WESTERN'S BRAIN GAIN

HOMECOMING 2010 ISSUE
WESTERN TIES TO DONNELLY MYTH
UP CLOSE WITH KEVIN O'LEARY
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We are a country of immigrants. When some of our ancestors arrived in a pristine, 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 beliefs 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 Westerners, 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, scorched with the memories of those killed or Those of the Western Alumni Gazette or published do not necessarily reflect be edited for length, style and clarity.

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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 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 (and I’m talking here about being neither actually nor visually sick) and just get in and out of the postures, then I would not get sick and I would be able to do something interesting. I was also very curious about whether I could do the postures, and more specifically, whether I could do the postures while lying supine on the floor. No second is the part where you have to make a double chin, and finally yoga has given me 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 were 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 doctors types call peristalsis.

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 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-bubble 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 barring 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 stiling a guffaw. Maybe that, for me at least, should be the 27th posture.
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, that, and most recently, The Walrus. He has served as Playwright in Residence at the Canadian Stage Co., and three of his plays have been performed. He has recently premiered a play with Tarragon Theatre (Icicle) 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 also has produced and hosted radio shows for CBC Radio, including the popular Skylarking. He is an Editor at Large with This Magazine. He also brings to the residency his experience 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.

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In his capacity as Writer in Residence, André Alexis is a seasoned leader – well above the North American campus environment and overall educational experience – well above the North American campus environment and overall educational experience. He is a/t_t_ ended a London secondary school and resides in Toronto, he has local connections: The Walrus. He is a seasoned leader – well above the North American campus environment and overall educational experience. He is a/t_t_ ended a London secondary school and resides in Toronto, he has local connections: The Walrus.

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 Leigh. “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 benefited 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 NSHE 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

Allison 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 bicycle.

“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 bike program. “Dr. Lumpkin’s program with student member Diane Burns worked very well in terms of the idea of a bike program. MAcMed 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 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 own bicycles. 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 donations/acquisition of additional bikes the program will expand to Saugene-Maitland, Perri 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 Hgele 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 a published in the August 2010 issue of Nature Genetics (www.nature.com).
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—for free; it works to their advantage, 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 Christina McKillop, Director of 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, foregrounding 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.

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

To view all of our 2011 trips, visit www.alumni.uwo.ca/travel
Contact us to receive a copy of our catalogue or to be added to our mailing list.

Call Susan Henderson at 519-661-2111 or 800-258-6896 ext 85871 or e-mail discovertheworld@uwo.ca
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 Donnelly (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) 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 these 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 Donnelly, 1954 & Vengeance...
It was followed up in the next few years with The St. Nicholas stage with nature as the backdrop. Live horses and stagecoaches, a blacksmith’s shop and an outdoor Festival. Thompson involved the entire community – with his Donnelly Trilogy of plays in 1973 with Sticks & Stones. The regional culture was an appetite and audience for theatre portraying local Canadian culture. Theatre Passe Muraille in the early 1970s, Thompson felt there would be more interest in a less-angelic Donnellys, Thompson felt that Orlo Miller’s book had ‘angelified’ them. He 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.

That’s the sense of the landscape that new material as a physical challenge to overcome and tame, that Thompson revisited the story again with The Outdoor Donnellys in 1974. 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 the myth of the Donnellys springs and the landscape got to touch that with your hands, breathe the dust off. And see the parts that even if we do take in the car keys and do lock the door, we’re still pre/try to protect our relatives, “ says Thompson.

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

about 10 years before I corralled into the Farm Show in 1973,” 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 vindicated the Donnellys, Thompson felt that Orlo Miller’s book in response kind of ‘angelified’ 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.”

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From the land, Thompson believes is where the myth of the Donnellys springs and the landscape 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 national trauma (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 narrative 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 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, John (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. 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 bishop Michael Aylmer 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 Budulph. 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 do this or ‘ironic that… and it’s as if he’s right there,” says 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...
Competitors’ horses? Could it be that kind of hearsay culminated in driving vigilantes into a murderous rage?

The outcome of the massacre was really dramatic. 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 recapitulate 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 the Donnelly Trial ended in a guilty verdict for the vigilantes.”

Weber, a clubfoot (1845-1897)

The Donnelly Family

James Donnelly – patriarch (1816-1880)

Johannah Donnelly – nee 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 (1845-1907)

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 Donnelly – the last child, and the only daughter (1847-1917)

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 the Donnelly Trial did so well in London, he wanted to make it a production that was part of the Lucan legend comes this fall in the form of Doty’s Lost Souls Stroll, called the Odd Souls Stroll, at a recent London Fringe Festival. Driving into Doty’s repertoire must have stirred some interest in the Donnellys too, because the latest offering from a Western alumnus is 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 on around you. “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.

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The University of Western Ontario Archives. (Photos by Heather Travis)

Witness statements made on March 6, 1880 in the County of Middlesex in the presence of the vigilantes arrested. Headlines from February 4, 1880 issue of The Weekly Globe & Canada Farmer. The University of Western Ontario Archives. (Photos by Heather Travis)
“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 company 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 go to, but the pay-off as artists, and the pay-off for the audience is more than what you would

“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

THEATRE THAT CHALLENGES AUDIENCES

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 branchchild of Western alumni Justin Quesnelle, BA’03 (Poetic and Dramatic Literature) and Eva Blahut, who have 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 1961 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 Angeli 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 Orheta, they named their company Passionfool, a nod to the way in which classic and contemporary theatre has the capacity to provoke like no other.”

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“All my training was a unique combination of the theoretical and the experiential,” Quesnelle said. “And 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. 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.”

Fountainhead Theatre’s production of Angels in America.

“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.”

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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. 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.”

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The scene walk up University College Hill on the Saturday of Homecoming last year retraced a path Shane Gonzales, 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, 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 offer a little longer.

Umbrella in hand and strolling with girlfriend, Vicky Simanovski, BMOS’08, he was just a bit unsettled.

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 from my office window … 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.”

“T h e y are seeing each other as 18-year-olds and it is magical.”

TRISTA WALKER
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI PLANNING & EVENTS

IELYSDHILL on the Saturday of Homecoming that 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 the 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 1999, 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 Kool’s 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. 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, grew up in much the same circumstances when a medical degree seemed out of reach.

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. 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 the university-wide Homecoming. Still, reunions pre-existed Homecoming for many years in faculties such as Medicine.
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 the stops.

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 and their staff help with planning, ads and brochures. As the big weekend approaches, more staff get pulled in to tie up the stops.

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 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.”

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.”

“Not while I sit in my Alumni Relations seat. It is our Superbowl game. If it doesn’t happen here, there’s little to come home to.”

Many alumni say this is where Homecoming really starts. In the survey’s homecoming experience culminates to.”

The survey’s homecoming experience culminates to. “Western is associated with the concept of tradition and 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 set up for the other. First on the Friday night (107) 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. **

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FEATURE STORY: HOMECOMING

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Muller, BSc’94, 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.”

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Company’s coming. Time to get ready. **
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
6:00 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.

**Saturday, October 2**
**HOMECOMING PARADE**
9:00 a.m.
Along Richmond Street

**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.

**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.
ADRIAN OWEN BRINGS HIS CAMBRIDGE TEAM TO CANADA

“...”

WESTERN GAINS
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.”

BY TOM SPEARS

The news has startled Britain. A famous scientist starts a new job—at Western. Fears of a brain drain, “The Guardian”’s New Year’s Day story, have dissipated. Albert Einstein once said it’s impossible to imagine playing tennis when he wanted to relax. Now he’s raising the question of whether we’ve really understood what Einstein meant.

The University of Cambridge announced that some patients 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.

“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 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 the 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 researcher receives $10 million in federal funding over five years, and is expected to receive a similar amount from the province. Each researcher is responsible for recruiting 19 other researchers.

Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and brain injuries—his range of fields—brain injuries, Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and others—all involve severe loss of brain function. It’s the most interesting and difficult problem that exists in the world today, he said.

Now he’s raising the question of whether these patients have lost as much as people think. If we can develop the technology to show the brain in action, we can test the hypothesis that these patients are capable of answering questions. Patients with both diseases are assumed, in the layman’s view, to be unable to think and to be unable to communicate.

But Owen is gearing up to change all that. “It was certainly always an attractive option to me to move back to Canada,” he said. “There’s a level of commitment, and the facilities are available in Canada, and it’s the most interesting problem in the world today.”

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.

“Really nice machine,” The Guardian’s story said. “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 fMR1 researcher, is one of the people responsible for recruiting Owen.

“Mr. Menon is 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.”

November 22, 2010
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 Soфт Key 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.”
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, 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.
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).

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
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. There is a wide array of art to choose from, which

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

(Submit: 3328)

Jennifer Waner (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!

grensemp@ucalgary.ca

Sohela Kalahdous-Esfahani, MFA’10 (Waterloo) – Sohela 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 as a finalist in Montreal in November. His compelling work is sculptural and digitally-based, and deals with themes related to migration and tourism.

www.brendanfernandes.ca

Sohela Kalahdous-Esfahani’s Reed Bed Study

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’, he pays cheeky homage to other artists and popular movie stars simultaneously.

derekliddington.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

Collecting art is not an activity best undertaken in a vacuum. The more information and knowledge you have in advance the better.

Like any worthy activity the more you put into it the more you will accomplish. There’s 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.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – EVOLUTION OF DINING AT WESTERN

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 ‘Tingal Hall’ the cafeteria was frequently infested with cockroaches and marauding rats from the nearby river valley. Though 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 reveals 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 many leaders are feeling overwhelmed. Five Seconds at a Time provides easy 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 throughout 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 content; 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 donnés (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

CREATIVE ARTS IN INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE
This contemporary research text edited by Cheryl McLean, BATH’98 (Concordia, Creative Art Therapies) and published by International Journal of The Creative Arts in Interdisciplinary Practice, www.ijcap.com, introduces an emerging and rapidly growing field. At a time when there is a call for innovation, this book includes articles about the creative arts in research, action and interdisciplinary practice. First-hand topical accounts are featured from leading academics, health researchers, nurse educators, physicans, 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. Contact: CherylMcLean@icap.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 London, 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-books The Red Flag Rulebook serves as the ultimate guide for women looking to weed out those not-so-worthy men. Burmanbooks.com, Amazon.com

SOONER IN BLUE
After years of newspaper, magazine and television writing, including three years as an arts writer at the London Free Press, Gillian (Hughart) Cummings, MA’84 (journalism), has published her first young adult novel, Somewhere in Blue (Lobster Press). Set in Toronto’s Beaches, it chronicles the unwavering bond 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
Coleraine – A Time Remembered by William B. Connor, BA’64 (Huron) is set in Northern Ireland in the late sixties and early seventies, and recounts 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
LEADERSHIP

As I started to write this column, I was inspired by watching a Western alumna teaching her 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 who proudly carry 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 many of our accomplishments and connections 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 spur 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 senior alumnus 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 alumni annual event that seems to attract more and more each year. Charlie and Laurie Nagge of Port Stanley hosted the 2010 picnic, which was attended by 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

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 25 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 great 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 mineral exploration for more than 25 years, Keith has consulted for numerous companies and investment houses, with an expertise in epithermal gold deposits. Keith also has co-founded two companies, Aurelian Resources Inc. and USO 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.
Kelly Meighen, BA’71

Kelly Meighen says she is sure she was the last student Western let in through the gates in 1968. “I never struggled through high school and getting into Western was really big for me,” says Kelly, who attended 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 have 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 Relations, Beedle, 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, St. John’s College, 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 Chalima. “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.”

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 at 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, and Chinese urban and regional development. He is a prolific writer who has his 344 books and numerous articles in international refereed journals and books chapter.
Jean-Rene Halde, MA’69 (Economics), has been appointed a Managing Director of the Centre for European Policy Studies in Brussels.

Cathryn Green McNamee, BA’63, has been appointed a director of Nippon Terminals USA, Inc., a company that provides comprehensive logistics and supply chain management services.

Marian Botsford Fraser, BA’68, has been appointed Managing Director of Culinar Inc. and Atlantique Video and Sound Inc., companies that produce and distribute animated content.

Archibald Heseltine, LLB’77, has been appointed the Chief Executive Officer of the Toronto Star, a leading newspaper.

Dr. Jonathan Borwein, BSc’71 (Mathematics), has been appointed a Professor at the University of Newcastle in Australia.

Douglas Murphy, HBA’85, has been appointed President of Evton Capital, a financial consulting firm.

Douglas McCall, BAC’84 (Architecture), has been appointed President of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada.

Mike Kilbourne, BSc’85 (Geology), has been appointed a Director of Exploration with Goldstone Resources Inc.

Howard M. Grosfeld, LLB’90, has been appointed Executive Vice-President and Chief Financial Officer of the Bank of America.

Harvey Schneider, MLS’71, has been appointed President of the Cleveland State University Foundation.

Leo Alfred Groarke, PhD’82, was appointed an independent director of BFS Entertainment & Media, a media company.

Cameron Victor Reed, BSc’86 (Geology), was appointed a Director of Development at St. John Properties in Toronto.

Michael is responsible for the leadership of the global logistics, managed services and technology services groups.

Andrew Michael Roud, BA’87, was appointed Director of Business Development of Evton Capital Partners - a commercial real estate investment and property management firm based in Toronto.

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Gazetteer
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gazetteer@uwo.ca
www.alumnigazette.ca

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

Margaret (Jane) Hookin Brown, B.A., on July 28, 2009, in Colgate, Massachusetts.
Krista Webster, M.A., on May 14, 2010 in Windsor, Ontario.
Dr. Steve Radin, M.D., on May 18, 2010 in Arlington, Virginia.
Bruce Stiga, Ed.D (Althouse), on April 7, 2010 while vacationing in Cozumel, Mexico.
Western Alumni and Royal Canadian Regiment Colonel Geoff Parker, B.C.Sc, on May 10, 2010 in Afghanistan.

Collect data such as SIN #, driver’s license, PIN # and passwords, are amalgamated then sold on the open market.
You cannot stop sophisticated thieves from stealing your data. What you can do is stop them from using the stolen data to commit fraud.

Protect the value of your identity with this complete Identity Theft Protection Program powered by id Alerts Canada.

Register today for as little as $8.95/month.
Call 1-866-353-3131 or visit www.idalerts.ca/UWO
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 atempts to lure top talent to 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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