ON THE LAST FRONTIER
Lorin MacDonald, JD’09, advocates for rights of disabled in Ontario and beyond.

ZEN AND THE ART OF BANKING
Arkadi Kuhlmann, HBA’71, MBA’72, LLD’10, on the past, present and future of banking.

POWER TRAIN
Andy O’Brien, BA’02, loves the challenge of training elite athletes.

OUTFOXING THEM ALL
Don Gutoski, MD’79, claims title of Wildlife Photographer of the Year.

CULTIVATING COOL
Jared Gutstadt, BA’00, changes an industry’s tune with Jingle Punks.

ALUMNA BLENDS WORLDS TOGETHER
Kara-Lis Coverdale, BMus’08, MA’10, bridges traditional/electronic music.

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It’s now 2016, and I thought the 1990s sounded so futuristic.

My high school graduation from Grade 13 – which no longer exists – was in 1984. Thanks to George Orwell, that was an ominous year. Actually, more of what he wrote is a reality today with our digital footprint marking our travels. Not to mention cameras just about everywhere we move in public. There is real potential for ‘Big Brother’ if governments have the time, resources and inclination to track our every move.

But have we really changed that much in 20 years? Apparently, yes.

Remember telephone banking? That was revolutionary. That’s how ING Canada got its start in 1996. Founder Arkadi Kuhlmann, HBA’71, MBA’72, LL’10, had a vision. It evolved quickly into online banking. He’s well into his next 20 years.

Twenty years ago, there was no Accessibilities for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). But Lorin MacDonald, JD’09, with a team of like-minded advocates and politicians made that a reality in 2005. It would be her dream now 10+ years later for national disability legislation in Canada.

As usual in this issue we feature talented and interesting alumni thriving in their professions. We hope to inspire today’s graduates for the next 20 years.

“I was so much older then, I’m younger than that now,” sang Bob Dylan in My Back Pages. Our own Back Page columns have a new look, along with the entire magazine thanks to the work of designer Rob Potter, and a new voice(s). The in-demand and talented writer, author and political commentator Paul Wells, BA’89, after more than a decade sharing insights for over a decade, will be handing over the reins to two talented alumnae commentator Paul Wells, BA’89, after more than a decade sharing insights with our readers is handing over the reins to two talented alumnae commentator Paul Wells, BA’89, after more than a decade sharing insights with our readers is handing over the reins to two talented alumnae

THE THRILL OF VICTORY – THE AGONY OF DEFEAT

Sept. 26 (top): Mustangs offensive lineman Sean Jamieson, fourth-year Kinesiology student, triumphantly lifts teammate and running back Alex Taylor, second-year Kinesiology student, following a touchdown against the Carleton Ravens.

Nov. 14 (bottom): It was a sadder moment for Jamieson at the Yates Cup.

(Side related story in Campus News)

GENERATIONS ENJOY FUN OF HOMECOMING

Homecoming 2015 brought alumni young and old back to London to celebrate the school and legend that is Western. Among the thousands of Homecoming revelers were Jane (Winchester) Kramer, BA’55 (Phys-E., Jane’s classmate - Molly (McMillan) Buckrell, BA’55 (Phys-E), Jane’s daughter - Kathryn (Kramer) Forsyth, BSc’93/E., Alanna) attended the homecoming event at the Great Hall in Somerville House on Saturday evening, celebrating their 60th alumni anniversary year. Afterward, they found a lovely couple (thank you and sorry they didn’t get your names) to drive them back downtown. Although the line-up for the Ceeps was now innumerable, they enjoyed the view from Jack Astor’s and continued to make friends as we made our way home safely in a taxi!

Western, now and then. Much has changed, yet producing quality citizens who never get too old to be engaged with their community is clearly still a priority. Way to go Western!

Kathryn Forthsyth, BSc’91 (Brescia)

YOUR RIGHT TO PRIVACY: Western respects your privacy. At any time you have the right to request that your personal information cease to be used for alumni programs, to provide information about alumni services, or for fundraising purposes. For more information, please visit www.adver.uwo.ca/privacystatement.htm or contact Advancement Services: phone 519 661 4176 or 1 800 420 7519 (Canada & U.S.), fax 519 661 4182 or e-mail advser@uwo.ca.
France celebrates prof’s contributions

For Jeff Tennant, it was a tribute to a career he felt into after falling in love with the French language as a teenager. In November, the French Studies professor was awarded the Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Order of Academic Palms), in a ceremony Nov. 30 in the Dr. David S.H. Chu International Student Centre on campus, presented by Marc Trouyet, the Consul General of France in Toronto.

Tennant, whose work focuses on phonetics and sociolinguistics, was flattered to be recognized in such a way. “It really means a lot. It’s an honour to be recognized for contributions to French culture, particularly through the promotion of international relations between Western and French universities,” he said.
Law prof at centre of doping report

Western Law professor Richard McLaren co-authored an explosive report that accused the Russian government of complicity in widespread doping and cover-ups by its track and field athletes. McLaren was part of the three-person independent commission chaired by Richard Pound, LLD’04, and appointed by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), to investigate allegations of widespread, systematic doping and cover-ups in Russia.

“This report is going to be a real game-changer for sport,” McLaren said. “Unlike FIFA, where you have a bunch of old men who put a whole lot of extra money in their pockets, here you potentially have a bunch of old men who put a whole lot of extra money in their pockets – through extortion and bribes – but also caused significant changes to actual results and final standings of international athletics competitions. This is a whole different scale of corruption than the FIFA scandal or the International Olympic Committee (IOC) scandal in respect to Salt Lake City.”

Released November 9 in Geneva, the report called for a ban on Russia from competing in the Olympic Committee (IOC) scandal in respect to Salt Lake City.”

Western alumni William Morneau, BA’86 (Political Science), and Jane Philpott, MD’84, were named among 31 members of the new Liberal cabinet of recently elected Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Trudeau tapped Morneau as Finance Minister and Philpott as Health Minister at swearing in ceremonies held Nov. 4 at Rideau Hall. Morneau, Executive Chair of Morneau Shepell, is an accomplished business leader who has been an active volunteer in Toronto Centre for more than 20 years. He studied retirement issues as a member of the Government of Ontario’s Pension Advisory Council and, in 2012, was appointed as Pension Investment Advisor to Ontario’s Minister of Finance. Jane Philpott is a family physician and was the Chief of the Department of Family Medicine at Markham Stouffville Hospital. She was also an assistant professor at the University of Toronto’s Department of Family and Community Medicine.

Two Alumni Named to Trudeau Cabinet

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Purple presence among Giller Prizes

André Alexis, the 2010-11 Winter-In-Residence in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities, was named winner of the 2015 Scotiabank Giller Prize for Fifteen Dogs, published by Coach House Books, in November. Alexis was born in Trinidad and grew up in Canada. His debut novel, Childhood, won the Books in Canada First Novel Award, the Trillium Book Award, and was shortlisted for the Giller Prize and the Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize. Among the Giller shortlist of five books announced in October, two books, Arvada by Samuel Archibald and Martin John by Anakana Schoefield, were published by Biblioasis, a publishing house run by Dan Wells, MA’97 (History).

Undefeated football season ends at Yates

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. No clichés could comfort the crushed Mustangs. Men’s Football team as the undefeated, record-breaking squad fell 23-17 against the Guelph Gryphons in the Yates Cup on November 14. The Mustangs played without OUA most valuable player Will Finch in this game, but they were in a position to win with Stevenson Bone at quarterback. In the end the ball was going in Guelph’s favour. The regular season ended on such a high note with the Mustangs completing a spectacular undefeated run, breaking multiple CIS and OUA records in a 46-24 win over the McMaster Marauders October 24 at Ron Joyce Stadium.

Western established itself as the most potent offence in CIS regular season history in the win, setting new milestones for points in a season with 494, and touchdowns with 64. The Mustangs also set the OUA record for rushing yards in a year with 2,947, breaking the previous mark of 2,807 set by the purple and white in 2003.

With the win the Mustangs finished the season on top of the OUA standings with a perfect 8-0 record and secured home field advantage for the playoffs. Unfortunately, that didn’t last too long. Somewhat overshadowed in the record-breaking performance at Hamilton on October 24 was Coach Greg Marshall’s 100th career CIS regular season victory. Marshall, who’s won 42 regular season contests with McMaster and 58 with Western, becomes the fifth current CIS head coach with 100 regular season wins. As for the Yates loss, Marshall told the London Free Press: “The hardest thing for me right now is going in the dressing room and seeing kids who worked hard every single night, stayed here until 10 o’clock, 10:30 every single night and it’s over in seconds. You got this close and it’s sport and it’s life, too.”
“Is Canada not still a metaphorical country, a ‘bundle of sticks’ still waiting to be ‘well united,’ a ‘shield of Achilles’ still in the process of being forged?”

English and Writing Studies professor David Bentley delivered the second address in the President’s Lecture Series on Nov. 25.

“Accept this responsibility to build positive relationships with Aboriginal people in Canada... My reality was never reflected in any of the texts and images we studied. We were never talked about.”

Rebecca Jamieson

“You all face one fundamental question – how should you live your life? Each of you will have to answer this question on your own terms, but this is a question for now, for today, not one to be put off for tomorrow or a future day.”

J. Robert S. Prichard

“I’m humbled and inspired by the bravery of those whom I loved, who have heroically faced one of life’s greatest challenges with dignity and fortitude.”

Martin Short, keynote speaker at the 2015 Leaders in Innovation Dinner, hosted by the Robarts Research Institute at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry on November 18.

“I loved my years here at Western and I look back on my fine memories with gratitude for what it has given me. Life is largely about relationships and how you make them work successfully.”

New Western Chancellor, Jack Cowin, BA’64, LLD’00
Lorin MacDonald, JD'09, faces our last frontier every day. The Toronto human rights lawyer, who lives with a hearing loss, has dedicated her life, education and career to advocating for the disabled. To date, her victories have led—and continue to lead—to concrete gains for accessibility for all Ontarians. But the fight is far from over, she stresses.

"Disability rights are the last frontier when it comes to civil rights," she said.

MacDonald's advocacy started in high school in Port Dover, Ont., where she sat in the front row of most classrooms to read lips. There were no accommodations for students like her. And so she adapted, often befriending the smartest students in each class so she wouldn't fall behind. She excelled and that path led to Western—after attending Humber and Ryerson—where she started at King's University College in 2004 and ended in Western Law in 2009.

In her first week at Western in September 2004, MacDonald organized Still Waiting: A Forum for Moving Ahead, a conference held at King's that looked at how to strengthen the existing Ontarians with Disabilities Act. That conference was the birth of the Accessibilities for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), introduced just six weeks later at Queen's Park.

At the height of the bill's momentum, however, MacDonald was forced to pause. In May 2005, she put her education on hold when she was diagnosed with cancer.

"The doctor said I needed to see the specialist at St. Joseph's Hospital. A few days later, I said to him 'I'm sorry I can't go because the final reading for the AODA is happening at Queen's Park and I need to be there. Can it wait a few days?' And he looked at me so stunned. Then he said, 'I guess a few days won't hurt.'"
MACDONALD MADE it to Queen’s Park when the historic legislation was passed unanimously. In attendance was Chris Bentley, former Western Law instructor, and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities at the time. He was about to be named Attorney General for Ontario.

“There was no way I was missing that final reading. It was – and still is – one of the most moving days of my life. It was extremely, extremely moving,” said MacDonald.

She recently received the inaugural AODA 10th Anniversary Champion Award. The award recognizes individuals who demonstrate leadership in accessibility and disability issues, and a commitment to accessibility and inclusiveness in their community. Coming down from that historic high, MacDonald now faced her own personal reality. In her typical savvy style, she met it head on. She had three surgeries through the cancer and learned with a focus was too narrow,” she said. “Sadly, it is not.”

MacDonald is still amazed by the lack of common sense when it comes to accommodating the disabled. “For some reason, it’s still okay to say to a wheelchair user, ‘Oh, you want to come into this restaurant? Then you have to go in the back, through the kitchen and past all the garbage or you can’t come in at all because you have to go over three steps.’

“A lot of the time, it’s just out of ignorance. Just not knowing what to say or do. All you need to do is say, ‘How can I help you?’ That’s all that needs to be done. Or just being willing to do something a little differently like coming around the front of a counter if the wheelchair user is not able to see above the counter. That costs nothing.”

MacDonald stressed that one change could alleviate most barriers faced by disabled in Ontario and across Canada every day. “Attitudes are always the biggest barriers of all.”

Mohini Kota, a tireless advocate for inclusivity. She is passionate about the work that she does to raise awareness of disability issues and to promote accessibility. In the face of multiple barriers and challenges, her persistent optimism is contagious,” said Cynthia Petersen, a discrimination and harassment counsel for Ontario’s law society since 2002, and partner with Ottawa firm Sack, Goldblatt and Mitchell since 1995. Petersen first met MacDonald when she visited the campus as a guest lecturer for Western Law. The two have stayed in touch over the years and are often at the same conferences, committee meetings and gatherings within the legal profession.

“I’ve always thought of people with disabilities like wildflowers.”

MacDonald has advocated for a Canadian take on the Americans with Disabilities Act, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2014. “(It would) make it much clearer. A national legislation would bring about change. It refutes to leave others to endure what she has overcome. Lorin is a leader in an area that many would be happy simply not to be left behind. Leadership is never easy, and not always popular, but absolutely necessary,” said Bentley, now the executive director of the Law Practice Program at Ryerson University.

MacDonald articulated and worked as a lawyer in a few traditional law firms, but found she needed to create an environment where she could be most effective. In a profession where time is money, those with sight or hearing difficulties need to approach things differently to achieve the same results as their peers. As she has done in many situations, MacDonald adapted. Realizing she had been an effective advocate for accessibility and the disabled for decades, MacDonald opened her own private practice in Toronto in June 2015 focused on human rights and representing children with disabilities who have faced discrimination.

“Initially, I was concerned that this focus was too narrow,” she said. “Sadly, it is not.”

“I don’t think I could have (dealt with other struggles in life) had I not been through the cancer and learned with a few little words – ‘This too shall pass.’ No matter how bad it is, the biggest thing is that your fears are always worse than the reality. ‘This too shall pass’ is always true. You are stronger than you ever know. As pitiful as it all sounds, I’ve found those things to be true.”

During her time in London, she helped make the Western campus and the Grand Theatre more inclusive to people living with hearing loss. In 2006, she was named to the Mayor’s New Year’s Honours List and recognized the same year by the University Student Council (USC) with the Disability Advancement Award. Likewise, she received the Alumni Award of Merit for Community Service in 2014 from Western.

Her work has not passed unnoticed by those who knew her that first week at Western. “Lorin’s advocacy is born of personal challenges, but pursued with a determination to bring about change. She refuses to leave others to endure what she has overcome,” MacDonald made a tireless advocate for inclusivity. She is passionate about the work that she does to raise awareness of disability issues and to promote accessibility. In the face of multiple barriers and challenges, her persistent optimism is contagious,” said Cynthia Petersen, a discrimination and harassment counsel for Ontario’s law society since 2002, and partner with Ottawa firm Sack, Goldblatt and Mitchell since 1995. Petersen first met MacDonald when she visited the campus as a guest lecturer for Western Law. The two have stayed in touch over the years and are often at the same conferences, committee meetings and gatherings within the legal profession.

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Arkadi Kuhlmann, HBA’71, MBA’72, LLD’10, with his February 2011 painting The Prince.

Zen and the art of Banking

By David Scott

(Photos by Nation Wong)
Althouth today he’s now 76, Kuhlmann started his banking career at Western in the late 1960s, followed by MBA’72, LL’D 1980, didn’t have enough money to buy a car. So, he took his avid interest in motorcycles, earning a licence to ride, and joined his fellow students who leased Corvettes to impress girls, Kuhlmann could only afford a motorcycle in his freshman year. “I had the freedom to do my own thing,” he said. “I could be anyone I wanted to be.”

Kuhlmann even wore what he referred to as a “tweed jacket with leather pants” when teaching in a tweed jacket with leather pants. “I wore that outfit,” he said. “It was a way of saying, ‘I’m not a professor, I’m a teacher.’”

He adds that teaching at Western was a particularly challenging and interesting experience. “I found this interplay exceedingly challenging,” he said. “I was able to solve what could not be solved quantitatively. It was the constant struggle” between what could be solved and what couldn’t.

Kuhlmann felt at home in the classroom, particularly in the business school where he was the generation of the hippies,” he said. “In the 1970s, the campus coincided with the social upheaval that was happening in the world. It was a time of change, not only in the banking industry but also in society.”


Kuhlmann’s Easy Rider days on Western’s campus coincided with the social upheaval of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Universities were places of discussion, debate and learning. As a student, Kuhlmann said, he was exposed to a wide range of ideas and perspectives that shaped his thinking.


“Those are the moments when what was Neul Armstrong’s first step on the moon or Paul Henderson scoring in the last seconds of the 1972 Summit Series, it was the generation of the hippies,” he said. “The phoned in his ZenBrax office in Redwood, Calif.


POWER

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POWER

The best thing about my career development is that I’ve been able to work with athletes in multiple sports.

The science of high-performance sports training for athletes from the former East Germany and Soviet Union.

The PEI native came to Western after playing four years of Junior A hockey to get an education and chart a new career path. As a mature student in his early 20s, he soaked up science knowledge on how the body works from kin classes and of human behaviour in psychology classes as well. “In the summers, I went back to PEI and worked with local athletes there applying what I’d learned,” he says.

While teaching one summer at an elite hockey school in Summerside where he had trained himself, O’Brien met a young player who was said to be the best 13-year-old in the world. He and Sidney Crosby hit it off. Shortly after, O’Brien was hired to work with Crosby for six hours daily through the summer. “I’ve always been interested in the development of an athlete’s speed and movement efficiency. This was a unique opportunity to begin my career and have a chance to spend a lot of high-quality time working with someone who was a gifted athlete,” says O’Brien, who continued one-on-one training stints with Crosby for the next five years.

A key to O’Brien’s approach was to work on movements that transfer directly to the ice. He knew that hockey skaters use different muscle groups in different ways than athletes in other sports. Rather than doing weight training that builds bulk, he worked with Crosby on strengthening lower knees and ankles to engineer a smoother stride, working with his hip and lacked range of motion. We did strength training to create more mobility in his hip so he could jump better,” says O’Brien.

O’Brien also worked with Patrick Chan when he had a torn calf muscle in 2009. “We changed Patrick’s mechanics when jumping to put less pressure on the calf. He also had issues with his hip and lacked range of motion. We did strength training to create more mobility in his hip so he could jump better,” says O’Brien.

For Hayley Wickenheiser, former captain of the Canadian women’s Olympic hockey team, O’Brien wrote training plans for an entire season. Those were designed to help one of the world’s best female hockey players prolong her career by maintaining her competitive advantage in speed and endurance, and be more resistant to injury. “To be successful, you can’t hang your hat on your current knowledge base, you have to continue to expand on it,” he says.

His intensive sessions with Crosby laid the groundwork for training other elite athletes, like Alex Rodriguez after he had hip surgery. “We worked on trying to change his body position when setting up for a swing so as not to create pain in the hip. Very few baseball players do rotation exercises and we did rotation exercises to work on his rotation power,” he explains.

O’Brien tailors his training approach to the specific sport and the particular athlete’s limitations to performance, which he identifies by watching video clips and the individual in action. He worked with twelve-time U.S. Olympic medalist Dana Torres, helping her to make a comeback at 41 and win three swimming medals at the Beijing Olympics in 2008. “I have no preconceived idea of what a particular athlete needs. I had to understand the limiting factor to Dana’s performance which was pain in her shoulder while training. We worked on that with strength training, so she had less pain, more range of motion and could swim faster,” he says.

O’Brien now has the opportunity to share and apply his high-performance training knowledge and methods on a broader scale than one-on-one, as director of sports science and performance for the Penguins. Keeping a team rich with talent healthy is a priority, since Pittsburgh ranked third in the NHL in man-games lost to injury (320) last season and first (509) the previous season. He is responsible for training and preparing the players to maximize performance and minimize injuries, which includes educating them with the best information on training, nutrition and rehab.

“It’s a new kind of challenge that’s exciting for me. Because I’ve worked with 25 players around the league, I have credibility with the players,” says O’Brien, who hired his sports performance associate Alex Trinca as the Penguins’ strength and conditioning coach to help implement his philosophy and innovative methods with individual players. Just as he pushes athletes hard to lift their performance, O’Brien benefits from them driving him to perform. “To be successful, you can’t hang your hat on your current knowledge base, you have to continue to expand on it,” he says.
For three hours, he sat on the edge of Hudson Bay. And even as temperatures dipped below minus-30 degrees Celsius, Don Gutoski waited for his shot. And then the moment arrived.

The photograph borne of that patience – *A Tale of Two Foxes* – earned Gutoski, MD’79, the title of Wildlife Photographer of the Year, in an international competition sponsored by the Natural History Museum of London, England.

Gutoski, a physician in the Urgent Care Centre of St. Joseph’s Hospital in London, Ont., has entered the competition for the past seven years.

Plucked from 42,000 entries from 96 countries, his award-winning photo wasn’t even a shot he planned to get. Gutoski headed to Wapusk National Park in Churchill, Man., in November 2014, with the intention of photographing polar bears.

“That’s when they’re on the edge of Hudson Bay and waiting for the ice to form to go out and hunt seals. That’s basically what they live on. So, they’ve been starving – literally – for four or five months. They come off the ice in June or July and really eat very little on land.”

What he unexpectedly captured was a rare moment in the eyes of his fellow photographers, as well as an insightful one for judges.

“It appears as if the red fox is slipping out of its winter coat,” said Kathy Moran, Senior Editor for Natural History Projects at *National Geographic* and a member of the competition jury. “What might simply be a straightforward interaction between predator and prey struck the jury as a stark example of climate change, with red foxes encroaching on Arctic fox territory.”

After being tapped as the overall winner, from among 16 finalists, in October, Gutoski’s photograph appeared in publications on four continents, including *USA Today* and *Time* magazine. Originally opening at the Natural History Museum in October, the *Photographer of the Year* Exhibition runs at the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto until March 20.

Closer to home, his photos are displayed in the Urgent Care waiting room at St. Joseph’s.

“I often get patients who recognize my photos,” Gutoski said. “They obviously talk to me about it quite often. People really seem to enjoy them there.”

Gutoski has been taking photographs since he was in high school. The solitude of nature and hours of waiting for a perfect shot balances well with the stressful pace of an emergency room.

“My job in the ER is hectic. You’re going all the time. Wildlife photography often is just sitting and waiting and observing and planning. It’s completely different, but it’s something I really love,” he said.

He transitioned from film to digital about a decade ago. In previous wildlife photography adventures, he shot 2,000 pictures on film in a week. Now, he might shoot that many in an afternoon with his Canon 1DX and telephoto lenses.

“I like to take pictures of predators – the top-of-the-food-chain-type species,” he said, mentioning lions, leopards and cheetahs in Africa, tigers in India and jaguars in Brazil, among his visual conquests.

He’s never armed with more than a camera and some insect repellent. From jungles in Brazil sneaking up on jaguars at their feeding spots, to 50-degree temperatures in India waiting for tigers, the soft-spoken Gutoski isn’t worried about dangers in the field.

“The most dangerous part is probably getting to the airport here and getting out of the airport where I go,” he said with a laugh.

On many of his trips, his wife Mary Jane, BEd’83, is often at his side.

“She’s been pretty much everywhere. We’re off to Madagascar in a few weeks. It’s a destination I’ve always wanted to go,” Gutoski said, mentioning hopeful subjects including lemurs, birds, chameleons and insects. “As my wife refers to our trips, they’re ‘fur and feather trips.’ I’m not big into landscapes. But anything that moves under its own power, I’m anxious to take pictures of.”
CULTIVATING COOL
JARED GUTSTADT CHANGES AN INDUSTRY’S TUNE WITH JINGLE PUNKS

By Jason Winders, MES’10

You’ve felt Jared Gutstadt’s groove—even though you don’t realize it. His brainchild, Jingle Punks, has provided a backbeat for entertainment across all media platforms for nearly a decade. Today, as company President, Co-founder and Chief Creative Officer, Gutstadt, BA’00, continues to fuel a company founded on creativity, cool and seizing every opportunity.

“Our motto is to say yes to everything and figure out the details later,” Gutstadt said with a laugh. “When you say yes, great things can happen. Our answer is always ‘yes and …’ never ‘no but …’ Too many people throw hurdles in front of a great opportunity. We have friends who never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity. We’re not like that.”

The public school system never embraced this suburban Toronto kid’s way of thinking. And it wouldn’t be until high school when he discovered his perfect outlet making “cool, creative stuff” through music, videos and other media.

“I was always very distracted, antsy in school,” Gutstadt said. “The public school system wasn’t really built for my out-of-the-box, crazy—I guess now they would label it ADHD—ways. But all that was a perfect storm that fed me going into first year at Western. A teacher, in my last year of high school, encouraged me to follow that path instead of becoming a doctor or lawyer.”

At Western, Gutstadt migrated into the Media, Information and Technoculture program, within the Faculty of Information and Media Studies. The fit was perfect.

“In that program, I oscillated between really practical things, like learning how to compose music or edit video, and some really great theoretical stuff. It ended up dictating what the next 10 or 15 years of my life would look like. Everything I was doing day to day in the MIT program was what I was doing when I moved to New York. I became a TV editor there because I had a great set of skills that allowed me to live in the city, pay my rent and play in bands at night.”

“All those things converged when I started Jingle Punks.”

Launched in October 2008, after future co-founders ‘Jingle Jared’ and Dan Demole met at a Black Keys concert, Jingle Punks has grown from a five-person operation into one of the largest music publishing and licensing companies, providing original and licensed music for television, film, video games and advertisements. Gutstadt and Co. have filled airwaves and bandwidth with hundreds of theme songs and scores ranging from The Voice and Pawn Stars, to collaborations with artists such as Nas, Kris Kristofferson, Dierks Bentley, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Snow and many others.

The company now has headquarters in five cities, in four countries on three continents.

This success was borne of Gutstadt’s keen observation of a gap in the industry—a gap not of quantity, but quality.

“Unscripted television was about to explode (in 2008), and there were only two or three music libraries that gave producers the ability to put wall-to-wall music in shows,” he said. “Unfortunately, the music was godawful. It was being made by 60-year-old dudes in their mom’s basements who were Devo rejects or by Foghat roadies. We decided to run the business like we did our bands.”

Gutstadt jokes about not being a classically trained musician. His route to stardom began with him picking up a guitar one day, sitting behind drums on another day, and teaching himself to play in high school. He also learned a lot of his craft on stage, as a member of bands like The Izzys, Group Sounds and Generals & Majors.

As a musician, Gutstadt was a contemporary of successful acts like The Strokes, White Stripes and The Kills. He saw how the bands marketed and branded themselves, cultivating cool through not only their music, but through style, story and stage presentation. Those lessons shaped who Jingle Punks is today.

“Steve Jobs is a folk hero because he made great products, had a signature take on the world, had a great presence. Why? He captured our imagination. There are also millions of other CEOs out there, like of nacho chip companies, who don’t need to be publicly present because they spend millions marketing a product, not themselves,” he said.

That desire to stand out—not only for what they do, but for who they are—led Gutstadt and Co. to mold Jingle Punks into the experience it is today.

“We decided to market ourselves and our brand, as much as our product. That way, people would affiliate us with our product,” he said. “And somewhere along the way, we captured people’s imagination in a big, noisy marketplace.”

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Over the years, Eddy Smet’s comic book collection grew so fast, he couldn’t keep up with it. Of the thousands he once owned, he’s only read a small portion.

“I had my first comic book collection when I was a young boy in the mid-1950s. I don’t know how many I had, but eventually my mom gave about half of them away. I went back into collecting around 1972, and then got carried away. I tried to buy every comic book that came out for a while. It piled up very quickly; I amassed quite a lot,” said Smet, BA’66, MA’67, PhD’73, a professor emeritus at Huron University College.

Smet, an award-winning professor who taught math at Huron for more than 30 years, has given away much of his comic book collection grown over the years, most recently donating his collection of ‘Canadian Whites’ comic published during the Second World War and are rare representations of a Canadian comic industry.

“‘Canadian Whites’ are not my love in the same way my Tarzans are, but I realized those comics are scarce and as I collected more of them, I realized they should be archived,” he added.

From the day he set out to grow his comic book collection more than 40 years ago, Smet was ardently dedicated to the task. London wasn’t an ideal spot for his stock pile. In comics, Smet said he wanted to open up a comic book store. When you combine the difficulty of getting comic books in London, that I was selling them privately, with my love of books, it led to my wife and I opening a comic book store, which we did in 1979. It was really the first standalone comic book store in the city,” he said of The Comic Book Collector, a shop that still stands on Dundas Street, near Adelaide.

“’Canadian Whites’ aren’t that well distributed,” Smet said. “They (the Canadian Whites) are not as well known as the American superheroes, but I realized those comics are scarce and as I collected more of them, I realized they should be archived,” he added.

His current donation is comprised of 125 Canadian Whites, including the famed Triumph-Adventure Comics No. 2, featuring the first appearance of Nelvana of the Northern Lights, one of the earliest female superheroes, debuting months before Wonder Woman; a Montreal Educational Projects single issue called Famous Adventure Stories, featuring animated tales of the likes of Marco Polo, Robin Hood and The Three Musketeers; as well as first and early issues of era favours like Lucky Comics and Wow Comics.

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In the waning hours of Tuesday, December 1, Jarrett McCourt sent out a Tweet that, perhaps, no Canadian tubist has ever written:

When you play a world premiere for a party of VIPs including Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie…

#miamibeachparties.

But don’t let the guy playing for VIPs downplay his own ‘very important’ status among up-and-coming tuba players.

Currently, McCourt, BMus’13, is a member of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Fla. He is the first Canadian tuba player to earn a seat with the group and the only tubist on the current roster.

Earlier in the year, McCourt also became the first tuba player to win the Montreal Symphony’s Standard Life Competition, Brass Category, in the 75-year history of the program.

A lesser publication might say those are accomplishments to ‘blow your horn’ about – but not us. We’ll just say that McCourt is racking up the accomplishments – quickly.

Over his young career, he has performed with several ensembles, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Flint Symphony Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra of the Pacific, Windsor Symphony Orchestra, Motor City Brass Quintet and University of Michigan Symphony Band.

McCourt has either won or advanced at eight competitions in the past three years, including the Leonard Falcone International Tuba and Euphonium Competition and concerto competitions in Ontario, Quebec and Michigan. If McCourt keeps up at this pace, one day, we suspect, Brangelina will be tweeting about being at a party of VIPS, including Jarrett McCourt.

#tubalife.

Why give to Western through your Will?

One of the most important choices you can make during your lifetime is the impact you wish to make through your Will. After taking care of the people closest to you – family or friends – you may wish to leave a gift to support an organization or a cause that has deep meaning for you.

What are the benefits of making a bequest?

One of the greatest benefits of making a bequest is that you may be able to provide a greater level of support to Western through your Will than is possible during your lifetime, especially if you need to keep most of your assets available. There are also tax advantages to making a bequest that benefit your estate.

Which areas of Western benefit from bequests?

You can designate your bequest to support the areas of Western closest to your heart, including scholarships or bursaries to help future students achieve their dreams or a particular faculty or area of research. You can also choose to leave funds to the highest priorities of the University and know that your gift will have a significant impact on students, faculty and researchers when the time comes.

The Bequests team is here to help! We can provide sample language for your Will, discuss options with you or your representative and provide support to ensure your wishes will be followed.

From left: Carole Stinson (519.661.2111, ext. 85696 or cstinson@uwo.ca), Mike O’Hagan (519.661.2111, ext. 85595 or mike.ohagan@uwo.ca) or Jane Edwards (519.661.2111, ext. 88829 or jane.edwards@uwo.ca).

extraordinary.westernu.ca/ways-to-give/planned
Visit alumnigazette.ca to read summaries of each new release.

New Releases from Western alumni

1) *Children's Rights and Moral Parenting*, by Mark Vopat, PhD'04

2) *Unguilded*, by Roberta Jane Glenn, BA'95

3) *Fresh strange music*, by Donald S. Haier, BA'60

4) *The Rosetta Man*, by Claire McCague, PhD'04

5) *Hippie Chick Abroad*, by Reva Nelson, BA'69

6) *Missing Children*, by Gerald Lynch, PhD'84

7) *Kronos Duet*, by A.H. Richards (Aldous Smith, MA'96, MLIS'98)

8) *Missing in Cobalt*, by Terry Cassidy, BA'57, MLIS'74

9) *What Matters Now: Lessons on Living with Ease*, by Gail Barker, BA'92

10) *The Complete Babysitter Out of Control! Series*, by Margaret J. McMaster, BA'71, DplEd'72

11) *For Want of a Lighthouse*, by Marc Seguin, BA'79

12) *The History of Kent County High School Sports*, by Larry Lahey, BA'67

13) *Gyuri - A Poem of Wartime Hungary*, by Marilyn Baszczynski, BA'79, MA'81, PhD'90

14) *A Year of Educational Quiet Bins: The Secret to Peaceful Days at Home With Kids*, by Sarah Notlik, BA'97, RED'08

15) *Awesome Life*, by Abuan Khan, BA'92, and Shazad Ahmad

16) *Astro-Imaging Projects for Amateur Astronomers*, by Jim Chung, BS'87, DDS'91

17) *From Torture to Triumph*, by W. Michael Fenn, DplPA'75, MA'79

18) *On Truality: A Forgotten Idea About the Source of All Creation*, by George J.V. Kokich, MA'66

19) *Ruin and Redemption: The Struggle for a Canadian Bankruptcy Law, 1867-1919*, by Thomas Telfer, BA'85, JD'88

20) *The New Canadian Pentecostals*, by Adam Stewart, MLIS'14

21) *The Inconceivable Adventures of Cabbage Boy (Book 2): The Battle for Prico Hill*, by Steven London, EMBA'09

22) *Eternal Dreams: The End of Memories*, by Christopher Compton, BA'12, RED'15

23) *Training for Armageddon*, by Richard D. Merritt, MD'68

In 1913, Oxford-educated Margaret Gascoigne left England for Montreal in search of new opportunities. In 1915 she established a small school for six students in the study of her downtown Montreal home - the modest but aspiring beginning of what would become known as The Study.

Presenting lively images, oral testimonies, and material gleaned from the school’s archives, *No Ordinary School* explores the evolution of The Study through world wars, the Great Depression, the Quiet Revolution, and many stages of feminism, from its predominantly English Montreal origins into the bilingual and multicultural community that it is today. Always at the forefront of the most progressive educational developments, The Study has encouraged generations of women to transcend the boundaries of their times. Influential alumni include the physicist and Canadian Department of External Affairs civil servant Dorothy Osborne Xanthaky, avant-garde artist Marian Dale Scott, former chief curator and director of the McCord Museum of Canadian History Isabel Barclay Dobell, world-renowned architect Phyllis Lambert, internationally acclaimed pianist Janina Fialkowska, Olympic rowing medalist Andréanne Morin, and tennis star Eugenie Bouchard.

Firmly grounded in a wider historical context, *No Ordinary School* celebrates an exceptional educational institution while paying tribute to its illustrious past and promising future.

COWIN: EMBRACE A WORLD BEYOND YOUR DOOR

By Jason Winders, MES’10

I

t was only a two-door hardtop. But to Jack Cowin, BA’64, LL.D.00, it was a rocket ship to another world.

Born in Windsor, Ont., Cowin remembers those family trips from his youth well. Mom and dad, two kids, grandma and grandpa, all piled into a car heading south to Florida.

“That was sort of like outer space to me. Growing up, my world was about a 100-mile radius – between my home in Windsor and my grandparents in London,” Cowin said from his current home in Australia. “I had never set foot on an airplane until I graduated from Western. And then I moved halfway around the world.”

Half a century later, Cowin, the Founder and Executive Chairman of Competitive Foods Australia Ltd., is one of the world’s most successful restaurateurs and entrepreneurs, as well as a civic institution Down Under.

And now, Cowin brings his international perspective to Western as the university’s 22nd Chancellor. He succeeds Joseph Rotman, who died in January 2015.

Cowin was officially installed at the Autumn Convocation on October 22.

“Western, in many ways, has been my anchor – back to family, back to Canada. I never really cut that link. My years at Western were significant in formulating what I wanted to do,” Cowin said. “That’s never really changed. It’s been a constant for me. Western has been a theme through everything. To get this appointment is a real honour.”

The first in his family to attend university, Cowin, a two-sport athlete, had opportunities to play football at American universities, but a local coach talked him into coming to Western.

“He told me it was really important to understand that the people you get to know now will dictate the rest of your life – the contacts you make at this stage in your life will be your contacts for life. I bought that,” Cowin said.

At Medway Hall, his interactions with international students peaked his curiosity in the wider world. Upon graduation, he landed a job at London Life. But he wanted to go further – and farther. In 1969, a 26-year-old Cowin moved to Australia with his family to establish a business with the support of loans from 30 Canadians. He took the fast food industry by storm, beginning with Kentucky Fried Chicken, then his own burger chain, Hungry Jack’s, and next with Domino’s Pizza. The business expanded into food processing and now exports to 29 countries and employs 50,000 staff throughout Australia.

The group is also a major shareholder in three companies operating in Canada and the United States with a joint venture in Malaysia. In addition to operating 350 restaurants in Australia, the company operates five manufacturing facilities producing frozen value-added meat products, as well as processing fresh vegetables.

“When you move halfway around the world like that, especially when you haven’t really seen anywhere, it was an adventure – I learned what a big world it was out there,” he said.

Today, Cowin is also a director of the Network Ten television business; Chandler McLeod, a listed recruitment company; Sydney Olympic Park and Fairfax Media. He is also Chairman elect and the largest shareholder of Domino’s Pizza (Australia) and the largest shareholder in BridgeClimb, a major tourist attraction in Sydney, Australia.

“(When I attended) Western, it was a southwestern Ontario, local university serving that community,” he said. “The thing in my head that I have been able to figure out is there is a big world out there. One of the things about this appointment that I am proud of is I can bring an international perspective to the party. For Western to be a significant university going forward, it has to increasingly have a global view…”

Those same attributes stick with you. The experience I gained as an athlete was more than a physical thing. I developed a competitive spirit that didn’t go away. That spirit is the drive that pushes you to get more out of life, to achieve more, as well as help other people.”

Cowin has served as both a donor and mentor through the Jack Cowin Award. Students in receipt of this award demonstrate athletic and academic excellence. The award allows the student to conduct a three-month internship with Competitive Foods in Australia. He and his wife also created the Cowin Scholars Award, a partnership between Bond University in Queensland, Australia and Western.

“Sport stays with you the rest of your life. The reality of life seems a long way away when you’re, say, about to get beaten in a wrestling match yet to have to continue, hang in, do your best. Those same things apply in the rest of your life – whether it’s your relationship with your spouse, your kids or whomever. The ability to hang in, especially when it is tough, and enjoy and celebrate a real life lesson.”
You’ll find Kara-Lis Coverdale where the old and traditional meet the new and eccentric.

“I had the typical, classical upbringing, had my first organist position when I was either 13 or 14. I was an organist for many years; I’m still an organist. But I’ve always been a bit of a sponge, since I was a kid. Everything that’s in my surroundings, I’ve taken it in and put it back out through music,” said Coverdale, a composer and church organist.

“You can start with a sound, or an idea of form; it can begin anywhere and it plays out in the process. My work is this constant negotiation and indulging in what is ‘candy’ at the moment, and then taking 25 steps back, and planting that in a more stable foundation,” she said.

For Coverdale, those enduring elements are in that modestly sized Lutheran parish.

“She sees her post on the organ bench as distilling the liturgical message, painting it through music and sound and creating something meaningful and palpable that cannot be put into words. I am playing on a computer one day, an organ another, a New York basement club on another. That lifestyle of categorizing or compartmentalizing my life has followed me. It’s kind of bizarre – but you get used to the switch,” she said.

Her music has been used in commercials, films and plays. Since 2012, she has worked with Montreal composer and sound artist Tim Hecker on a number of projects, including Hecker’s 2012 album, Virgins, named Album of the Year by SPIN magazine, NPR and others. Alongside experimental producer Lee Ranor, Coverdale has cut three solo records. Most recently, Dandy magazine named each track of Coverdale’s 2015 album, Aftertouches, revealed “deeper and deeper layers of the composer’s brilliance” and the effort, as a whole, provided “living proof, and a true masterwork from a still-young artist.”

Her music might sound like part of a hymn, blended with electronica, an orchestral strand tied to a sound in nature, with maybe some rap added in. Whatever the blend, she makes it seamless.

“A lot of people associate my music with experimental and on the fringes, and a lot of people might find it jarring, that I work in electronic music and church music. But really, everything is one in the same. One informs the other. I’ve been so adamant that it’s important, and that people need to hear weird things. My music lets me speak to so many different people,” Coverdale continued.

She has a poster of Glenn Gould on her wall, but listens to Justin Bieber in the car. “Big composers” inspire her, but she has always loved pop music, as well.

“I’ll be listening to violin stuff one second, and Skrillex the next,” she explained. “It’s being able to make a career out of these channels, and being able to make it work on a bigger scale.”

Kara-Lis Coverdale, BMus’08 (Music History) and MA’10 (Popular Music & Culture), is a church organist and modern composer whose work blends and transcends traditions and styles. She lives and works in Montreal. (PHOTO BY SCOTT PIGRAM)

Alumna blends worlds together in her music

By Adela Talbot, BA’08, MA’10

Western Mustangs
Sports Hall of Fame

Generations have cheered for the purple and white for over a century. It’s time again to honour these student-athletes and supporters who have given it their all for Western.

Nominate a former Mustang to the Western Mustangs Sports Hall of Fame.

Awards will be presented at Homecoming 2016. Nominations close May 1, 2016. Visit alumni.westernu.ca/athletic-awards for nomination information and forms.
Ten thousand reasons to talk

By John Eberhard, BA’66, LLB’69

One conversation. Two Western minds. 10,000 possibilities.

Sound intriguing? Well, we certainly hope so. Recently, the Alumni Association partnered with Ten Thousand Coffees, a networking forum that connects young professionals with industry leaders for informal career conversations online, or in person. Together, we have embarked upon a journey of connections and relationship building. The aim is to offer all Western alumni and students an opportunity to sit down, share a cup of coffee and engage in a mutual exchange of insights and ideas.

An important priority for your Alumni Association this year has been to create an opportunity for alumni and students to interact in meaningful conversations. We believe that by engaging a student, an alumnus can be an important community connection characterized by a shared belief in the value of a Western degree. Alumni will now have an opportunity to engage the next generation of bright minds and students can now tap into Western’s global network.

The Ten Thousand Coffees hub can be accessed at the Western Alumni website, alumni.westernu.ca. We encourage you to visit the site and complete a profile – we promise it is user friendly and we are here to help. If you are already active on LinkedIn, you can bring over your profile to ease the set up. Once you are signed up you can connect with any of thousands of Western’s connections, alumni and students alike, who are waiting to connect with you.

This digital forum allows for all members to initiate conversations. A few clicks of the mouse are all that separate you from inviting a Western community member to engage in a conversation over a cup of coffee (or tea, or whatever your beverage of choice may be). This could lead to an in-person meeting, a telephone get-to-know-you session or a Google Hang-Out appointment. You set the time and place and you set the agenda. By following a few easy to navigate prompts, users can send an invitation and indicate what they would like to discuss. Once accepted, the location and logistical details are ironed out and both parties can reap the benefits of a great conversation with someone from the Western network.

We know that sparks fly whenever two Western alumni meet and begin to share their stories. And we know alumni love to help students. The Western Ten Thousand Coffees hub provides a tremendous opportunity to invite a Western connection for a coffee and begin a conversation that may just change perspectives, heighten interests or answer burning questions. Everyone who completes a profile is, in essence, raising their hand to the Western community and saying “I’d like to chat with you”.

Western Alumni began inviting alumni into the Ten Thousand Coffees hub late last year. There are already more than 1,600 members registered and ready to accept invitations. Won’t you add your name to this list? Join us today and become a part of the experience.

To learn more and view our events, visit alumni.westernu.ca/careermanagement

Western Alumni

1878

Alumni Career Management


Western’s commitment to your success doesn’t end at graduation.
Western alumni now have exclusive access to opportunities and tools designed to help you advance in your career or transition to a new one. As a Western alumnus or alumnus, you can:

• learn through online tutorials and tip sheets
• engage on Western’s exclusive Ten Thousand Coffees hub
• post or search job opportunities on Western’s Career Central
• discover how to stay in touch with fellow alumni on LinkedIn

Whether you are a new graduate or experienced professional, Western can help.

ALUMNI EVENTS

Find us on Facebook

Ten thousand reasons to talk

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

Featured Events

February 11 | Discover Roberts Community Presentation Series 2016 - Dr. Jane Pyatt

February 18 | London Lightning Alumni Suite

February 23 | Classes without Quizizz: Killing Fields: Genocide in Modern History

March 1 | Classes without Quizizz: Mythical beasts: Fiction, fact, or something in between?

April 4 | Classes without Quizizz: So You Think You’re Female? Sex Testing and the Olympic Games

April 14 | President’s Reception (San Francisco, CA)

April 15 | Women of Champions Dinner (London, ON)

February 18 | London Lightning Alumni Suite

February 23 | Classes without Quizizz: Killing Fields: Genocide in Modern History

March 1 | Classes without Quizizz: Mythical beasts: Fiction, fact, or something in between?

April 4 | Classes without Quizizz: So You Think You’re Female? Sex Testing and the Olympic Games

April 14 | President’s Reception (San Francisco, CA)

April 15 | Women of Champions Dinner (London, ON)

March 9 | Extraordinary Mustangs Gala (Toronto, ON)

May 7 | Alumni Day at The Stratford Festival – A Chorus Line (Stratford, ON)

June 3 | Rick McGuire at Steam Whistle (Toronto, ON)

June 19 | Alumni Day at African Lion Safari Sept. 30-Oct. 2 |  Western Homecoming 2016 (London, ON)

Celebrating our Western connections on Founder’s Day – the anniversary of Western’s founding on March 7, 1878. Put on your Western gear, attend an alumni event or plan a get-together. No matter where you are or what you’re doing, add a little purple to your Monday on March 7.

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

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

The nomination deadline is Friday, March 25, 2016. Awards will be presented on Homecoming weekend, September 30 - October 2, 2016.

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

2015 Alumni Award of Merit Recipients

John Kelton, MD’73 Professional Achievement Award

Danielle Martin, MD’03 Community Service Award

Shawn Johnston, BSW’13 Young Alumni Award

Helen Luchman, MEd’82 On-Ivan Smith Award
PLEASE NOTE: Class Notes notices, like all portions of the print magazine, appear in an online version of the 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 and only contacts you 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, 519-661-4576 or 1-800-240-7378, fax 519-661-4882, email: alumnirelations@uwo.ca.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Amy Gibbons, BA’02 (Human), MBA’10, MRes’18, is a licensed real estate broker with the Real Estate Council of Ontario. She was appointed CEO of the London Chamber of Commerce in 2016.

Joyce F. Nimmo, BA’00, was re-elected as a director of the Alumni Association Board for the 2016-17 academic year.

Amanda Lai, BSc ’90, was named among the 20 Under 40 honourees for 2015 by the magazine, in Marketing by the Alumni Association.

Jane Philpott, MD’84, Minister of Indigenous Affairs and Northern Development, was named recently among the 20 Under 40 honourees for 2015 by the Alumni Association.

On Nov. 12, the following Western-connected criminal and family practitioners from across Ontario were recognized at the Ottawa College of Family Physicians’ Physicians Awards Ceremony at the College of Family Physicians of Canada’s Family Medicine Awards 2015.

Don Hunter, BSc’70, has been appointed chief of the Independent Review Committee of CBIC Mutual Funds.

Dr. Timothy Dixon, BSc’74, has been elected as a 2015 Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Kathryn Jenkins was appointed Senior Executive Vice-President, Corporate Secretary, and General Counsel and Executive Vice-President, Partner and National Group University College, LLB’97, is happily retired after 40 years as a family doctor – 25 years in Wallaceburg, Ont., and 15 in Dorval, Que. He has been married to Mary Anne for the past 40 years, and now has time to travel and visit his grandchildren.

J. Gary Slaght, BA’73, is happily retired after 40 years in engineering, chemistry, and research in the fields of organometallics and applications.

Paul Jenkins, BA’51, MD’74, is happily retired after 40 years as a family doctor – 25 years in Wallaceburg, Ont., and 15 in Dorval, Que. He has been married to Mary Anne for the past 40 years, and now has time to travel and visit his grandchildren.

Patricia Beauchy, BSc’75, (King’s), earned her MEd (2014) at Acadia University, N.S., and successfully defended her master’s thesis, ‘Thinking Hope and Optimism: Support Mechanisms for Beginning Teachers.’

J. Gary Slaght, BA’73, is happily retired after 40 years as a family doctor – 25 years in Wallaceburg, Ont., and 15 in Dorval, Que. He has been married to Mary Anne for the past 40 years, and now has time to travel and visit his grandchildren.

Betty Mary Vandenbosch, BSc’77, MBA’83, PhD’95, was appointed President of Kaplan University, headquartered in Orlando, Fla., with campuses with campuses in seven states. She has been with Kaplan University since 2008.

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1990s

Heads up! Sherrat Fallth, BAG'89, CEO, Sherr Research Inc. was recently ranked No. 454 by Coroandel Business on the publication’s 27th annual PROFIT 500, the definitive ranking of Canada’s Fastest-Growing Companies.

Working at CN Rail based in Calgary, an executive (Project Manager), Neil MacKinnon, BA’94, works closely with various CN Operations groups as the facilitator in marketing and coordination. Neil has spent the last 18 years in the Logistics and Supply Chain Management industry across Canada.

Amievas Revain, LLB’94, has been named Justice of the Superior Court in Sault Ste. Marie.

After completing a second BA in 2008, Tim Covel, BA’95, received a master’s degree in Canadian Studies from Carleton University. His thesis examined the American MPAA and Canadian provincial government film classification systems.

Douglas Pollard, MBA’95, has been inducted into the Public Gaming Research Institute Lottery Industry Hall of Fame. Douglas, Co-Chief Executive Officer of Polk Banker of Winnipeg, is a leading lottery partner to more than 50 lotteries worldwide.

Cheryl Lee E. Campbell, BA10’50, released *Once in LA* in September 2008, a new studio album of classical music for babies. All proceeds go to establish music therapy in the NICU at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Dr. Derek Michael Krete, BA’95, has been inducted into Chatham Sports Hall of Fame in the athlete-modern category. Following his start in high school football at Chatham Collegiate Institute, he went on to enjoy a stellar career that included three all-canadian seasons with the Western Mustangs, a Vanier Cup, an MS title and two seasons in the CFL. He is now a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist in Peterborough.

2000s

Melissa (Dancy) Billcock, BA’77, BS’90, and Brian Billcock, BA’90, celebrated the 10th anniversary of their company, Pentagon Translations Ltd., on Aug. 9. They have recently been awarded ISO 9001:2008 status and have won several other business awards including Entrepreneur of the Year for the City of Mississauga (2005) and Top 40 Business People Under 40 for the Halton region (2010).

Shofin Diamond Tejani, BA’94 (Harvard), was named Entrepreneur of the Year 2005 for Technology at the 22nd annual ET Entrepreneur of the Year awards held recently in Vancouver and Toronto. Tejani also received a Special Citation for Advocating Entrepreneurship.

Henry M. Kusban, MD’72, will head the new Department of Behavioral and Community Health in Dutchess County, New York, as its first Commissioner.

Anne van Lenten, BA’03, has been appointed Assistant Professor at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va., in the Philosophy and Religion Department.

Megan Clacherty, BSC’04, and her husband, Kevin Marx, welcomed their second child, Claire Kathleen Marx, on April 22.

Matthew Kraftlick, BAC’05 (King’s), and Steven Kraftlick, BAC’05 (King’s), both took part in the Toronto 2015 PanAm Torch Relay on July 6 in Toronto.

Shafir Kamally, BAC’07, graduated as a MBA graduate from the University of California Berkeley’s Haas School of Business last summer.

Cameron Cover, MBA’08, has been appointed as CEO of Totally Green, an organic food processing system company, based in Toronto.

Derek Chechak, BA’08, was appointed President of Momentum Digital Solutions (owned by Orly), an IT solutions provider in Toronto.

Mason Ross, BSC’97, MD’02, EMBA’10, has been appointed Strategic Advisor to the Stroma Biotech Corp. in Vancouver, a cosmetic ingredient and drug discovery company.

Luc Arseneault, MBA’98, recently competed an orchestra piece commissioned by the Ontario Arts Council that will be premiered by his hometown orchestra, the Terminus Symphony Orchestra, in April 2016. It is an instrumental work inspired by the life of his paternal grandfather, a pioneer whose family was recruited in rural Quebec in the early 1900s to settle and populate Northern Ontario.

Michael Abarbanel, EMBA’99, has been appointed President of Momentum Digital Solutions (owned by Orly), an IT solutions provider in Toronto.

Steven Wolstenhorne, EMBA’06, has been appointed COO of the Tiger Resort Casino in Manila, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in social work at Memorial University of Newfoundland and graduated in June.

Nicole Vienklick, BAC’07, joined the Men’s Health as a Dragon this season. Along with Darkness Michael Myatt, BSC’96, the Western stars make up two-thirds of the show’s stars.

Steve Kurzbock, BSC’96, the Western alumni make up two-thirds of the show’s hosts.
2010s

10 Erick Sonie, BBA’10, MD’15, Jorge Rosas Lobänd, PhD’15, and Melanie Rah, PhD’15, were awarded a Governor General Academic Gold Medal.

10 Emily (Try) Leys, BBA’10, recently received Nick Leys, BSc’10, BD’12. The couple met in the Film & Media program at Western. They dated for five years and finally tied the knot on May 9.

10 Amber Ruddy, BBA’10, was promoted to Director of Operations & Analytics, at the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

10 Carin Fraser, BBA’11 (Brasilia), BD’15 (Kingston), started a new job as Case Manager at Pauing in the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

10 Matthew Teeter, PhD’12, completed the Programme de droit canadien, a bilingual and bicultural law program at the University of Ottawa.

10 Matthew Teeter, PhD’12, is a winner of the 2015 John Barr lectures, instrumental in advancing problem-based learning as part of the medical program and advocate and voice for physician immigrants.

2011 Passing of Steve Jobs

2015 Liquid water found on Mars

2016 What’s new with YOU? Share your news with fellow grads.

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Deadline for inclusion in the Spring 2016 issue is March 15.
Our students are extraordinary – and have the potential to accomplish the extraordinary in our world. Join fellow alumni in giving to Western. With your support, you will provide Western students with the best opportunities, resources and experiences to achieve their dreams.

Please contact Annual & Leadership Giving at 1.800.423.9631 or 519.661.4200.

Your contribution will be receipted under Charitable Registration (BN) #10816 2587 RR0001. Western respects your privacy. Personal information you provide will be updated in our database and used to provide you with a receipt for your gift or pledge, to communicate with you about events & activities, alumni programs & services, and fundraising. At any time, you have the right to request that your personal information cease to be used. For more information or to make a request, please go to advser.uwo.ca/about/privacy_policy.html, or contact Advancement Services at 519.661.4176, 1.800.420.7519, by fax at 519.661.4182 or by email at advser@uwo.ca

Show you’re #purpleandproud

Every year on March 7, Western alumni, faculty, staff and students mark the founding of Western in 1878 and celebrate our Western connections.

Put on your Western gear and attend an alumni event, plan a get-together with your fellow Mustangs, or just have your own cubicle party at work. No matter where you are or what you’re doing, add a little purple to your Monday on March 7.

alumni.westernu.ca/founders-day

Tag your Founder’s Day photos with #purpleandproud #since1878
I guess it was when the woman’s head popped into view in her ground-floor window and she asked—with a frankly shocking amount of friendliness, given the situation—what I was doing that I zoomed out on myself and realized what a creep I looked like. I was standing in a driveway near the corner of Richmond and Cheapside, taking photos of a rear window on the upper story of a yellow brick house. It was my bedroom window. Or it used to be, when I was a student at Western. The room had been painted a cheerful, buttery yellow then, and my desk and futon were crammed in close enough that I could roll directly from one to the other, which was both appalling and excellent.

I asked the woman whether she knew if students still lived there. She made a gesture that took in all of the house and yard, and said it sure looked like it. There wasn’t anything specifically wrong with the place, just a sort of cloud of dirty chaos hovering over it, like Pigpen in the Peanuts comic; yep, students still lived there. I peeked around the garage. Suddenly, memories came tumbling off some shelf in the back of my brain. My roommates and I once threw a faux-sorority party that was so successful, we found a bunch of our plates half-buried in the back yard the next day, for reasons that are still a mystery to me. Our freezer constantly broke down, so we’d throw our food into a big plastic tub outside in cold weather and hope the raccoons didn’t break into it before the landlord arrived for repairs.

Around the front of the house, the five-foot-tall lighted wooden tulips we had, uh, re-homed from a downtown florist (we never gave anyone our actual address after that: “Party on Saturday. The house on Richmond with the flowers”)—were long gone. So was the brick archway that had framed the driveway, until one of my roommates drove a too-tall U-Haul under the arch—which turned out to be through the arch—on the day we moved out.

The weird thing is, before this visit to London—my first since I graduated in 2003—I couldn’t have conjured up any of these details for you. The names of all the streets in the student ghetto, the best post-bar food for a sloshing stomach, Concrete Beach, the courtyards in Med-Syd, walking up that central pathway with University College looming above like you’d been cast as a Hogwarts extra: it had all faded away in the years since I left. I couldn’t remember anything of day-to-day life at Western until I went back to the place where it all happened—and then I instantly remembered everything, in crazy, roaring detail. I felt like a ghost in my own life: Ebenezer Scrooge and his paranormal tour guide rolled into one, peeping in windows at scenes I felt fiercely possessive of, even while they seemed to belong to someone else.

If you didn’t grow up in London, you arrive one day freshly plucked out of the life and hometown you’ve always known, and dropped into one of the most vivid and all-consuming chapters of your life. You spend your years at Western roaming the city and campus like some kind of preppy Viking horde, cheerfully laying waste to everything you can get your hands on, certain that it will go on forever. But then one day, just as abruptly as you arrived, you leave London and Western behind to live somewhere else, to do whatever comes next. So you end up with this towering experience in your life that’s walled off from everything that came before and everything that happens after. It’s like having a best friend who has never met or spoken to anyone else in your life: it all starts to feel a bit Polkaroo after a while.

University is a little bit like high school: whirling social life, misery or glorious sloth dictated by exams and assignment schedules, living in a bouncy pathway with University College looming above like the courtyards in Med-Syd, walking up that central bar food for a sloshing stomach, Concrete Beach, of all the streets in the student ghetto, the best post-conjured up any of these details for you. The names first since I graduated in 2003—I couldn’t have anything of day-to-day life at Western until I went back to the place where it all happened—and then I instantly remembered everything, in crazy, roaring detail. I felt like a ghost in my own life: Ebenezer Scrooge and his paranormal tour guide rolled into one, peeping in windows at scenes I felt fiercely possessive of, even while they seemed to belong to someone else.

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University is a little bit like high school: whirling social life, misery or glorious sloth dictated by exams and assignment schedules, living in a bouncy sort of purgatory on your way to a destination you don’t have to choose yet. And student life is also sort of like adulthood: figuring out who you are in the world, deciding how to spend and waste your money and time without your parents’ meddling, paying bills and doing chores (eventually). But mostly, university is nothing at all like any other sort of life—that’s what makes it so loud and colourful and weird and fantastic.

Shannon Proudfoot is an Ottawa-based staff writer for Sportsnet magazine.
Linda Hasenfratz (BSc’89, MBA’97) is powering growth in Canada’s automotive sector. Since she became CEO of Linamar Corporation, her team’s strategies have quadrupled corporate sales. With more than 19,000 employees at 48 locations worldwide, she is a respected business leader in her community and country. And her drive for success started at Western.

Help develop the next generation of extraordinary leaders.

extraordinary.westernu.ca