick Donnelly - son (1849-1929)

Michael Donnelly - son (1850-1879)

Robert Donnelly - son (1853-1911)

Thomas Donnelly - youngest son (1854-1880)

Jenny (Jane) Donnelly - the last child, and the only daughter (1857-1917)

Bridget Donnelly - Patriarch James' niece from Ireland (1858-1880)

(Those marked 1880 were killed on February 4.)

Grant said his brother had a vision that because the *Donnelly Trial* did so well in London, he wanted to make it a production that he could do almost every year, like an *Anne of Green Gables* – where visitors would come on tours of London and actually see the Donnelly Trial always being reenacted.

Grant and Culbert have talked

Pictured Below: Woodcut, sketches of three Donnelly brothers: Bob, Will, and Patrick, courtesy of the Lucan Area Heritage & Donnelly Museum.

about remounting the play again in the future. "I think of Chris as an historian with all his research, but all his stories centre around a figure or a happening that the public rallied against. Or had a lot of reaction to. He said in your hometown there are always events going on around you."

One of those events is The Lost Souls Stroll that happens every October and was created by Chris Doty.

"People can walk through London and there are stories about people who died in these certain ways. You say 'these things happened in London?' These are stories that had national significance. Chris brought history to life. Everyone said that: 'He brought history to life in London,'" says Grant.

Another Western alumnus, Jason Rip, BA'93 (English/Drama), BEd'94, did his own version of Doty's Lost Souls Stroll, called the Odd Souls Stroll, at a recent London Fringe Festival. Delving into Doty's repertoire must have stirred some interest in the Donnellys too, because the latest offering from a Western alumnus on the Lucan legend comes this fall in the form of *The Donnelly Massacre* by Rip. He's teamed up with Fanshawe Pioneer Village to create adult-oriented entertainment with "Haunted Village Hayrides" telling the tales of the Donnellys right before Halloween, starting in mid-October. www.fanshawepioneerillage.ca

The Donnelly massacre happened 130 years ago – will people still be talking about it 200 years after it happened?

"I think it's kind of cyclical. Every second generation or so has to rediscover these things. I think somebody, sometime, probably from Western, will find that people supposedly have forgotten about it, then dig deeper and all of the sudden it will come out again," says Thompson.

Until then, maybe we should lock our doors at night... ■



Witness statements made on March 4, 1880 in the County of Middlesex in the presence of the vigilantes arrested. Headlines from February 6, 1880 issue of The Weekly Globe & Canada Farmer. The University of Western Ontario Archives. (Photos by Heather Travis)

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THEATRE THAT CHALLENGES AUDIENCES

Justin Quesnelle (Photos by Shawn Simpson)

BY ROBYN ISRAEL, MA'96

In 2007, a Western alumnus joined forces with a graduate of the National Theatre School, and an innovative London, Ontario theatre company was born.

Passionfool, the brainchild of Western alumnus Justin Quesnelle, BA'03 (Poetic and Dramatic Literature) and Eva Blahut, has revolutionized the local theatre scene, and won critical acclaim for its productions. It has earned a reputation for presenting theatre that is both intellectually and ethically challenging, leaving its audience members grappling with questions long after the actors have taken their bows.

"We believe theatre should provoke

emotion, debate and, most importantly, thought," Quesnelle said. "And we feel that theatre has the capacity to provoke like no other art form. Why? Because theatre is immediate. It unfolds in the living present, captured not by the lens of a camera or the pen of a poet, but on the mind's eye of actor and audience."

The latest Passionfool production will be staged in November, when Peter Weiss' *Marat/Sade* comes to life at The Arts Project (TAP). The play-within-a-play depicts the assassination of Jean Paul Marat, one of the intellectuals behind the French Revolution. What makes it intriguing is its staging by the Marquis de Sade, while he is incarcerated at the Charenton Asylum. The characters include a host of

inmates, from cripples to a narcoleptic. It is a bloody depiction of human suffering which asks whether true revolution comes from changing society or changing oneself.

Marat/Sade is an ambitious undertaking, with a cast of 20+ actors. It also marks the first time that Passionfool has mounted a musical. But Blahut and Quesnelle, who will direct this production, do not shy away from challenges. On the contrary, they welcome them.

"We wanted something big," Blahut said. "It's filled with wonder and joy, as well as misery and cruelty. When it was first produced in 1964 it broke a lot of ground and did a lot for modern theatre, as the line between actors and audience is blurred. I think it's going to be an exciting production."

The two thespians first met in 2005, when they were cast as husband and wife in

Fountainhead Theatre's production of *Angels in America*.

"We had a great time. We gelled quickly. We knew we had a similar sense of humour, so it was easy to be friends," Blahut recalled. "We also realized we had similar philosophies about theatre. A year later we started talking about building a theatre company together."

The partnership took root, united by their similar approaches yet strengthened by their differences. Quesnelle brings to the table the knowledge of an academic, while Blahut offers her visceral training in movement and dance.

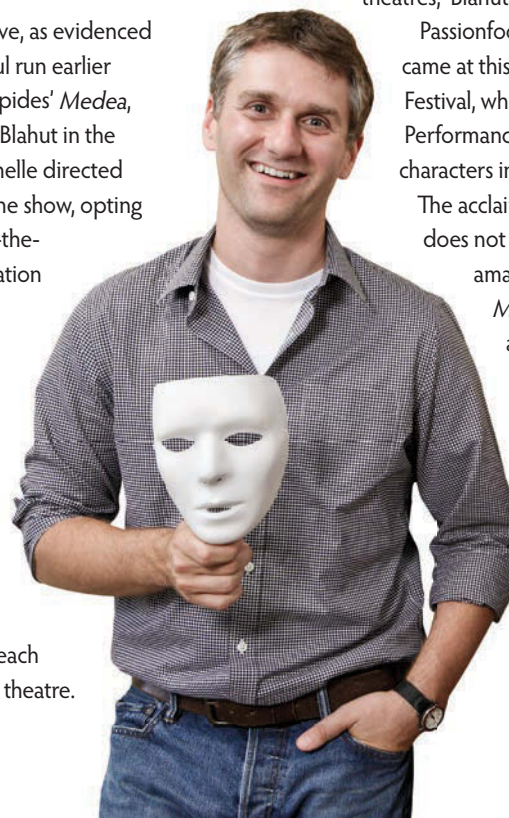
"Justin's understanding of text is outstanding," Blahut said.

They recognized that London was a tremendous breeding ground for original works, but that small, independent theatres were not producing the classical and contemporary canon, with the exception of Fountainhead and London Community Players.

Inspired by Othello, they named their company Passionfool, a nod to the way in which the lead character is 'played' by Iago. Their goals were to showcase the evolution of Western works, from the Greeks and Shakespeare all the way to contemporary playwrights like Harold Pinter, Tom Stoppard and Michel Tremblay.

"We wanted to find a way to make the classics edgy, understandable and relatable," Blahut said.

And they have, as evidenced by the successful run earlier this year of Euripides' *Medea*, which featured Blahut in the title role. Quesnelle directed and designed the show, opting for a theatre-in-the-round configuration that minimized audience numbers yet maximized the intimacy of the space. The result was a unique experience for those 44 people seated each time in the TAP theatre.



"We considered the audience an extension of the Greek chorus. They could look across the space at other audience members. The responses of the audience members were as immediate and evident as those of the actors," Blahut said.

Quesnelle, known for his minimalist storytelling style, likens his role to that of a facilitator, who both guides and challenges his actors. His skill as a director, he said, was fostered when he took a fourth-year Creative Writing intensive with Professor Emeritus Larry Garber in the Department of English at Western. "Truth be told I'm not much of a writer. But those sessions made me realize how much I enjoy text analysis and mining written works for inner truths. The aspects of directing that I enjoy the most were nurtured in those sessions."

And *Medea* set out, like most Passionfool productions, to challenge people's perceptions and leave them examining characters in shades of gray.

"On the surface, *Medea* is a child murderer, and it's a horrific idea to entertain, but what happens if we try to give her an honest life as a real human being? What motivations do we discover? These are not always happy places to go to, but the pay-off as artists, and the pay-off for the audience is more than what you would get with the fluff you see in some summer theatres," Blahut said.

Passionfool's most recent award came at this summer's London Fringe Festival, where Quesnelle won Best Solo Performance for his portrayal of 10 characters in Daniel MacIvor's *Monster*.

The acclaimed Canadian playwright does not typically grant rights to

amateur companies to perform *Monster* (a dark comedy about the nature of evil), but he made an exception for Passionfool, after Quesnelle and Blahut argued the merits of their production in a written essay.

"*Monster* is a powerful and provocative piece," Quesnelle said. "It's a play

"We believe theatre should provoke emotion, debate and, most importantly, thought."

that poses more questions than it answers and sticks with you like a scar. And it was by far the most challenging role(s) I've yet to tackle as an actor."

They were already familiar with MacIvor's work, having previously staged *Never Swim Alone*, a thriller about two men locked in a deadly competition. Like *Monster*, Blahut directed and Quesnelle starred in the piece. Their production earned a Brickenden Award for Outstanding Production, and won similar kudos at the 2009 London Fringe Festival.

That same year, Passionfool became the resident theatre company of The Arts Project, affording them a permanent home complete with office and rehearsal space. It also benefitted the local arts organization.

"Our focus is gallery, theatre and studios, so having a resident theatre company fits with what we're doing," manager Sandra DeSalvo said. "It's nice piece to the puzzle, and they're serious theatre performers."

The future continues to look bright for Passionfool, with its 14th production underway this fall. The 2011 season is yet to be determined, but as always it will strive for excellence and showcase at least one Canadian playwright.

And Quesnelle is considering a Fringe Festival tour of *Monster*. He wants to continue pushing himself creatively.

"As an actor, I'd love to do *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *Streetcar*. As a director, *Endgame* and *The Maids*."

Passionfool also offers classes and workshops for aspiring young thespians. The Academy is taught by members of Passionfool's ensemble, as well as guest teachers. The educational experience culminates in a public performance at the end of each 13-week session. ■

www.passionfool.com or www.artsproject.ca



'THAT FEELING YOU HAD'

The scenic walk up University College Hill on the Saturday of Homecoming last year retraced a path Shane Gonsalves, BSc'05, JD'09, had followed many times as a student. But this time it was different. Umbrella in hand and strolling with girlfriend Vicky Simanovski, BMOS'08, he was just a bit unsettled.

Skies were threatening but the "weather angel" had stepped in to slow the rain.

The two recent grads, Vicky from the Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies program and Shane from Science and Law, had driven in from Toronto and dropped their car near the foot of Victoria Street. Vicky offered a lighthearted jibe for parking so far from campus, but Shane wanted this extended moment in a setting they knew well to trace a picturesque walk to UC Hill.

"I was excited for the weekend," says Vicky, 25, thinking back. "This was actually the first time I had been back to Western for Homecoming so I was thinking about that. I was glad to be there, and walking up UC Hill is always powerful in itself for me. I was definitely having a bit of an emotional reaction to that."

The walk was filled with small talk and reminiscing. They were back in a comfortable space.

"She sort of knew something was up but I don't think she knew what was going to happen," says Shane, 28.

Then, as they reached the top of the hill, a surprise. Shane dropped down to one knee, stared at Vicky and asked her to marry him. He had been thinking for some time about where to propose. Would it be New York, Toronto? But what was missing with those places was a shared connection. Finally, the UC Hill at Homecoming had seemed just about right.

"I said yes and then I started crying," says Vicky.

The poignant moment was captured on the face of a woman walking behind the couple. Struck by the unfolding scene, and with tears in her own eyes, she spoke to Shane: "I saw the whole thing ... congratulations."

For more than 60 years Homecoming has been filled with snapshot moments. Countless real-life encounters – from meeting an old roommate carrying her newborn to the 100-year-old grad taking a bow at a reunion dinner -- fill the moments to overflowing with funny, touching and bittersweet emotions.

There's no easy way to describe that Homecoming feeling. But for many graduates an urge emerges in early fall to get back together, not unlike the late summer whisper: "back to school." Those with a hard, critical edge will miss the point – Homecoming is about opening the door to a time when anything was possible, when friendships were intense.

"I have seen people at the golden anniversary dinner who had not seen each other for 50 years and they are embracing," says Trista Walker who has planned 10 Homecomings. "They are 18 at that moment. They are not 68. They are standing there looking at each other and they are not seeing the wrinkles and the different attire and all the different things that happen to you when you age. They are seeing each other as 18-year-olds and it is magical."

"You are coming back to remember a time in your life that was perhaps a little simpler, to be with people who understood you, to be in a place where you have such strong memories, where you put your feet on the ground."

Not far from where Shane and Vicky made a commitment to each other, there will be a Homecoming walk this year of a different kind – equally memorable for those with the privilege of being there.

They are standing there looking at each other and they are not seeing the wrinkles and the different attire and all the different things that happen to you when you age. They are seeing each other as 18-year-olds and it is magical.

TRISTA WALKER
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
ALUMNI PLANNING & EVENTS

Marking the 60th anniversary of their graduation, perhaps 10 men in their 80s and 90s will form up near the Medical Science building. Some may be wearing uniforms issued to them as Canadian servicemen in the Second World War. As with every five-year reunion, these graduates of Meds '50 will march to the Great Hall for their reunion dinner.

These are the surviving members of the so-called Veterans class, men who entered medicine fresh from service in the Second World War. Medicine Dean G. Edward Hall had made a stunning proposal - only vets could enroll in medicine in September 1945. With an overwhelming response, another intake class was accepted in January 1946.

Merged as Meds 50, they became a powerhouse class of influencers at Western and elsewhere, a class unmatched in Western's history for spirit, generosity and love of alma mater and country.

Howie Cameron, reunion organizer and attendee at every five-year reunion except the very first, grew up in modest circumstances when a medical degree seemed out of reach. But Western and the federal government stepped in to make it possible. "I would never have gone to university without this help. I consider I have some loyalty to Western."

University homecomings have been around in North America for 100 years or more. Popular histories point to Harvard-Yale football games dating from the 1870s when alumni watched the old rivals battle on the playing field. Baylor University in Texas has been marking the tradition since 1909 and popularized the parade. The University of Missouri pegs Homecoming to 1911 when an athletic director invited alumni home for the annual game with the University of Kansas. Thousands were drawn to a weekend of speeches, dances, parade, and of course the big game. Whoever was first, its time had come. Many U.S. schools had Homecoming by the 1920s.

If Homecoming took longer to reach Canada, it wasn't for want of similar events in local towns and cities. In London, Ont., an active Old Boys Reunion beginning as early as the 1880s brought home adventurers who had flown the

nest. Many churches have a Homecoming tradition centred around a special event such as anniversary Sunday. These days, marketers have seized on the powerful emotions at play. Last year Scotland declared a national Homecoming, the largest collaborative tourism project in the nation's history, and drew 95,000 more tourists than usual.

At Western the history of Homecoming has yet to be definitively written. The modern era of Homecoming began in the 1950s with the emergence of both the Alumni Association and a university-wide Homecoming. Still, reunions pre-existed Homecoming for many years in faculties such as Medicine.

This year Western will draw about 15,000 alumni and family members to the city, making it the biggest such event in the country. Beyond the known returnees, untold numbers won't even get counted. Drawn by the standing invitation, they will rent cottages at Grand Bend or take over a small inn and combine private functions with a drop-in at campus.

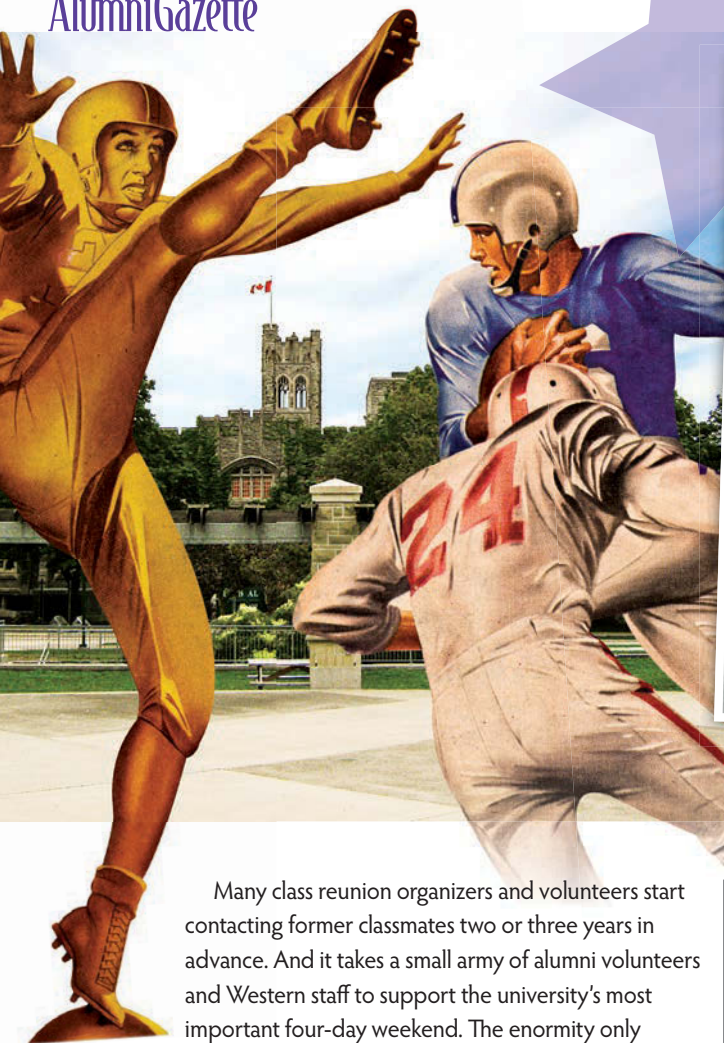
Within the local hospitality industry, Homecoming means all hands on deck for people like Vicky Kropp, proprietor of the historic Idylwyld Inn on Grand Avenue with her husband John. According to Vicky reunion groups often rebook for the next reunion five years down the road. Right now, the Idylwyld is fully booked for Homecoming three years into the future - all 23 guest rooms.

Not everyone wants that kind of Homecoming. We're not sure if Paul Wells gets officially counted. The columnist and self-described joker occupies the back pages of the *Alumni Gazette* and shreds political idiocy for a living in *Maclean's* magazine. He returned for Homecoming in 1996 and in 2006 as part of the student *Gazette* celebrations. But he steers away from many scheduled events.

"I've been back to Western more than a dozen times since I graduated in 1989, but this tends to happen at odd times, not at the regulation mob-mentality Homecoming time. Which is too bad because I love regulation mob-mentality."

"I never go to the game. I never did when I was an undergrad and would see no point making up a fake tradition now. I go to Joe Kools and the UCC and The Gazette, which is what I did back then. I talk shop with student journalists and fellow former student journalists. It always feels like coming home. Hey, now I see where they got the name."

Homecoming is a well-oiled, yearlong planning event.



Above left: Shane Gonsalves and Vicky Simanovski stand at UC Hill where Shane proposed to Vicky at Homecoming 2009.



The Meds '50 class has kept in close contact and celebrates regularly at Homecoming thanks to the efforts of alumnus Howie Cameron.



Many class reunion organizers and volunteers start contacting former classmates two or three years in advance. And it takes a small army of alumni volunteers and Western staff to support the university's most important four-day weekend. The enormity only begins to reveal itself when peeling away the layers of involvement.

Let's begin with the eight-person volunteer committee of alumni who help to shape the event. And then add the Alumni Relations staff support throughout the year. In Communications, staff help with planning, ads and brochures. As the big weekend approaches, more staff get pulled in to tie up loose ends.

Then move out across campus where at least four or five dedicated individuals in each faculty prep to answer questions, offer directions and put a personal touch to the weekend. Deans are out and on their best behaviour, as are many faculty. Then we bring in Hospitality Services, where hundreds of staff ensure every meal comes off without a hitch, every keg of coffee is hot. If there's an event, there's a ticket taker and an usher, there are field crews, caretakers, parking services staff and campus community police. But with family coming, you pull out the stops.

Still, one can't help but wonder about the future of Homecoming.

Is the tradition just a bit too quaint in a hyper-connected world where social media can bring old classmates together with Skype 365 days of the year? Are parades, reunions and award presentations just a bit old-school? Won't a Western football game be on the television, anyway? And as schools get larger, will they lose the personal touch that fosters that sense of identity?

Certainly, Homecoming is not so vibrant everywhere. Some

schools are commuter universities where the student bond seems less intense. Others are younger and still carving out identities and traditions. In some institutions, Homecoming has been an on-again, off-again affair. In others, the omnibus Western approach actually comes in two doses – a reunion when alumni can stay in student residences, tour labs and speak with deans, and a fall one-day event with football as the centrepiece.

So could Walker imagine a Western without Homecoming?

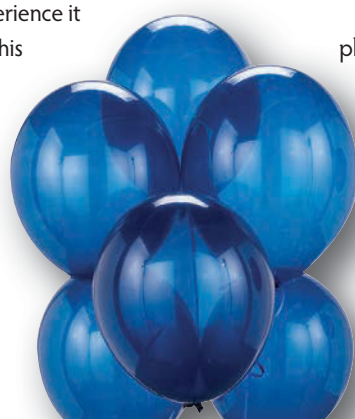
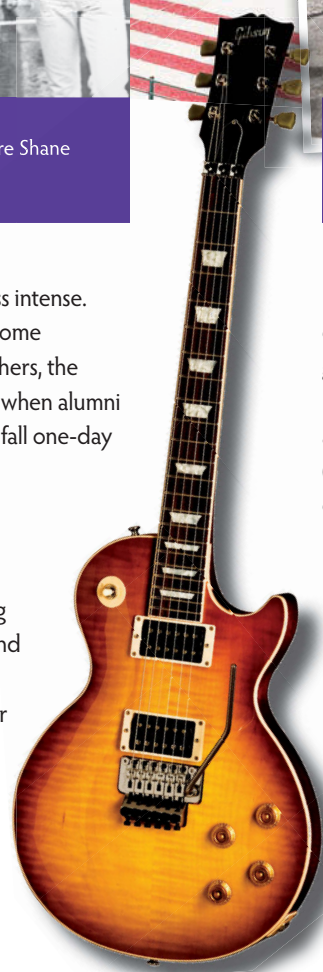
"Not while I sit in my Alumni Relations seat. It is our Superbowl weekend, if you want to use an American model. We pull out all the stops. Everyone knows the minute they are hired or even considering a job here that you are going to be working on Homecoming weekend and that your feet will be sore on Monday but it will be worth it."

Whether returning alumni attend scheduled events or create their own, Walker sees all that Homecoming planning as "a conduit" that ensures good things can happen. But whether it happens is really up to you.

"We take the legwork out of making that happen. We take on the organization and the detail so that when you get here you hit the ground running."

If John and Judy MacDonald have a word for their Western experience it would be camaraderie, the notion of mutual trust and sociability. This notion of fellowship is central among many older grads.

The Sarnia couple met at Western. John, known as 'Mac', got a bachelor in chemistry and physics in 1959 and a PhD in organic chemistry in 1964. Following a post doc at Rice University in Texas he spent 30 years in research for Imperial Oil and Exxon, retiring in 1994. Judy graduated in chemistry in 1961 and later worked in Western's Collip lab.



John organized his class' 50th reunion last year. With help from the Alumni office Judy says he started making contact more than two years before the gathering.

"The thing about it is you come up University Drive and over the bridge and you still see the good old University College tower. There may be a lot of (construction and new buildings) going on around here but so what, that's still the centerpiece of the university and that gives you a good feeling."

The bond of shared experiences came flooding back during an informal gathering, says Judy. "People got together before the formal ... that was a real gift. It was a long time since we had seen our friends. One chap and his wife came from San Diego, another from B.C., one from Calgary. It was an intimate gathering."

Larry Agranove's business class graduating in 1950 was about half returning veterans. "They had taken time out to fight in the Hitler war and had then finished their high school that many had not completed, and the government had the brains to pay them to go to university."

"They were incredibly motivated. Highly competitive. Canada was very short of good managers. My classmates ... one of them became the dean of the business school, Jack Wettlaufer. There was the head of Sears, the head of the biggest advertising agency in Canada at the time, the head of the largest consultancy in Canada, the head of Robin Hood MultiFoods."

This year he's on a committee working on the 60th, a reunion that will take place this fall. "My God, I can't believe I am that old!"

Agranove is an 81-year-old former business leader who has restructured entire companies from the ground up. He's not afraid of shaking things up, yet he would leave Homecoming alone. "I don't think I would change a thing because it seems to work."

If anyone thought Homecoming was an old grad's sport, they forgot to tell Mark Millar and Deb Cupello. Not only are they returning, but they're helping to organize Homecoming itself.

Millar, BSc'04, is also contributing to the Alumni Association board of directors and is a manager at TD Bank in Technology Risk Management.

"The magic (of Homecoming) can only be experienced and it is word-of-mouth that gets new people out every year. The organized (and unorganized) events create the platform for what becomes one of the biggest celebrations in the country every year."

"My most memorable moment is actually comprised of two events, one setting up for the other. First on the Friday night ('07) there was the Six Degrees get together with over 100 young alumni. I was surprised to see this many graduates together for an event re-living their past experiences with new acquaintances. It was then on Saturday afternoon, in a packed TD Waterhouse stadium, I witnessed a massive group of Londoners, UWO alumni, and current students create a sea of purple united together. It was at this point I understood what the entire Homecoming experience culminates to."

Deb Cupello has earned a triple – three Western degrees (1998, 1999 and 2006). The teacher at St. Joseph's Catholic high school in St. Thomas had applied to other universities along the way but she admits they weren't really in the running.

"You know how people say, 'if I knew then what I know now.' Well, my point is, I knew then (as a student) and it was a really positive experience. So that's why I wanted to maintain that connection."

"Western is associated with the concept of tradition and that's why I think Homecoming is so successful, because of the traditions we established."

The annual Globe and Mail survey takes the pulse of student satisfaction and Western has been hands-down winner among large universities every year of the survey. The survey's designers say Western provides the services of a big school while maintaining a decidedly small-school feel.

Many alumni say this is where Homecoming really starts. In the relationships forged in student clubs and classes, on residence floors, at parties and in examination rooms. And even at football games. If it doesn't happen here, there's little to come home to.

In how many places can a young guy feel that connection enough to walk to the top of a hill and then drop to one knee and propose? And the only observer will walk away with tears in her eyes. Unless they feel like family.

Company's coming. Time to get ready. ■

WU HOME COMING

Come home with family and friends... it's time to celebrate!

Thursday, September 30

HOMECOMING KICKOFF & ALUMNI WESTERN AGM

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
TD Waterhouse Stadium

Join us as we bestow our 3rd Annual Spirit of Western Award. Appetizers, mingling, entertainment and more! Everyone is invited.

Friday, October 1

36TH ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

5:30 p.m. Reception
6:30 p.m. Dinner
The Great Hall, Somerville House

Western honours exceptional alumni during a fabulous three-course meal with musical entertainment and greetings from Western President, Amit Chakma.

2010 Alumni Award of Merit Recipients

Kelly Meighen, BA'71 - *Dr. Ivan Smith Award*

Dr. Keith Barron, PhD'97 - *Professional Achievement Award*

John B. Lee, BA'74, BEd'75, MA'85 - *Professional Achievement Award*

Wayne Dunn, BA'80 - *Community Service Award*

Dr. Lisa M. Given, BA'93, BEd'94, MLIS'96, PhD'01 - *Young Alumni Award*

Elfrida Berzins Award Recipients (Women's Athletic Alumnae)

Belinda Chou, BA'01, BEd'05

Mary Lou Dresser, BA'59

Tanya Tygesen, BA'90

Bev (Pierce) Warner, BA'70

'W' Club Hall of Fame Inductees

Jeff Arp, BA'81

Jim Parker, BSc'67

Dr. Ron Watson

Guy Zink, BA'74, BEd'75

SIX DEGREES HOMECOMING

9:00 p.m.
The London Tap House
545.5 Richmond Street

Young alumni from the last decade will kick off the weekend at this popular networking event.

Saturday, October 2

HOMECOMING PARADE

9:00 a.m.
Along Richmond Street

HOMECOMING HOSPITALITY

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Alumni Hall Lobby

- Information • Refreshments • Gifts
- Children's Activities with Sport Western

MANULIFE SOUTH END ZONE LUNCH

11:30 a.m.
TD Waterhouse Stadium

Join us in the best seats in the house. Package includes football ticket, VIP lunch, tented reception, Homecoming gift.

HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME

1:00 p.m.
Western Mustangs vs. Queen's Golden Gaels

For tickets, please contact the Mustang Ticket Office at 519.661.4077 or visit: westernmustangstickets.universitytickets.com

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY DINNER

6:00 p.m. Reception
7:00 p.m. Dinner
The Great Hall, Somerville House

Honouring the class of 1960.

Sunday, October 3

HOMECOMING GOLF AT FIREROCK

9:00 a.m. - Registration begins
11:00 a.m. - Shotgun start
10345 Oxbow Drive, Komoka

Dust off your driver and join us for the 3rd Annual Homecoming Golf Tournament. All skill levels are welcome. Tickets include 18 holes, a GPS golf cart and buffet lunch. Register individually or as a team. Format: scramble. Rain or shine.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Gibbons Lodge, 1836 Richmond Street

Graduates celebrating reunion years and anniversaries are invited as special guests to a garden reception at the home of Amit & Meena Chakma.

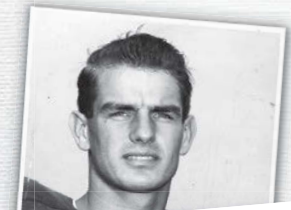
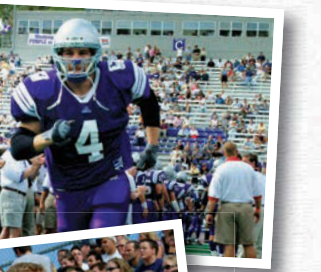
RUSSEL BRAUN IN CONCERT

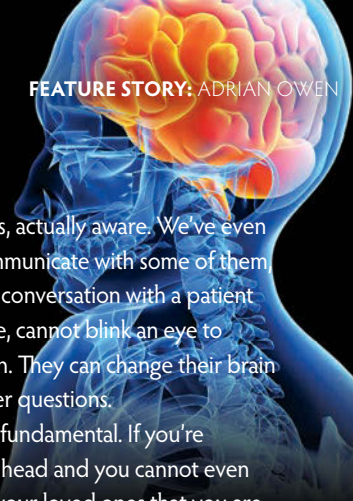
2:00 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre (former Talbot Theatre)
Musical concert featuring Canadian Baritone Russell Braun

Price: \$35
VIP ticket: \$99, with \$50 charitable receipt, front row, meet the artist
Winner of two Juno awards; Braun has the acclaim of critics and worldwide audiences alike. Proceeds support the Parsons-Poole Legacy Project in the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

For more information, and a listing of faculty, branch and chapter, and affiliated college events, please visit www.alumni.uwo.ca.

Homecoming is sponsored by:





FEATURE STORY: ADRIAN OWEN

WESTERN GAINS **BRAIN**

ADRIAN OWEN BRINGS HIS CAMBRIDGE TEAM TO CANADA

BY TOM SPEARS

“The idea even 10 years ago that you can take a person who’s vegetative, put them in a brain scanner and make any sort of progress, any impact on that person’s life — it was really pretty inconceivable in this field.”



Last February a neuroscientist at the University of Cambridge announced that some people in a vegetative state are able to communicate. He asked one such man to imagine playing tennis when he wanted to answer ‘Yes’ to a question, and to think of his home for ‘No.’

The man’s face never flickered. Yet different areas of his brain “lit up” with activity under a brain scanner.

There you go, Adrian Owen told an astonished world: A man with no outward sign of consciousness is having a conversation.

On New Year’s Day (2011), this world-famous scientist starts a new job — at Western. The news has startled Britain.

“Fears of a brain drain,” *The Guardian’s* headline warned.

“Why Canada?” Owen’s colleagues asked.

“It’s a funny question,” Owen said in an interview. “This to me is a tremendous opportunity by any measure. The facilities for doing what I do, and the funding that the federal government and Ontario have put behind this, show a level of commitment that is just not available in this country (Britain). It’s actually a no-brainer move. I’ve been very surprised how surprised people are.”

Owen, 44, is one of 19 high-powered researchers recruited to Canadian universities in May as Canada Excellence Research Chairs. Each receives \$10 million in federal funding over seven years. Owen himself gets a superb lab worth far more than the actual research grant.

The Robarts Research Institute has brain scanners that stand out on the world stage, showing where and how a person’s brain is active. One is an immensely powerful functional MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) machine rated at 7 Tesla, which means it’s the highest-powered fMRI suitable for human brains.

“Really nice machine. There are hardly any of them in the world,” Owen said. A second MRI scanner produces images in real time, allowing the scientist and the subject to respond to each other without delays, like two people having an ordinary conversation.

Ravi Menon, Western’s veteran fMRI researcher, is one of the people responsible for recruiting Owen.

“He’s a younger scientist who has definitely

made a splash on the world stage already,” Menon said. And he brings the ability to take lessons from the lab, based on healthy people, and apply them to patients.

“Everybody has noticed, all over the world, that Adrian Owen is going to the University of Western Ontario. That’s a statement for the country and a statement for the university.”



Adrian Owen and his wife Jessica Grahn. Photo by Shawn Simpson

A whole neuroscience team is coming with him: faculty, technicians, postdocs, students.

Owen knows Canada. He was a postdoc at the Montreal Neurological Institute from 1992 to 1996, and then moved to Cambridge.

“It was certainly always an attractive option to me to move back to Canada,” he said.

His range of fields — brain injuries, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and others — all involve severe loss of brain function.

Now he’s raising the question of whether these patients have lost as much as people think.

“The idea even 10 years ago that you can take a person who’s vegetative, put them in a brain scanner and make any sort of progress, any impact on that person’s life — it was really pretty inconceivable in this field. Most people think of these people as a dead loss, hardly worth the time of day,” he said.

“In fact we’ve made tremendous progress. We’ve shown that some of these patients are

actually conscious, actually aware. We’ve even been able to communicate with some of them to have a Yes-No conversation with a patient who cannot move, cannot blink an eye to answer a question. They can change their brain patterns to answer questions.

“This is pretty fundamental. If you’re stuck inside your head and you cannot even acknowledge to your loved ones that you are there, then being able to communicate in even a rudimentary way is a pretty major step forward.”

His peering inside the mind also tells us about ourselves. “It can answer a lot of questions about ‘What is consciousness?’ That’s stuff philosophers have wrestled with for centuries.

“And I think that leads to foundations for looking for therapies, looking for ways to improve the lives of some of these patients in quite a radical way.”

At Western, he’ll study people with Alzheimer’s and ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease). Patients with both diseases are assumed, in the late stages of the disease, to be unable to think or experience their surroundings.

One of the group coming with him is Jessica Grahn, a neuroscientist who is also his wife. Her lab and work are independent from his, focusing on the brain’s response to music.

“She’s American. She’ll be close to her home now,” her husband notes.

Oh? Where’s that?

“Utah.”

Grahn says that after a long stay at Cambridge (10 years for her, 15 for him), both wanted to move. “Western was perfect for us in many ways. They made excellent offers to both of us, and made it clear from the beginning that neuroscience was a priority research area. The infrastructure is spectacular, and the scientists equally so.”

The couple enjoys snowboarding, and even watched Olympic hockey.

“Don’t tell my folks,” Grahn says, “but Adrian supported the Canadian men’s hockey team in the U.S.-Canada game in the Olympics, so I think we’re on our way to adopting a new sport.”

Tom Spears is a science writer with the Ottawa Citizen and a member of its editorial board.

Photo courtesy of CBC

TOO \$UCCESSFUL TO RETIRE

BY SHELDON GORDON

O'LEARY STILL HAS TO-DO LIST

“What I learned, moving every two years, was that there’s a whole big world out there, and Canada is just a small part of it.”

It's no surprise when a graduate of the Richard Ivey School of Business becomes a successful entrepreneur. But Kevin O'Leary, who earned his MBA at Western in 1980, has become probably the most visible entrepreneur in the country.

Since last autumn, he has been co-hosting, with business reporter Amanda Lang, *The Lang and O'Leary Exchange*, a lively weekday program on CBC News Network that debates the state of the markets and the economy. He is also a regular on *Dragons' Den*, the CBC-TV show in which aspiring entrepreneurs pitch their ideas to venture capitalists, including O'Leary. And he appears on *Shark Tank*, the U.S. version of *Dragons' Den* airing on ABC-TV.

O'Leary is certainly well qualified to judge a start-up's potential. He has had four entrepreneurial successes of his own, including, most recently, O'Leary Funds Inc., a mutual funds company he launched as the industry was consolidating.

O'Leary, 56, was born in Mont-Royal, QC, and educated in Cambodia, Cyprus, Tunisia, Ethiopia, France and Switzerland, as his stepfather worked with the International Labour Organization. “What I learned, moving every two years, was that there’s a whole big world out there, and Canada is just a small part of it,” he says. “Very little of my money is in Canada today”

Following an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies at the University of Waterloo, O'Leary pursued his MBA at the Ivey School (where he now sits on the Executive Board). “The value of the degree was in the credentials it gave me for raising funds for my business ventures,” he recalls.

O'Leary's first start-up was in television production. He became a founding partner



in Special Event Television, an independent production outfit that produced original sports programming such as “Don Cherry's Grapevine” and “Bobby Orr and the Hockey Legends.” It was the beginning of an ongoing love affair he has had with television.

Then, in the basement of his small Toronto home, he parlayed \$10,000 in seed capital from his mother into SoftKey Software Products, developing software to help students with reading and math. He moved the headquarters to Cambridge, MA and went on an acquisition spree before selling his company in 1999 to Mattel Toy for US\$3.7 billion dollars, one of the largest deals to that time in the consumer software industry.

In 2003 O'Leary became co-investor and a director in Storage Now, a leading developer of climate-controlled storage facilities.

Through a series of development projects and acquisitions, it became Canada's third largest owner/operator of storage services.

In early, 2008 he co-founded O'Leary Funds Inc., a mutual fund company focused on global yield investing. He is the company's chairman and lead investor. The firm has \$960-million under management across 11 different publicly-traded funds. O'Leary brought to the fund company a lesson he learned from his mother: “She would never spend the principal, just the interest. Everything I own has to pay a dividend,” he insists. “I looked for money managers who would do the same thing. I just want to set the investment style, not pick the stocks.”

Meanwhile, O'Leary also became a TV presence. He was a frequent co-host on Business News Network (BNN), the cable specialty channel owned by CTVglobemedia, and became the entrepreneur/investor co-host for the Discovery Channel's *Discovery Project Earth*, a program that explores innovative ways to reverse global warming. But his highest visibility in Canada has come from his roles on *Dragons' Den*—where he has appeared in all five seasons -- and the *Lang-O'Leary* sparring matches. He acknowledges that his TV work has helped build his brand, as well as introduced him to investment gurus and market movers.

O'Leary has an office in Toronto and a cottage -- shared with his wife and two children -- in the Muskokas. He's perpetually on the move, though, seeking out new investment opportunities. He's increasingly in Europe and Asia, and finds the travel “just brutal.” While he says he “has to figure out a way to retire,” he tried that for three years following the sale of his software company and got bored “sitting on every beach known to mankind.” Besides, he still has a to-do list. One goal is to take O'Leary Funds public over the next two to three years; another is to “keep exploring where TV takes me.”

THE SOUND OF SUCCESS

BY KYM WOLFE, BA'82

ALUMNA'S COMPANY HAS INVENTORY OF MORE THAN 100,000 VOICES



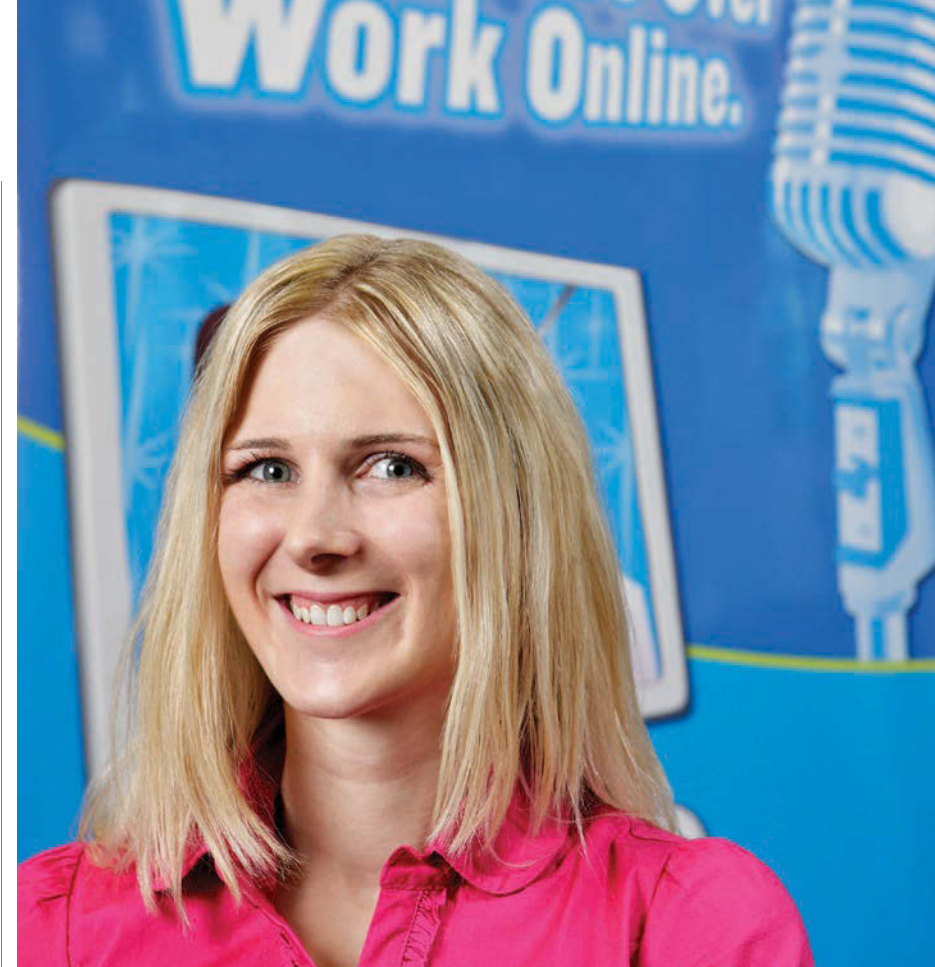
Stephanie and David Ciccarelli (Photos by Shawn Simpson)

When Stephanie Ciccarelli graduated from Western in 2006 with her Bachelor of Musical Arts, she knew voice would be where she made her living. But Ciccarelli has found success promoting other people's voices internationally with a company she founded with her husband David in 2003.

Voices.com is an online marketplace that connects business people with voice actors and professional voiceover talents. Initially the main clients were radio and television stations, advertising agencies and other businesses. But the growing need for voice talent for video games, iPhone, audio books, and other technology applications has generated explosive demand. In 2009 Voices.com was named number 20 on Profit Magazine's Hot 50 list, after experiencing a 534 per cent growth in revenues from 2006 to 2008.

So how did a music major wind up married to an audio recording technologist, and giving birth to both a fast growing business and a fast growing family? The couple met in February 2002, says Ciccarelli. "I was a first-year music student and my mom knew one of my goals was to record a demo. David had a recording studio, the Flying Disk, and he was featured in the *London Free Press*. Mom clipped the story and left it in my room. I liked the story, and he was pretty handsome, so I set up an appointment to meet him and have a tour of the studio." She decided his was the recording studio she wanted to use, and as they worked together to make the demo, she says, "It turned romantic."

A whirlwind few years followed – they married in 2003, launched Voices.com and started their family (the couple now has three children, ages six, five and two)...all while Ciccarelli was still a full-time student at Western. Not that being busy was a new thing. Growing up, Ciccarelli studied both music and acting. She was a member of London's Original Kid Theatre Company and performed with the music programs at St. Mary's Choir



School and Catholic Central High School and with the Amabile Youth Singers. In her spare time she taught voice and sang for weddings, funerals and other occasions.

Through those experiences, Ciccarelli says, "I was used to being my own boss," so the start up of Voices.com seemed like a natural entrepreneurial transition. The Ciccarellis jumped into the marketplace in the early days, when the internet was starting to gain popularity as a tool to find voice talent. The company's client roster includes dozens of recognizable names including NBC, ESPN, PBS, The History Channel, The Discovery Channel, Sony Picture, Microsoft, Cisco Systems, ING,

...The growing need for voice talent for video games, iPhone, audio books, and other technology applications has generated explosive demand.

Western Union, American Airlines, Ford, GM, Toyota, and the US Army.

Voices.com has an online inventory of more than 107,000 voices in dozens of languages and a range of ages and capabilities. Businesses looking for talent can browse the sound bites to find that perfect voice for their project. Some people specialize in specific sound effects. One woman can sound like a baby at various stages, from newborn up. Another has perfected the sound of a barking dog. There is a puppeteer who worked with Jim Henson of Muppets fame. Others can replicate celebrity voices, which comes in handy if a soundtrack needs slight editing and the original actor is unavailable.

Ciccarelli's voice is not part of the voices.com repertoire. Instead she uses her voice in different ways these days, writing blogs, coaching voice actors, and authoring e-books related to voice acting, from *Script* (a collection of royalty-free voice-over scripts that talent can use when recording their demos) to *The Internet Marketing Plan for Voice Actors*. It may not exactly be what Ciccarelli envisioned when she enrolled in the Don Wright Faculty of Music at Western. But it sure has been an interesting journey. ■

FAÇADES OF WESTERN

BY PAUL MAYNE

Do you ever get the feeling you're being watched? Take a stroll around the Physics & Astronomy Building and that feeling may well seem a reality.

And no, it's not the hard-working faculty and students peering down from their windows, but rather a collection of odd and unique figures attached to the building itself – faces such as a Yorkshire farmer, Tecumseh and 'Ole Bill' (based on the First World War British Tommy created by cartoonist Bruce Bairnsfeather).

Construction of the university campus began in 1922 with University College, the Natural Science building (now Physics & Astronomy), the heating plant, and the bridge across the Thames River.

In charge of the Natural Science building, completed in 1924, was builder John Putherbough, who was in a friendly competition with the builder of University College.

"That's what makes them so special, there were no moulds whatsoever."

ALAN NOON

"There was a friendly competition as to who could do the best job," says Alan Noon, freelance researcher with the Department of Communications and Public Affairs. "John

hired stone mason Dan Cree of Hamilton, Ont., who asked John if he could make some interesting designs on the building to give it some colour and movement."

From that enthusiasm came more than 30 one-of-a-kind sculptures, which Cree carved on the spot.

"That's what makes them so special, there were no moulds whatsoever," adds Noon.

The best time of year to catch a glimpse of these matchless mugs, such as 'Boy with Toothache' (modeled after a magazine advertisement for toothpaste) is after the green ivy dies back in the fall and winter.

For a detailed look at the famous facade faces, check out a website of former Physics professor Don Moorcroft at www.physics.uwo.ca/~drm/history/sculpture.html





Derek Liddington:
Vinyl Drawings



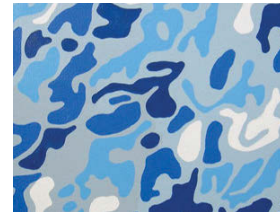
Patrick Mahon:
Boneskidoo Series



Brendan Fernandes:
Neo Primitivism



Ed Pien: Smokn



Soheila Kolahdouz-Esfahani:
Reed Bed Study

BEAUTY IN THE EYE OF BEHOLDER

ART COLLECTING PRIMER FOR ALUMNI

BY JAMES PATTEN

Collecting contemporary art is a rewarding experience that can enrich our lives. But it can be daunting for those not familiar with the often complex realities of the art world. It goes without saying that one should acquire works of art that are enjoyable and give us pleasure. And there is a wide array of art to choose from, which is part of the challenge of having to decide what to collect.

Collecting art is not an activity best undertaken in a vacuum. The more information and knowledge you have in advance the better. Art magazines such as *Canadian Art* are a valuable source of current information. You may not like or understand everything you see but by focusing on what you do like, you will begin

to cultivate your personal taste. Becoming a member of your local public or university art gallery will alert you to invaluable events such as exhibition openings and artists' talks, which will hone your skills and level of appreciation. It is often the case that new collectors will start acquiring one type of art that they are comfortable with and then move on to more challenging stuff.

When you are ready to purchase a work of art it is critical to go through a reputable dealer. London, Ontario is fortunate to have three well-established commercial galleries: Strand Fine Art, Michael Gibson Gallery, and, the oldest, Thielsen Galleries. They can provide you with information on the artists they represent and assist with the selection of individual works. If you see something you like, it is always a good idea to ask where the artist has exhibited and if they are included in any major publications and public art collections. While there are many

excellent emerging artists out there who may not have an extensive track record, it is best to start collecting artists with established professional careers. And if you want a second opinion before making the plunge, it never hurts to do a little more web-based research on the artist or simply call a curator or other experienced individual to find out more.

If you are still wary of making the big commitment, art rental services at your local public gallery can offer a no risk solution. Renting a work of art for a few months will allow you to determine if it is something you want to own.

Like any worthy activity the more you put into it the more you will accomplish. There is good original art available for all budgets and tastes.

James Patten is director/chief curator of the McIntosh Gallery at The University of Western Ontario.

Visual Arts Chair and artist Patrick Mahon has suggested some of Western's very successful graduates as potential artists to collect.

(Editor's note: the author himself is absolutely worthy of collecting)
www.patrickmahon.ca

Jennifer Wanner (Calgary) – Jennifer's delicate watercolour paintings appear to be traditional botanical renderings but are actually based on her Internet research regarding genetically modified plants. They are truly beautiful and also quite alarming works!
grsemp@ucalgary.ca

Soheila Kolahdouz-Esfahani, MFA'10 (Waterloo) – Soheila is Iranian-born but has lived in Canada for about 20 years. Her calligraphy-inspired wall-based and sculptural works are beautifully crafted. Some were featured in a recent exhibition of work purchased by the Canada Council Art Bank, which was held at Rideau Hall last year. www.soheila.ca

Brendan Fernandes, MFA'05 (Toronto/New York) – Brendan is a very bright and engaging artist who was just short-listed for the prestigious Sobey Art Award this spring; the winner will be announced in Montreal in November. His compelling work is sculptural and digitally-based, and deals with themes related to migrancy and tourism. www.brendanfernandes.ca

Derek Liddington, MFA'07 (Toronto) – Derek is a recent graduate whose conceptual artworks (many drawing and photo-based) are gaining much attention. Riffing on ideas familiar in the music world, such as 'sampling,' they pay cheeky homage to other artists and popular movie stars simultaneously. derekiddington.com/home.html

Ed Pien, BFA'82 (Toronto) – Ed is an established artist with an international reputation whose touring exhibition of large-scale paper cuts was recently shown at Museum London. He has shown widely and his drawing, print and paper-cut works are featured in major collections. www.edpien.com



1) Third floor cafeteria in the new Sciences Building 1924. 2) The cafeteria breakfast serving area in Fingal Hall. Menu items include 2 eggs, toast and coffee 25cents, Pancakes, bacon and coffee 25 cents, Toast and butter 10 cents. 3) Exterior view of Fingal Hall 4) An early view (circa 1957) of the Great Hall in Somerville House. Constructed during the early years of Western's massive expansion during the mid 20th century Somerville House, home of "Michaels", remains a centrepiece of Western's dining facilities. (Photos: London Free Press Collection/Western Archives)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – EVOLUTION OF DINING AT WESTERN

CONTRIBUTED BY ALAN NOON

In 1924 the only source of food on campus, other than a small tuck shop in the basement of the Arts Building, (University College) was a 100-seat cafeteria on the third floor of the Sciences Building (Physics and Astronomy). Long lines would often form in the east and west stairwells and staff and students would be subjected to the smells of dissected animals, formaldehyde and other fragrances indigenous to a biological/physics/chemical building. For whatever reason this would often diminish the appetites of the slowly advancing patrons.

Following the end of the Second World War returning servicemen who took advantage of special government grants to

upgrade their education swelled student ranks. The Board of Governors purchased several wooden buildings from the air force base at Fingal near St Thomas and two of the huts were twinned to house a new cafeteria. It was hoped that the new location east of the Sciences Building would improve service. Dubbed 'Fingal Hall' the cafeteria was frequently infested with cockroaches and marauding rats from the nearby river plain. Although the office safe in the building never contained large amounts of cash it was frequently broken into and contents removed.

Completion of Somerville House in 1955 with its Great Hall dining, student cafeteria and private rooms prompted closure and

demolition of Fingal Hall. An enterprising local builder recycled much of the timber into new homes and one section was converted into a small church. The opening of the Great Hall was not without controversy. Following student protests the Board of Governors reversed a recommendation that male students wear a tie and jacket to evening meals.

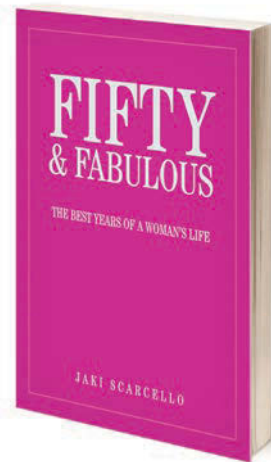
At the present time Western Hospitality Services operates 22 dining operations around campus and several Tim Horton outlets. This is in addition to the student residence food outlets and dining facilities in Somerville House.

NEW RELEASES



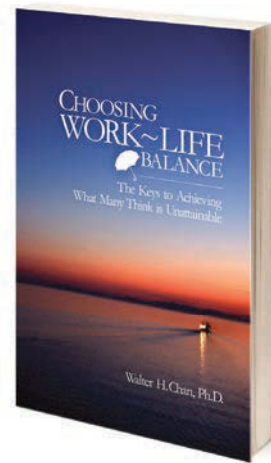
FIVE SECONDS AT A TIME

Five Seconds at a Time - How Leaders Can Make The Impossible Possible by Ivey Professor **Denis Shackel & Tara Bradacs, HBA'05**. When a tragic mountain-climbing accident left business professor Denis Shackel stranded on Mount Ruapehu in New Zealand, he turned to the leadership principles that he'd been teaching for years to survive the longest night of his life. Alone, with temperatures plunging to -30 degrees Celsius and dressed only in a T-shirt and shorts, Shackel first broke the night into five thousand five-second intervals. He decided to deal with only one interval at a time -- a strategy based on his knowledge that effective leaders break big challenges into smaller, more manageable ones. Then, stepping back to see the bigger picture, he relied on vision, intuition, and faith to keep him alive. Shackel emerged from this harrowing experience having cemented his belief that the principles fundamental to leadership are also key to tackling any challenge. At a time when many leaders are feeling overwhelmed, *Five Seconds at a Time* provides effective tools and strategies to excel. With its compelling mix of survival, leadership principles and real-life stories, it will inspire readers to achieve the seemingly impossible. Available through amazon.ca



FIFTY & FABULOUS

Before writing *Fifty & Fabulous: The Best Years of a Woman's Life*, **Jaki Scarcello, BA'74** (Sociology), spent 30 years listening to and supporting individuals and organizations as a leadership consultant, facilitator and coach working with Fortune 500 companies in Canada and the United States. In a world where thirty-year-olds line up for Botox shots, a woman of a certain age may start to suspect that her best days are behind her. But Scarcello proves otherwise with a fresh and spirited take on the years after fifty – and shows that this time of a woman's life holds new opportunities at every stage, right up to the surprising lightness of very old age. Written with honesty and humor, touching on topics from sex and self-image to the milestone of menopause to changing roles and relationships, *Fifty & Fabulous* shares real women's inspiring insights for living joyfully through midlife and beyond. www.fiftyfab.com



CHOOSING WORK-LIFE BALANCE

Walter Chan, PhD'74, spent most of his career with the Ontario government where he was a former director. Last year, he took early retirement to write a book on a subject very dear to his heart. *Choosing Work-Life Balance: The Keys to Achieving What Many Think is Unattainable* addresses the issue of work-life balance by developing the Umbrella Model and placing ownership of the matter on oneself. This book is unique in that it takes advantage of both the author's scientific and management background in analyzing and presenting contents; while it covers a lot of ground, it is concise and can be read in a few hours; it appeals to wide audiences; it is a useful resource not only for those who are in the workforce, but also for students and homemakers; rather than just pointing out what one can tackle, it guides the reader to put in place a plan to implement what one has learned into reality through project management. xlibris.com, barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com, amazon.ca



MARCEL DUCHAMP: ÉTANT DONNÉS

Following Marcel Duchamp's death in 1968, the Philadelphia Museum of Art stunned the art world by unveiling a project on which he had been working secretly for 20 years. *Étant donné* (known in English as *Given*, or, literally, "being given") consists of a small room with a locked wooden door; through a peephole can be seen a landscape of trees, with a naked female figure at the front, her arm outstretched, holding a lamp. In this illustrated study, **Julian Haladyn, BFA'02**, argues that Duchamp's intention in this final piece was to open his artwork to endless interpretation and reinterpretation. www.amazon.com



THE RED FLAG RULEBOOK

In the refreshing new release from Burman Books *The Red Flag Rulebook* by best selling-authors Cheryl Anne Meyer and **Tara Landon, BA'07** (Sociology) clearly lists and explains through humor and brutal honesty all of the "red flags" that women should look out for when choosing a companion. The book empowers women to reject men that have too many red flags and it encourages them to put the ball back in their own courts. Unlike other dating how-to-book *The Red Flag Rulebook* serves as the ultimate guide for women looking to weed out those not-so-worthy men. Burmanbooks.com, Amazon.com



CREATIVE ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE

This contemporary research text edited by **Cheryl McLean, BA'77** (MA'03, Concordia, Creative Art Therapies) and published by *International Journal of The Creative Arts in Interdisciplinary Practice*, www.ijcaip.com, introduces an emerging and rapidly growing field with a dynamic collection of illustrative articles about the creative arts in research, action and interdisciplinary practice. Firsthand topical accounts are featured from leading academics, health researchers, nurse educators, physicians, educators, environmentalists, artists and others who actively use the creative arts in interdisciplinary practice in cutting edged research and in methodologies for health, hope and change. www.creativeartpractice.blogspot.com Contact: CherylMcLean@ijcaip.com



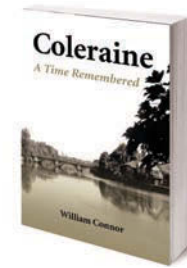
SOMEWHERE IN BLUE

After years of newspaper, magazine and television writing, including three years as an arts writer at the *London Free Press*, **Gillian (Haggart) Cummings, MA'84** (Journalism), has published her first young adult novel, *Somewhere in Blue* (Lobster Press). Set in Toronto's Beaches, it chronicles the unraveling of a 16-year-old girl after the death of her father. According to *Quill & Quire*, "*Somewhere in Blue* is a moving debut, and shows Cummings to be a strong and promising new voice in Canadian young adult fiction." www.gilliancummings.com



THE PIT CREW CHALLENGE

Bob Parker, BA'90 (Philosophy), is President of Robert A. Parker & Associates Inc., an International Training Consulting company located in London, Ontario that specializes in providing unconventional training for innovative companies. As a motivational speaker and trainer for over 20 years, Bob speaks to thousands of people each year on helping them improve their organizations and personal lives. His newly released book, *The Pit Crew Challenge: Winning Customers Through Teaming*, outlines some of the key learnings from over 10,000 Pit Crew Challenge participants on the principles of teaming and organizational effectiveness. Walkonwetpaint.com



COLERAINE

Coleraine - A Time Remembered by **William B. Connor, BA'64** (Huron) is set in Northern Ireland in the late sixties and early seventies, and recalls a chapter in Ireland's troubled past. In the aftermath of a bombing in the quiet town of Ballycastle, Willie Thompson's family struggles to make sense out of what has happened, unaware that this tragic event foreshadows something even more terrible. It is a story of ordinary people who courageously confront their own fears and human frailties and in the end find a measure of faith and renewal. A native of Ireland, William Connor was born and educated in Coleraine. At the age of 17 he left Ireland to seek a new life in Canada. wbc@sympatico.ca



Kickoff + Annual Alumni Association General Meeting

ALL ALUMNI AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!

Thursday, September 30, 2010
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

The Labatt Lounge in the TD Waterhouse Stadium

Join us as we kickoff Homecoming with true Western spirit!

Alumni Western's 3rd Annual Spirit of Western Award will be presented to a group of outstanding alumni volunteers. Enjoy appetizers, a cash bar, mingling and live music.

There is no fee to attend. RSVP online by Thursday, September 23, 2010 at: www.westernconnect.ca/alumni_agm or call 1-866-447-1044.



VOICE OF ALUMNI



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

LEADERSHIP

As I started to write this column, I was inspired by watching a Western alumnus teaching his young son how to fish, while visiting my hometown of Sarnia recently. The father was proudly wearing his purple Western Football t-shirt. I thought to myself, hopefully someday his son will also have the chance to be a Western graduate. The scene, set against the backdrop of beautiful Sarnia Bay at sunset, turned my thoughts to 'leadership'— and in particular, how we inspire, guide, challenge, and support the next generation of leaders.

As you know, international leadership is a key theme in Western President Amit Chakma's aspirations for the university. Leadership at Western comes in many forms – from fostering knowledge exchange, stimulating research into emerging technologies and markets, finding new solutions to new problems - to building a worldwide community of innovative, enterprising, intellectual, humanitarian, and philanthropic individuals that proudly wear the Western colours.

The Alumni Association is a reflection of this community – our dedicated volunteers

from all walks of life who contribute their time and talents to furthering Western's worldwide profile and significance. We also bring a unique perspective, having had the "best student experience," we now enjoy the enviable position of a more objective and broad-based view of the university, coloured by our life experiences since graduation.

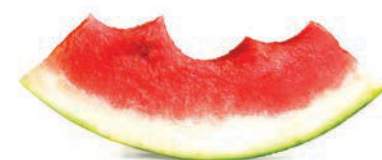
As my term as your President comes to a close at Homecoming this fall, it is rewarding to look back and reflect on the many leaders that have helped to continually shape our Alumni Association, and the contributions that our Association has made to the Western community. It is also with much collective pride that we can reflect on our many accomplishments against our current Strategic Plan "Embracing the Future - Engaging Alumni." Some examples include the continued success of our alumni programs, the growing engagement of alumni in those programs, record uptake on affinity partner services, and our ongoing contributions to the dialogue and directions regarding University governance and campus life. And much more.

But our work is never finished. We continue to rely on the dedication, creativity, and passion of alumni to step forward and help to spirit the many initiatives offered by the Alumni Association and to further our impact in the broader Western community. We are fortunate to have leadership from the youngest to the most senior alumni in our volunteer ranks at Alumni Western and it is this cross-pollination of ideas and our professional staff partners who make it happen that makes our organization so successful. It is such an exciting time to be involved with Western – consider joining us.

Check out www.alumni.uwo.ca to see how you can get involved.

ELGIN ALUMNI BRANCH SUMMER PICNIC TURNS 70

Is it the location? The record of great weather? Or maybe the people? Whatever the reason, the Elgin Alumni Branch summer picnic – at 70 years old and running - is Western's longest active annual alumni event that seems to attract more and more each year. Charlie and Laurie Nagge of Port Stanley hosted the 2010 picnic, the M.C. was Steve Peters, BA'85 – the Ontario Legislature's Speaker of the House – and a full contingent of volunteers, Alumni Relations staff, and President Amit Chakma kept the event at full steam like a Pt. Stanley locomotive. Read the complete story, with photos, online at: www.alumnigazette.ca



YOUR 2010 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

The Young Alumni Award recognizes significant contributions by an outstanding individual in their field of endeavour, whether through professional achievement or community service. The recipients are aged 40 or under and set an inspirational example for future young alumni.

Lisa M. Given, BA'93, BEd'94, MLIS'96, PhD'01



Lisa Given says Western will always be a core part of her identity. After 12 years and four degrees from Western, the

University of Alberta was so eager to have Lisa join their faculty, they hired her before she even defended her thesis. She then attained tenure in record time and achieved full professorship within nine years, while she was still under 40 years old.

"Western played a major role in my career development, serving as a cornerstone of my education and preparation for being a professor," notes Lisa.

The Owen Sound native is currently a Professor at the School of Library and Information Studies and Adjunct Professor of Humanities Computing at the University of Alberta. A former Director of the International Institute for Qualitative Methodology, Lisa has received numerous research grants and awards and has published widely on topics related to individuals' information behaviours and qualitative inquiry. She has served as an expert witness in several immigrant and refugee court hearings, on the credibility of internet resources. She also edited the 2-volume set, *The Sage Encyclopedia of Qualitative Research Methods* (2008).

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

The Community Service Award pays tribute to alumni who have made outstanding contributions to the community and through this generous gift of time and talent, have enriched the lives of others. Recipients have championed civic, charitable, philanthropic and social welfare causes.

Wayne Dunn, BA'80



Wayne Dunn has taken his life-changing experience at Western and used it to change lives in the London community.

"Western provided me with a solid foundation that I have used throughout my business career and life," notes Wayne.

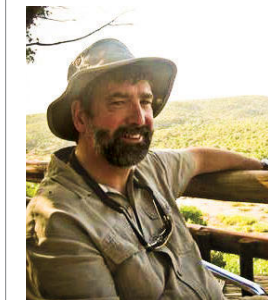
Wayne is the co-owner of County Heritage Forest Products Ltd., a company that manufactures and distributes wood doors and mouldings, as well as distributes closet shelving systems, hardwood flooring and door hardware. County Heritage has been in business since 1976 and employs approximately 65 people at its London location.

Volunteering in the community for more than 20 years, Wayne's involvements are wide and varied. Presently he is a member of Senate at Western, Co-chair of the annual Business Cares Christmas Food Drive, board member of the London Hunt and Country Club, and committee member of St. Joseph's Tribute dinner. Additionally, Wayne has been involved in several other charities involving children, the elderly, needy families and task forces over the years. He says one of his proudest accomplishments was as Co-chair of the Sunshine Golf Classic for 13 years that ended in 2005 with an endowment fund established of \$1.4 million for terminally ill and physically disabled children.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Professional Achievement Award recognizes superior achievement in a professional field. The recipient is a role model for newcomers and sets standards to which others can aspire.

Keith Barron, PhD'97



Keith Barron says Western opened up a world of possibilities for him.

"While at Western, I met so many graduate students and faculty with

stories of work in odd corners of the world that I was anxious myself to take a break from my studies and go to Australia in 1988," says Keith, who later came back to Western to finish his PhD. "Since then I have resided in more than a dozen countries and visited close to 80."

Working in minerals exploration for more than 25 years, Keith has consulted for numerous companies and investment houses, with an expertise in epithermal gold deposits. Keith has also co-founded two companies, Aurelian Resources Inc. and U3O8 Corp, both based in Toronto. He is currently working on a number of projects in Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Switzerland.

With his globetrotting work, Keith notes he tries to minimize his time in airports but finds it very difficult. However, when he can get some downtime, he confines himself to his chalet in the Swiss Alps; hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter.

Keith says he is very proud and feels privileged to be in a position to give back to Western. He has pledged \$1.2 million to the Faculty of Science to create the Robert W. Hodder Chair in Economic Geology and establish the Richard W. Hutchinson Visiting Industrial Professor in Economic Geology.

John B. Lee, BA'74, BEd'75, MA'85

John B. Lee says his time in London and at Western gave him his first taste of "city life" and expanded his horizons.

"I went out into

the world with the lifeline of learning and experience garnered at Western," John notes. John was born and raised on a farm near the village of Highgate in southwestern Ontario. After completing his Bachelor of Education degree from Western, John taught high school English and Drama at Waterford District High School from 1975-89. He left teaching for a full-time career as an author and traveled the world reading his poetry and leading writing workshops, teaching university and serving as a writer-in-residence at libraries and schools throughout Canada. He has more than 50 books published and is editor of seven anthologies including two best-selling works. His work has appeared internationally in more than 500 publications and has been translated into French, Spanish, Korean, Hungarian and Chinese. John is a recipient of more than 70 prestigious international awards for his writing and the only two-time recipient of the People's Poetry Award.

DR. IVAN SMITH AWARD

The Dr. Ivan Smith Award is Alumni Western's highest tribute. It is awarded annually to an outstanding individual in recognition of their sustained and significant contributions to the Alumni Association, The University of Western Ontario and society.

Kelly Meighen, BA'71

Kelly Meighen says she is sure she was the last student Western let in through the gates in 1968.

"I really struggled through high school and getting

into Western was really big for me," says Kelly, who attended affiliate, Huron University College. "I completed my degree in Psychology, and I learned who I was as an independent individual. But I still didn't have a robust view of what I could accomplish – and here we are today– something right must of happened along the way."

Kelly grew up in London, Ontario and after attaining her degree from Western, went on to work for the Ontario Government, General Foods Inc. where she ultimately worked as Director of University Recruitment, Beech, Shepell & Associates, and finally in 1994 she took on the role of President at the T.R.

Meighen Family Foundation.

Since 1977, Kelly has been very involved in volunteering in her community. Today she lives in Toronto and is a member of Western's Board of Governors, T.R. Meighen Family Foundation, Stratford Shakespeare Festival, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Evergreen at the Brickworks, and Upper Canada College. Additionally, she is a past member of the board with Sancta Maria House, Mabin School, The Wellesley Hospital, Mount Allison University and Writer's Development Trust of Canada.

Through her involvement with the Board of Governors, Kelly was involved in the deliberations for hiring Western's new President, Amit Chakma.

"Being a part of the process to find Western's new leader was such a privilege," notes Kelly. "I feel I have had a hand in shaping the future of this university."

Kelly says it is a luxury to be able to devote her time to volunteer commitments and organizations she is passionate about. Additionally, she says she is thrilled with what the T.R. Meighen Foundation has been able to accomplish in supporting organizations throughout Ontario (including Western), Quebec and in New Brunswick.

For a complete list of award winners and photos, including athletic awards, please visit: www.alumnigazette.ca

AWARD OF MERIT WINNER IN HONG KONG

Professor **Yue-man Yeung** is Emeritus Professor of Geography of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is currently a research consultant of Central Policy Unit of HKSARG, a consultant of Shenzhen Social Science Academy and also guest, Honorary or Advisory Professor of several prominent Mainland China universities.

Prof. Yeung is formerly the director of Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, the head of Shaw College, and university registrar of the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He worked almost a decade for Canada's International Research Centre (IDRC) based in Singapore and Ottawa. His wide-ranging research interests have recently focused on the development of China's coastal cities, China's reform, globalization and Asian cities. He is a prolific writer who has to his credit 44 books and numerous articles in international refereed journals and book chapters.



Yue-Man Yeung, MA'66, Emeritus Professor of Geography, Chinese University of Hong Kong, received the Alumni Award of Merit Professional Achievement Award at the 2010 Hong Kong campus convocation.

ALUMNI EVENTS

BRANCHES: CANADA**Calgary, AB**

Volunteering at Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank *September 24, 2010*
Cheer on Western vs. Queen's Football *October 2, 2010*

Durham Region, ON

Rick McGhie Night *September 25, 2010*

Guelph, ON

The Ethics of Ingestion *November 2010*

Halifax, NS

Evening with the Lieutenant Governor at Government House *October 21, 2010*

London, ON

Senior Alumni Program Lecture Series *September 14-December 7, 2010*

Alumni Association AGM *September 30, 2010*

Homecoming 2010 *September 30 – October 3, 2010*

Six Degrees Homecoming:

Classes from the Decade *October 1, 2010*

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Grand Theatre *November 27, 2010*

Wine tasting event and cooking workshop at Aroma *Date TBA*

London Knights Hockey at the JLC *December 3, 2010*

London Knights Hockey at the JLC *January 7, 2011*

London Knights Hockey at the JLC *January 28, 2011*

Celebrate Founder's Day *March 7, 2011*

Western Rocks @ the 2011 Tim Hortons Brier *March 8, 2011*

SilverStang Alumni Hockey Tournament *April 15-17, 2011*

Long Point, ON

Six Degrees Long Point: Eco Adventurism *October 23, 2010*

Montreal, QC

Montreal President's Reception *October 13, 2010*

Niagara Region, ON

Wine Tasting Reception *October 2010*

Cooking Seminar at Niagara College *November 2010*

Toronto Maple Leafs @ Buffalo Sabres *February 5, 2011*

Ottawa, ON

Western Football @ Ottawa (pregame at The Barley Mow) *September 6, 2010*

Peterborough, ON

Alumni Reception *October 7, 2010*

Sarnia, ON

Innovations in Food and Wine *September 14, 2010*

Hockey Night in Sarnia *January 7, 2011*

Toronto, ON

Personal Branding Career Networking Reception *September 15, 2010*

NHL Pre-season Hockey: Ottawa Senators @ Toronto Maple Leafs *September 22, 2010*

Toronto Lecture Series *September 22, 2010*

Toronto Lecture Series *October 3, 2010*

Toronto Lecture Series *November 16, 2010*

"Chocolat et Vins" at MoRoCo *December 2, 2010*

Toronto Lecture Series *December 8, 2010*

Toronto Lecture Series *February 16, 2011*

Founder's Day Event *March 7, 2011*

Vancouver, BC

Vancouver President's Reception *September 16, 2010*

Victoria, BC

Wine Tasting at the Union Club *November 5, 2010*

Waterloo, ON

Oktoberfest at Concordia Club *October 15, 2010*

Six Degrees Waterloo: Your Digital Tattoo *November 9, 2010*

Windsor, ON

Rick McGhie Night *September 17, 2010*

Winnipeg, MB

Manitoba Moose Game *October 28, 2010*

BRANCHES: INTERNATIONAL

Dubai, UAE

Canadian Thanksgiving in the Middle East *October 6, 2010*

Hong Kong

Mission Hills Golf Outing *September 4, 2010*

Halloween Happy Hour *October 29, 2010*

London, UK

Founder's Day Event *March 7, 2011*

Palo Alto, CA

Alumni Reception *September 16, 2010*

Nassau, BS

The Bahamas, The International Community and Western *September 16, 2010*

New York, NY

CANY - All Canadian Alumni Event *September 23, 2010*

Global (online)

Six Degrees Global: Financial Boot Camp *Winter 2010-11*

CHAPTERS

Cross Country and Track & Field

Hall of Fame Dinner *September 24, 2010*

Local Government Alumni Society

Local Government Society Annual Alumni Conference *November 12, 2010*

Nursing

90th Anniversary Gala *October 23, 2010*

Mustang Backcourt Club

20th Anniversary of the 90/91 National Championship Team *February 5, 2011*

Mustang Old Oars Club

Old Oars Weekend *September 18-19, 2010*

Parents' Day *October 16, 2010*

Alumni Tent at CURC in Victoria *November 6-7, 2010*

USC Alumni

45th Anniversary Celebration *October 2, 2010*

WAA

Alumni Awards Dinner *October 1, 2010*

AGM Luncheon *October 2, 2010*

"W" Club

Alumni Awards Dinner *October 1, 2010*

UNIVERSITY FACULTIES

Business

Global Ivey Day *November 4, 2010*

Dentistry

Alumni of Distinction Reception (London) *October 1, 2010*

Engineering

Toronto Alumni Reception *November 3, 2010*

Law

Homecoming Brunch *October 1, 2010*

2010 GOLF TOURNAMENTS

King's University Golf Tournament *September 15, 2010*

Homecoming Alumni at FireRock *October 3, 2010*

FUTURE HOMECOMING DATES

2010 – September 30 – October 3

2011 – September 29 – October 2

2012 – September 27 – 30

March 7th

FOUNDER'S DAY

alumni.uwo.ca/connect/foundersday.html

ALUMNI NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

1960s

Cathryn Green McNamee, BA'63, has recently published five children's stories. She can be reached at www.CathrynMcNamee.com

The Honourable James S. Peterson P.C., BA'63, LLB'64, and **James J. Blanchard** (Robarts Research Institute) have been appointed Co-Chairs of the Canada/US Law Institute (CUSLI). CUSLI serves as a forum for governments, business leaders, scholars and others to examine and resolve the issues confronting the Canada-United States relationship. Peterson, a graduate of Western Law, served in the Government of Canada as Minister of International Trade, Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions), and Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance. He is the author of numerous articles and studies for Canadian and foreign publications on international business, investment, taxation and fiscal policy. He is currently Counsel with the firm Fasken Martineau. James J. Blanchard is a former governor of Michigan and former United States ambassador to Canada. Currently, he is a partner with DLA Piper and Co Chair of its Government Affairs Practice Group. For more information on CUSLI visit <http://www.cusli.org/>

Jim Thorsell, MA'67, now has a 50-million year old fossil of an Australian marsupial named after him – Chulpasia jimthorselli. The Journal GEOBIOS of Nov-Dec, 2009 notes that the "...species name honours Dr. Jim Thorsell, Senior Advisor to IUCN for World Heritage and discerning advocate of internationally significant paleontological resources". Jim notes that he thinks he is proud that he is now recognized as an official fossil.

Winners of the 2009 CBC Literary Awards have been announced, with six winners each for previously unpublished English and French works. Toronto author and broadcaster **Marian Botsford Fraser, BA'68**, — whose acclaimed works include *Solitaire* and *Requiem for My Brother* — captured the top spot in the English creative non-fiction category with *The Rise*. The jury described Fraser's work as "skillfully crafted prose, reminiscent of Alice Munro."

Jean-Rene Halde, MA'69 (Economics), has been reappointed President of the Business Development Bank

of Canada. He has served as President & CEO of numerous companies, including Irwin Toy Limited, Livingston Group Inc., Culinar Inc. and Atlantique Video and Sound Inc.

In April, **J. Lorne Braithwaite, MBA'69**, was appointed as CEO of the new Build Toronto real estate venture.

1970s

L. Jacques Menard, MBA'70, has been appointed a director of The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation. Jacques is Chair, BMO Capital Markets, Chair of BMO Nesbitt Burns, and President of BMO Financial Group, Quebec.

Dr. Jonathan Borwein, BSc'71, (Mathematics), has been elected to the Australian Academy of Science in recognition of his research, which has significantly advanced the world's scientific knowledge. He is a Professor Laureate in Mathematics at the University of Newcastle in Australia. He received this honour for his work in experimental mathematics in a number of disciplines including optimization, number and computation theory. Election to the Academy recognizes a career that has significantly advanced, and continues to advance, the world's scientific knowledge.

Harvey Schneider, MLS'71, retired in March 2010 after 34 wonderful years as a librarian and slide archivist at the Institute of Archaeology of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He hopes he will now have the time to read some of the material he handled all these years.

Ross Dallas McGregor, LLB'73, was appointed Special Advisor to the President (Strategic Initiatives) at the University of Waterloo; Director of Waterfront Toronto and the Tides Canada Foundation.

Barbara Bruser, MLS'73, was appointed Managing Director and Portfolio Manager of First Republic Bank in Los Angeles.

Dr. Arthur Lam, MD'74, a neuroanesthesiologist, recently joined Swedish Medical Center in Seattle as medical director for neuroanesthesia and neurocritical care after more than 23 years at the University of Washington as the director of the Neuroanesthesia Fellowship Program and the chief of Neuroanesthesia at Harborview. He was anesthesiologist-in-chief (2004-2008), and medical director of the Cerebrovascular Laboratory (2008-2010) at Harborview.

He is a member of Physicians Anesthesia Service, a private-practice group of physicians providing anesthesia services at Swedish and other locations throughout the region.

The Law Society of Upper Canada presented a degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD), to **Abdulrahim Ali Chahbar, BA'75**, at its Call to the Bar ceremony in London on June 21, to welcome new lawyers to the profession.

Dr. Bill Middleton, MD'75, has been appointed a Director of Emerging Growth Pharma Inc., an investor in generic based pharmaceutical companies manufacturing within developing nations.

George Jahn, MA'75 (Journalism), a veteran foreign correspondent in central Europe, has been named The Associated Press bureau chief in Vienna.

Archibald Nesbitt, LLB'76, has been appointed President and CEO of Great Bear Resources Ltd. He was previously appointed a Director of the company in February 2010.

Jacqueline Mae Tucker, BA'76 (History), was appointed CFO at True North Gems Inc. and is engaged in the exploration and development of North American and Greenland coloured gemstone prospects.

Paula Jane Stewart, MD'77, was appointed Medical Officer of health at the Leeds, Greenville and Lanark District Health Unit.

Professor Douglas Kneale, MA'78 (English), accepted the position of Dean of Humanities at Brock University, effective July 1.

1980s

On September 1, **Dr. Steven Norman Liss, BSc'80** (Microbio/Immun), started as the new VP, Research at Queen's University.

Richard Decaire, BA'80 (Physical Education) was appointed as Eastern Regional Sales Director for the Aftermarket business with ArvinMeritor. The company serves commercial truck, trailer and specialty original equipment manufacturers.

Marco Simone, BA'80 (Economics), has joined Mendlowitz Janelle LLP, a Chartered Accounting firm, as Partner.

George Anthony, MBA'80, was appointed CEO of Mackie Research Financial Corporation - one of Canada's largest independent full service investment firms.

Donald Carson, MBA'80, was appointed Senior Analyst to cover Agricultural, Commodity and Special Chemicals Sector at Susquehanna Financial Group.

Algoma University has promoted **David Marasco, BA'81** (Political Sci), to the position of university registrar. David has worked in the office of the registrar at Algoma University for 10 years as associate registrar and most recently as acting registrar.

Anne Marie O'Donovan, HBA'82, was appointed Executive Vice-President and Chief Administration Officer of Scotiabank.

Leo Alfred Groarke, PhD'82 (Philosophy), was appointed Provost & VP Academic of the University of Windsor.

James MacKillop Hill, HBA'82, was appointed CFO of GasFrac, a private oil and gas service company headquartered in Calgary, whose primary business is to provide LPG fracturing services to oil and gas companies.

Carol-Lynn Chambers, BSc'82, MPA'01, President, Alumni Association, has accepted a temporary development opportunity that began August 9. She has a one-year appointment as Chief/Associate Dean, School of Fire Sciences/Industrial Fire School, reporting to the Vice-President, Academic & Student Success at Lambton College. In this role, Carol-Lynn will also have dotted line responsibilities with the Police Foundations and EMS programs, to help initiate a foundation towards a longer-range public safety centre of excellence.

Dale Edward Richards, HBA'83, was appointed President & Member of the Board of Frist Derivatives, U.S. Inc. - a leading global service provider in the Capital Markets technology sector with offices in New York, London and Ireland

Roland Horst, LLB'83, has been appointed CEO of Orvana Minerals Corp., a Toronto-based gold producer.

London City Council has appointed **Martin Hayward, BA'83** (ACS), Financial Studies, to City Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer. He was most recently Director of Financial Planning and Policy and Acting Deputy City Treasurer.

Mike McGee, BA'84 (ACS) Padm/Pp/Pol Sci has been appointed an independent director of BFS Entertainment & Multimedia Ltd., serving on the Audit and Compensation Committees. He is Managing Director, Investments for the Werkbund Group in Calgary.

Gregory Secord, BA'84, (English) was appointed President of ADP Canada - a leading provider of payroll HR and time and attendance management services.

Lindsey John Cancino, BA'85, has been appointed to the position of CFO with Bahamas Realty.

Joe Chidley, MA'85 (English), has been appointed Senior Vice President, Corporate and Public Affairs at Veritas Communications Inc., a Public Relations, Public Affairs and Influencer Marketing agency serving Fortune 500 clients across a variety of industries.

Mike Kilbourne, BSc'85 (Geology), has been appointed Vice-President of Exploration with Goldstone Resources Inc. He is the President of White Pine Resources, Inc.

Gordon Scott Paterson, BA'85 (Economics), was appointed Vice Chairman of NeuLion and also a Director of Lions Gate Entertainment.

Steven Wayne Parsons, HBA'85, was appointed CEO of American Paramount Gold Corp., a junior precious metals company exploring actively in Nevada, USA.

Angelo Bartolini, HBA'85, was promoted to CFO at Altus Group Income Fund- a leading multidisciplinary provider of independent real estate consulting and professional advisory services worldwide.

Douglas Murphy, HBA'85, was recently appointed President of Corus TV. Doug Murphy joined Corus Entertainment Inc. in December 2002 and was most recently Executive Vice President and General Manager, Corus Kids and President, Nelvana. In that role, he was responsible for overseeing Corus' global kids business, including the specialty networks Treehouse, YTV and Nickelodeon (Canada), as well as Nelvana, Kids Can Press, KidsCo and qubo.

Roy Coburn, BA'86, Geography (Urban Development) was promoted to senior vice-president, specialized services, in August 2007, responsible for Livingston's consulting, event logistics, managed services and technology services groups.

Naomi Louise Nemeth, MA'86 (Journalism), was appointed VP, Investor Relations to Continental Gold Limited which has begun an aggressive drill program at its flagship Bunitica gold property near Medellin in northwestern Colombia.

NBS Technologies Inc., a provider of hardware and software solutions has appointed **Michael Delaney, BA'86** (Physical Ed), VP, Channel Partner Sales. In this newly created role, Michael is responsible for the leadership of the global Channel Partner Sales Organization.

Michael Eizenga, LLB'86, was appointed Partner at Bennett Jones LLP.

David Lieberman, BA'86 (Economics), has joined Avison Young's Toronto multi-residential division of the Capital Markets Group as the Multi-Residential Sales Representative.

Cameron Victor Reed, BSc'86 (Geology), appointed VP, Corporate Development at Gemcom Software International - Gemcom has a global reach delivering comprehensive solutions in all major mining centres in more than 90 countries.

Marcey Saunders, BA'86, was appointed Director of HR in Canada at Henry Schein, the largest provider of health care products and services to office-based practitioners.

Jane Boake, BA'86, BEd'88, was appointed to the Order of Ontario on January 28, 2010. Jane had a vision to combine her teaching skills with her love of animals in order to help others. She is an advocate for people with disabilities and for youth and children experiencing challenges at school. She founded the non-profit organization C.O.P.E. (Canine Opportunity, People Empowerment) and took the program into high schools, partnering service dogs-in-training with students at risk of leaving school early. The High School Assistance Dog Program has an enviable record of a 97 per cent student retention rate. Ms. Boake's passion has enabled many challenged individuals to see positive change and growth in their lives. Jane was honoured in her hometown of Barrie, Ontario on April 11, 2010.

Andrew Michael Roud, BA'87 (Geography), has been appointed Development Director of St. John Properties in Baltimore.

Christopher John Gibson, BA'87 (Political Science), was appointed Director of Business Development of Evton Capital Partners - a commercial real estate investment and property management firm based in Toronto.

Paul Berton, BA'87 (English/History), has resigned as Editor-in-Chief at the London Free Press to become the Editor-in-Chief at the Hamilton Spectator.

James Edward Cohen, BA'88 (Political Sci), was appointed Co-President & Co-CEO of Gendis Inc.

John Hoadley, MBA'89, has joined Taqua LLC, a leading supplier of next-generation switching systems and applications, as the Wireless Chief Technology Officer.

Michael Rubinoff, LLB'89, left his Toronto law firm to launch M. Rubinoff Productions Inc., a commercial theatre company producing in the City of Toronto.

Julie Ann McAlindon, BSc'89 (Biology), was appointed VP, Marketing at PolyOne Corporation, a premier provider of specialized polymer materials, services and solutions

1990s

Adam Flomen, BA'90 (Economics), has been appointed vice president, responsible for business development and for sourcing middle-market commercial borrowers for PNC Canada. He is based in Toronto.

Howard M. Grosfield, LLB'90, was appointed President & CEO, Amex Bank of Canada and President and General Manager, Amex Canada Inc.

Jordan R. Banks, BA'90 (Political Sci), was appointed as Managing Director of Facebook Canada, based in Toronto, Ontario.

Peter R. Sikсна, HBA'90, was appointed VP, Strategic Solutions Group of Pitney Bowes Canada & Latin America. Pitney Bowes provides software, hardware and services that integrate physical and digital communication channels.

Crocetta (Chris) Gruppuso, LLB'90, was recently awarded the 2010 Laura Legge Award at the Law Society of Upper Canada Annual Awards Ceremony. Gruppuso was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1992. Highly respected by Crowns, defence counsel and judges alike, Chris Gruppuso is renowned for her exceptional leadership and mentorship abilities. As a team leader with the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, she consistently provides a positive learning experience for numerous junior counsel, helping to build a solid foundation for their legal careers.

Tony Busseri, HBA'91, has been appointed the President and CEO of Route1, a security and identity management company. He is a principal of Growth Equity Partners, a full service business advisory firm.

Edward Jonasson, BA'91 (Admin/Com Fin/Econ), was appointed to the position of CFO with Intertainment Media Inc., a small new media company that is traded on the Venture exchange.

Kathryn Lynn Denton, PhD'92 (Psychology), was appointed the new VP of Education, Douglas College, British Columbia.

Fashion and social shopping platform Polyvore Inc. has named **Sukhinder Singh Cassidy, HBA'92**, its new Chief Executive Officer. Singh Cassidy was formerly the CEO-in-residence at Accel Partners.

Peter Wilson Tagliamonte, MBA'93, has been appointed a Director of Verena Minerals Corporation, a Canadian based mineral exploration company with a portfolio of properties including gold and Alexandrite gemstones in Brazil.

Nicholas Nikolakakis, MBA'94, was appointed VP & CFO of Rainy River Resources Ltd - a Canadian precious metals exploration company.

Evan Howard, LLB'94, was appointed Partner to Ogilvy Renault in Toronto.

Michael E. Drolet, BA'94 (English), was appointed Correspondent of Global National based in Toronto.

Robert S. Butchey, BSc'95 (Biology), **Dip'96** (Zoology), was appointed in January at the Tillsonburg Medical Clinic.

Krista Webster, MA'96 (Journalism), has been appointed to the position of Executive Vice President and Partner at Veritas Communications Inc., a Public Relations, Public Affairs and Influencer Marketing agency serving Fortune 500 clients across a variety of industries.

Michael John Dinsdale, BESC'97 (Mechanical Eng), was appointed CFO of DocuSign, Inc. – in the electronic signature market.

Michael J. V. Baldinelli, MESC'97, was awarded the coveted London Home Builders' Association supplier of the year award three of the last four years and is now named President of the association.

Byron Sproule, MBA'97, was appointed Managing Director of ARC China Holdings Ltd - based in New York City and joins the company's existing team of over 20 on-the-ground professionals in China.

Candace J. MacGibbon, BA'98 (Economics), was appointed President of INV Metals Inc.

Shane B. Pearlman, BA'99 (Statistics), was named as a Partner with Borden Ladner Gervais.

2000s

James John McHale, MBA'00, was recently appointed Director of BMO Capital Markets.

Jeff Powell, MA'00 (Economics), was appointed Assistant National Coach, Women's Program - Rowing Canada Aviron.

Graeme Martindale, LLB'02, was named as a partner at Borden Ladner Gervais.

Charlotte Loaring, BSc'02 (Physical Therapy), won the Athena Award - 2010 Business Excellence Awards – for Loaring Physiotherapy and Health Centre.

Michelle Chislett, BESC'03, (MBA) recently joined International Power Canada as Vice President of Solar Development. Chislett will be focused on developing a pipeline of solar projects in the Canadian market as well as assist with several US solar opportunities. International Power is one of the world's leading independent power producers with interests in over 45 power stations worldwide, operating more than 40 gigawatts of electric generation capacity.

Emoke Szathmary, DSc'03, has been appointed a director of The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation, an independent organization that supports creative thinkers who make meaningful contributions to critical social issues.

Irene Juliette Brooks, BScN'03, joined the team of Nurse Practitioners at the Maitland Valley Medical Centre.

Vanessa Aiello, MBA'04, joined RPMC as Client Services Director. RPMC is uniquely positioned to build unparalleled brand experiences for its clients.

Anita Gandhi, MD'05, joined the Department of Obstetrics/ Gynecology at Dreyer Medical Clinic, and is seeing patients at the Clinic's Oswego and Rush-Copley Campus locations.

Allison Kelley, MLIS'06, was named 2010 CACUL New Academic Librarian of the Year.

Amy Booth (nee Miller), BA'08, was married to Brian Booth on May 14, 2010 in Warton, Ontario. She is now working for a Chartered Accountant and Bankruptcy Trustee in Owen Sound, Ontario.

Sunny Uppal, BSc'08, recently completed his Master's in Environmental Health Policy from Columbia University and now works for the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva, Switzerland. In this role, he works on capacity building activities for the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), assisting countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia towards reducing air pollution and improving environmental and population health.

Christopher Jordan Stevens, BMus'08, is teaching piano and guitar and writing jingles and other pieces for corporations and advertising agencies. He uses a variety of technology to make it all happen.

Ethan Rabidoux, MA'09, (Journalism), is one of the 2010 winners of the Dalton Camp Award, an essay contest sponsored by Friends of Canadian Broadcasting. He is a radio journalist for 1240 CJCS of Stratford.

Western Mustangs quarterback **Michael Faulds, BA'09** (Geography), is one of four Canadian university athletes nominated for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Male Athlete of the Year.

Dean Tzembelikos, ExecMBA'09, is co-founder of Basic Concepts International Ltd, an international top company that manufactures in China. Basic, which has seven employees and 20 products, has built its financial and creative success on the fundamentals of play and wonder. Bucking the trend for walking, talking, computer-chip-enhanced toys, its products focus on much simpler fare, centred around an experience.

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association extends its condolences to the families and friends of the following alumni:

Margaret (Jane) Hockin Brown, BA'49, on July 28, 2009, in Cohasset, Massachusetts.

Dr. James Russell "Russ" Robinson, PhD'53, on April 10, 2010, in London, Ontario.

Dr. Kenneth W. Adams, MD'55, on March 26, 2010 at the Orange Regional Medical Center, Middletown, New York.

James H. P. Kooy, BA'55, on Monday, May 17, 2010 in Stratford, Ontario.

Patricia Ellen Charles, BA'58 (Brescia), on February 24, 2010, Saint Lucia.

Dr. Steve Radin, MD'59, on March 18, 2010, at home in Windsor, Ontario.

Charles C. Mark, LLB'62, QC., on April 13, 2010 in Toronto, Ontario.

Thomas William McCalden, HBA'63, MBA, CA, died May 4, 2010 in Peterborough, Ontario.

Susan Timar (nee Szekely) BA'64 (Mathematics), passed away on Monday, June 23, 2008 in Toronto, Ontario.

Dr. Edwin John Franczak, MD'66, on Thursday, May 27, 2010 in Scarborough, Ontario.

Andres Jaaku, BSc'66, on January 3, 2010, in Scarborough, Ontario.

Bruce Shiga, BEd'68 (Althouse), on April 7, 2010 while vacationing in Cozumel, Mexico.

Robin Hollis Robarts, BA'75 (Political Science), on April 22, 2010 in Toronto.

Western alumnus and Royal Canadian Regiment Colonel **Geoff Parker, BESC'90**, on May 18, 2010 in Afghanistan.

Faculty & Staff

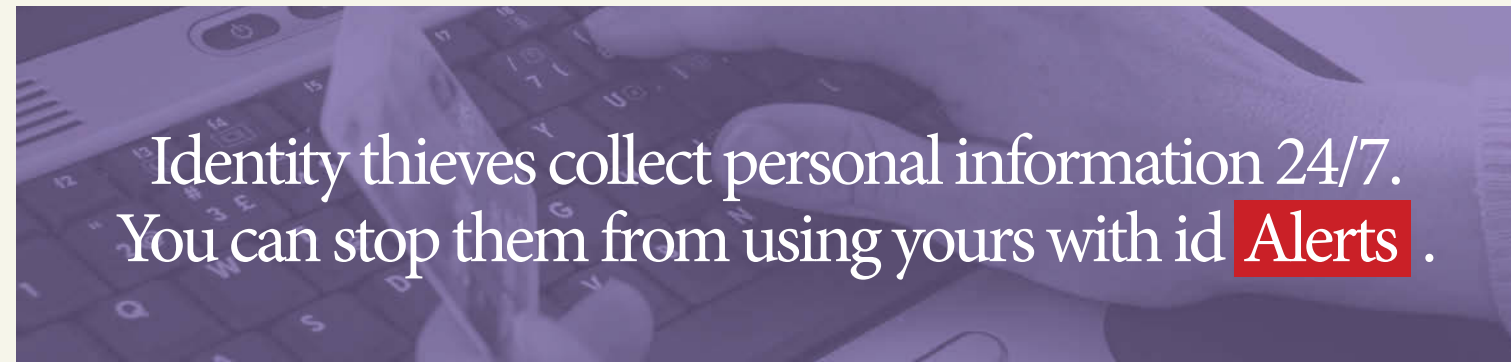
Professor & Law librarian **Margaret Amelia Banks** on Thursday, April 29, 2010 in London, Ontario.

Professor Emeritus (Sociology) **John Howard Kunkel** on May 20, 2010 in La Jolla, California.

Founding faculty member of Western Engineering **Edwin Nowak** on May 20, 2010 in Burlington, Ontario.

Former Family Medicine faculty member, **Dr. John Orchard, MD'58**, on April 2, 2010 in London, Ontario.

Full obituaries of the listings above can be found online at: www.alumnigazette.ca



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DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE WINTER 2011 ISSUE IS DECEMBER 1.



THE FINAL SAY

WITH PAUL WELLS, BA'89

TIME TO PUSH THE WESTERN VEHICLE

This spring I was invited to lunch in Ottawa with Amit Chakma, Western's new president. On his side of the table were several other members of the university's administration. On mine were alumni who've made a career in journalism.

The happiest surprise was seeing Clark Davey, who graduated in 1948 and went on to report for, edit and manage most of the country's important newspapers.

The topic of lunch wasn't journalism, really. I suppose we were invited so Dr. Chakma could take a break from the VIP rounds in the capital, and because as political reporters and UWO alumni we might be expected to know both the university and the nation, each from a certain distance.

This new guy is pretty impressive. Soft-spoken, unpretentious, hard to rattle. I asked him a question about the University of Waterloo, where he was vice-president (academic) and provost, that was designed to knock him back on his heels. (I hinted that Waterloo's reputation might be bigger than its measurable achievement). He didn't blink. He conceded part, but not all, of my point.

Then he added that a hefty reputation is not a bad thing for a university. It might be good if Western's were to improve along similar lines.

To simplify a bit, that's a big part of the assignment Chakma has set for himself since he became the 10th Western president just over a year ago. From 1994 to 2009

his predecessor Paul Davenport worked to transform Western from a comfortable middleweight institution into a university with the infrastructure and faculty that could make it competitive with the best in the country. Chakma wants that to continue, but for that to happen, perceptions need to catch up to the new reality. The rest of the world needs to start realizing that Western is a more formidable institution than it used to be. And, indeed, Western's faculty, students and alumni need to catch up to facts too, and calibrate their ambitions for the future accordingly.

Chakma wants to triple the representation of international students in Western's undergraduate population.

One thing I learned at lunch is that Western's student recruitment has an odd middle-distance quality to it. We do quite well at attracting students from Toronto. We don't do as well at persuading students from the London area to stay home for university. And we aren't really even on the map for international students. Barely four per cent of current students are international students. The latter two phenomena don't seem to have much in common, but to me they're linked. University is an adventure for young adults. You're not likely to stay home unless you realize home can be an adventure. And if you're traveling halfway around the world, you will select your targets based on their reputation and the noise they're making.

Chakma has set about making noise. He published an article in the UK's Times Higher Education Supplement this summer touting Canada's attempts to lure top talent to Canadian campuses. Thanks to some recent good news in high-stakes recruiting, he was able to begin his article about a national trend with a local success story: "The announcement that

world-renowned neuroscientist Adrian Owen was moving with most of his research team from the University of Cambridge to the University of Western Ontario in Canada shocked some of the British media. We should expect more such surprises from Canadian universities."

Chakma wants to triple the representation of international students in Western's undergraduate population. And he wants to sharply increase the number of our own students who get out of London, and Canada, to experience at least one term of study in another country. That reflects his own life: he was born in Bangladesh and studied in Algeria, France and Canada. But this isn't just a case of management-as-memoir. It also reflects the reality that broader perspectives encourage higher ambition. You can't coast when you're somewhere strange. You can't assume the way they did things back home is the only way. And you start to realize you're able to think and act beyond the horizons you used to take for granted.

At lunch we all had a good debate about how perceptions of Western can be brought into line with its lately improved reality so the university's progress can continue and accelerate. What's already obvious is that, in encouraging Western students to notice the world and in seeking to draw the world's attention to Western, Chakma is attempting to kick Western out of its regional base and into the international arena.

That won't be easy. I think my alma mater is ready. So I dusted off my credit card and, for the first time in too long, made a donation. I learned that Western's Make a Difference campaign is a little more than one-third of the way to its \$500,000,000 goal for 2014. That's ambitious, but our alma mater is becoming a place where ambition is expected.

If anyone reads my column here regularly, they'll know I never use it as part of a fundraising drive. My lunch with Dr. Chakma led me to make an exception this time. Many of us have watched from a distance as Western transformed itself, from a wonderful place for collecting undergraduate memories, into a contender. Now's a good time to stop watching and help push.

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¹Certain conditions and restrictions may apply.

*No purchase required. Contest ends on January 14, 2011. Total value of each prize is \$30,000 which includes the Honda Insight EX and a \$3,000 gas voucher. Odds of winning depend on the number of eligible entries received. Skill-testing question required. Contest organized jointly with Primum Insurance Company and open to members, employees and other eligible people of all employer and professional and alumni groups entitled to group rates from the organizers. Complete contest rules and eligibility information available at www.melochemonnex.com. Actual prize may differ from picture shown.

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