

# Alumni Gazette

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WINTER 2016



## BANK ROLLER

Arkadi Kuhlmann



Western

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**On the cover:** Renaissance Man Arkadi Kuhlmann, HBA'71, MBA'72, LLD'10, artist, motorcycle enthusiast, and Founder and CEO of ZenBanx, a mobile multi-currency exchange platform. (PHOTO BY NATION WONG)



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Farmer

## Editor's Notebook with David Scott



**I**t'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, LLD'10, had a vision. It evolved quickly into online banking. He's well into his next venture: ZenBanx, a mobile multi-currency exchange platform.

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 column has 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 with our readers is handing over the reins to two talented alumnae making their mark in Canadian journalism. Over the course of the year, you will see offerings from Shannon Proudfoot, BA'03, Ottawa-based staff writer for *Sportsnet* magazine; and Lauren Pelley, BA'10, MA'11, Toronto-based multimedia journalist and reporter at the *Toronto Star*.

We are thrilled and pleased to feature their writing.

If history repeats, then the Roaring 2020s could be quite an adventure. All the best to our readers for 2016!

## Alumni Gazette

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(PHOTOS BY PAUL MAYNE)



### 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.

(See related story in *Campus News*)



Left to right: Jane (Winchester) Kramer, Kathryn (Kramer) Forsyth, J.W. Mustang, Molly (McMillan) Buckrell, Catherine (Dodsworth) O'Hagan, Allison Wiber. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

## GENERATIONS ENJOY FUN OF HOMECOMING

**H**omecoming 2015 brought alumni young and old back to London to celebrate the school and legend that is Western. Among the thousands of Homecoming revellers were Jane (Winchester) Kramer, BA'55 (Phys-Ed), Jane's classmate - Molly (McMillan) Buckrell, BA'55 (Phys-Ed), Jane's daughter - Kathryn (Kramer) Forsyth, BSc'91 (HEc, Brescia), friend Catherine (Dodsworth) O'Hagan, BA'83 (Soc)..... asking "where are you now, Mark Bolton?" and Cathy's daughter, Allison Wiber, BA'14 (King's, Hist). Allison is now back at Western doing her Masters in Library Science.

They attended the football game – way to go Stangs! – under warm and sunny skies and met many new friends in the South End Zone VIP tent. Although Jane and Molly were slightly concerned about being the oldest there, they had nothing to worry about as alumni and guests embraced them, wanting to hear about what Western was like "back in the day" when it had less than 3,000 students!

Jane and Molly attended the wonderful dinner at the Great Hall in Somerville House on Saturday evening, celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> 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 insurmountable, 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)*



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Jeff Tennant, left, received 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. (PHOTO BY PAUL MAYNE)

**France celebrates prof's contributions**

For **Jeff Tennant**, it was a tribute to a career he fell 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), recognizing his work in French phonetics and sociolinguistics, alongside his dedication to fostering shared learning and intercultural relations with France. The Ordre des Palmes Académiques is an Order of Chivalry of France for academics, cultural and educational figures, originally a decoration founded by Emperor Napoléon to

honour eminent members of the University of Paris.

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.





McLaren was also recently named as one of three alumni to the Order of Canada. (See story at [alumnigazette.ca](http://alumnigazette.ca)) (PHOTO BY PAUL MAYNE)

*“This report is going to be a real game-changer for sport.”*

## 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 international track competitions until the doping situation is remedied. A second set of findings was released January 14.



Morneau Philpott

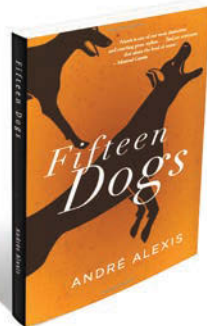
## TWO ALUMNI NAMED TO TRUDEAU CABINET

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.

## Purple presence among Giller Prizes

**André Alexis**, the 2010-11 Writer-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, *Arvida* by Samuel Archibald and *Martin John* by Anakana Schofield, were published by Biblioasis, a publishing house run by Dan Wells, MA’97 (History).



André Alexis

## Undefeated football season ends at Yates

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. No clichés could comfort the crushed Mustang 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

100<sup>th</sup> 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.

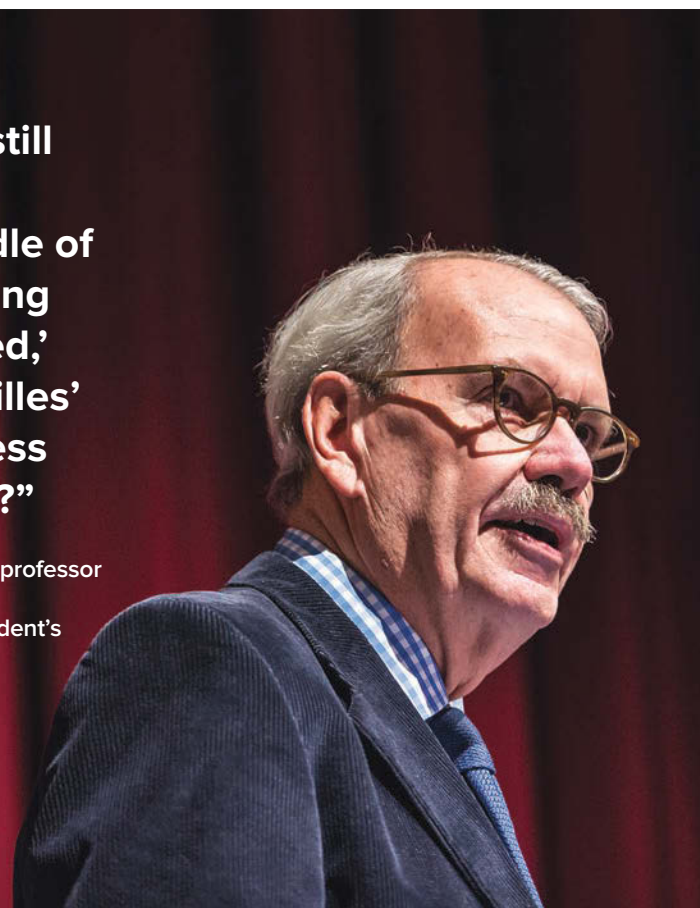
As for the Yates loss, Marshall told the *London Free Press*: “The hardest thing for me right now is going in the dressing room and seeing kids who worked hard every single night, stayed here until 10 o’clock, 10:30 every single night and it’s over in seconds. You got this close and it’s sport and it’s 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.

(PHOTO BY GEOFF ROBINS)



**“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



**“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 HUMBLD 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.

(PHOTO: SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY)



On the  
**last**  
frontier

Lorin MacDonald keeps all  
focused on accessibility  
for all Ontarians

By David Scott

**L**orin 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 throughout law school.

"There are really no bad experiences in life – everything just prepares you for what's next to come," she said. "Even my cancer wasn't really a bad experience. I see it as a blessing in many ways because it's given me tremendous empathy I never would have had otherwise."

"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 pithy 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. Lorin is a leader in an area where 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."

MacDonald is still amazed by the lack of common sense when it comes to some organizations' perceptions of 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




Lorin MacDonald in the Great Library of the Law Society of Upper Canada in Toronto. (PHOTO BY IDEN FORD)

could alleviate most barriers faced by disabled in Ontario and across Canada every day. "Attitudes are always the biggest barriers of all."

"Lorin is 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 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014.

"(It would) make it much clearer. A national legislation would have all those national organizations such as airlines, banks, transportation, etc. All would have to be under that as well. That makes so much sense. I do hope that happens with the new minister," she said, referencing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's new cabinet that includes Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Sport and Persons with Disabilities.

In MacDonald's words, Canadians with disabilities are "too few to count but too many to ignore."

She said it best in a speech she gave in Thunder Bay in 1994: "I've often thought of people with disabilities like wildflowers ... How we're very beautiful but we grow wildly and you try to pick us and discard us. But we just pop up somewhere else and we're unruly but you can't get rid of us. We don't grow in nice contained little slots." **WAG**



# *Zen and the art of Banking*

By David Scott



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

(PHOTOS BY NATION WONG)

Although today he's now founded his sixth banking startup, as a student at Western in the late 1960s, Arkadi Kuhlmann, HBA'71, MBA'72, LLD'10, didn't have enough money to buy a car.

Unlike other male students who leased Corvettes to impress girls, Kuhlmann could only afford a motorcycle in his freshman year. It was his sole means of transportation around London and back to visit his family in Toronto on weekends.

"I think I did 432 trips back and forth between London and Toronto – almost every one of them on a motorcycle. It's a real experience riding a motorcycle from Toronto to London in January in a snowstorm on the 401."

Today, Kuhlmann doesn't need to impress anyone. As Founder and CEO of ZenBanx, a mobile multi-currency exchange platform, he is continuing to redefine the banking industry.

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 who you were – Western was no exception.

"These are the moments whether it was Neil 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 on the phone from his ZenBanx office in Redwood, Calif.

The German-born, Toronto-raised Kuhlmann felt at home in the classroom, particularly in the business school where he relished discussions focused on the "constant struggle" between what could and what could not be solved quantitatively. "I found this interplay exceedingly challenging and interesting," he said.

He earned his MBA at Western in 1972. He then stayed on to teach from 1973-76.

If you search hard enough in the right places, you can find photos of the young Western business faculty member with students "sitting in class smoking and reading newspapers. I've got those photos of me teaching in a tweed jacket with leather elbows and a beard."

Kuhlmann, who later taught at McGill University and the Thunderbird School of Global Management at Arizona State University, considers himself "primarily

**"YOU HAVE TO PUT A BIG EFFORT IN GETTING CLOSE TO CUSTOMERS - WHETHER IT'S ON THE PHONE OR ON THE MOBILE OR IN THE SHOP."**



Kuhlmann, with his July 2015 painting *Muskoka Falls*.

a teacher – but without becoming an academic."

So, how did a motorcycle-riding young professor grow into a rebel banker always a decade ahead of the industry? In hindsight, his career path in traditional banking revealed ingredients to that success.

From the Canadian Bankers Association in Montreal to the Royal Bank, Kuhlmann was a sponge for retail financial services. He witnessed the first wave of electronics that led to automation in back offices of banks, including the 'revolutionary' concept of telephone banking.

Kuhlmann even went through a 'global phase' by joining the foreign exchange giant Deak International. He worked in Asia, Europe and Australia and gained keen insights on banking trends of the 1980s and early 1990s before returning to Canada to work with North American Trust in retail.

And then, as the public gained access to the Internet in the 1990s, ING Direct was born.

"In the early 1990s, I'd just got back from Japan. We were still talking about telephone banking then. Clearly, the timing was perfect. We started the telephone bank (at ING) and, literally, graduated more and more over to the Internet in the late 1990s."

ING Direct Canada was founded by Kuhlmann in 1996, launched in 1997 and evolved into ING Direct US early in the new millennium. He created the brand strategy, recruited the senior leadership team, and grew the bank from 1996 to 2000 serving as the bank's president and CEO.

He then repeated this process in 2000, when he founded ING Direct USA and led its growth to become the largest savings bank and number one direct bank in the United States, with more than \$90B in deposits and 7.8M customers. The comfort level grew with Internet banking and telephone banking virtually faded to the next fad.

"That transition just kept on growing, until finally we sold it in 2012. Then it was clearly 90 per cent plus the Internet."

That same year, Kuhlmann had another vision of a 'seismic' banking industry change.

"Looking forward, I'm seeing the same thing happening again today. Now, I'm going from websites to mobile banking. I thought for sure the next 10 years are going to be all about mobile banking; of course, I was right."

In July 2012, Arkadi founded his sixth banking startup, ZenBanx, and is currently serving as its CEO.

By 2020, Kuhlmann assures the world will look back and see that the last decade has been all about the mobile. He is quick to point out that, although it might appear he is just following the trend from paper to telephone to the laptop to the mobile in this technology chase, it's actually more about consumer behaviour.

"It's really the way consumers interact with, and actually think about, how they do banking. What do they think about money? What is the purpose of money? How intimate are they with their money, their buying behaviour?"

This type of philosophical approach to banking endears Kuhlmann to his staff, who have been asked to re-elect their boss annually as CEO. His second book, *Rock Then Roll:*

*The Secrets of Culture Driven Leadership*, offers insight into how culture drives modern corporations. In an interview with *Forbes*, Kuhlmann said the book was a blueprint for his ING Direct associates on how the "protest generation" should think about corporate culture. For instance, at ING Direct, the CEO made a point of visiting call centres and field customer calls himself. He immersed himself in the culture he created and didn't feel comfortable asking any of his employees to do something he wouldn't do himself.

"You have to put a big effort in getting close to customers – whether it's on the phone or on the mobile or in the shop. I cannot tell you how many board discussions are among directors who are always talking about customer first and customers want this, and they've never actually talked to a customer."

Kuhlmann admits it's difficult in leadership positions to achieve this balance and remain genuine to the staff you lead.

"You can't live a very luxurious life and eat at five-star restaurants and then come in and actually convince anyone you're humble and eat peanut butter sandwiches with them at lunch. They then think you're slumming. You need to walk the talk."

He lives a balanced life – not only for his health and outlet for personal passions – but also to paint a picture of himself beyond a one-dimensional corporate figurehead. "People want to know who you are," he continued. "They want to relate to the individual. They don't want to relate to a résumé."

Personally, Kuhlmann has his best insights about business while sailing, playing tennis, writing, painting, riding a motorcycle or cycling. "Getting involved in music or the arts or other pursuits – whatever that is – is really helpful in terms of rounding you out and keeping you connected not only to who you are but also to the world."

This 'Renaissance man' persona is part of Kuhlmann's daily approach to life that has roots back to his time in the classroom at Western. There, he learned about keeping an open mind and the importance of open discussion and debate.

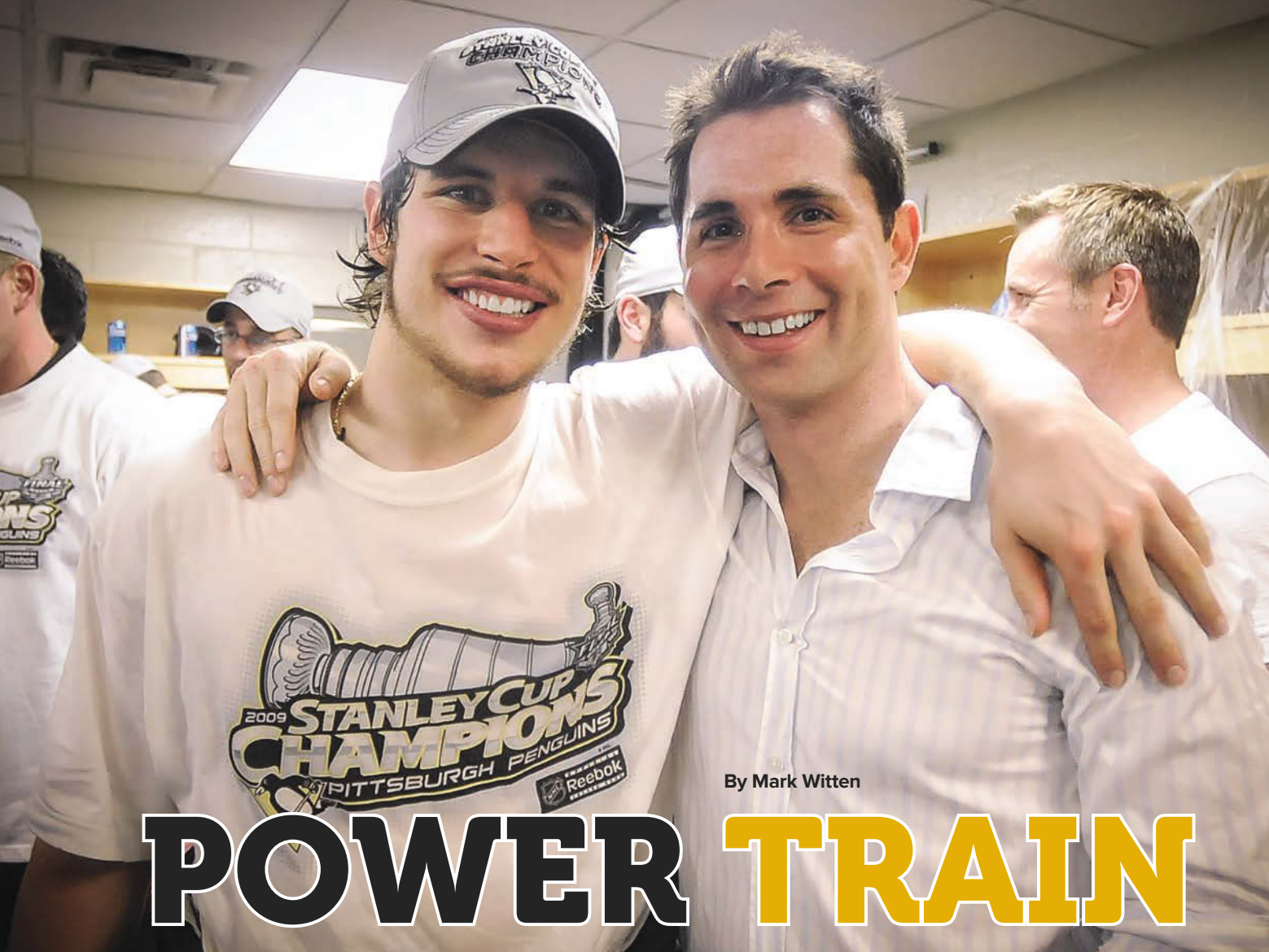
"There's a tolerance about having different views, which comes through the diversity of the classroom. But also that the responsibility of a student and of a faculty member is to debate and argue and search for the truth. I learned that and I welcomed that with open arms. It was like pouring water on me. And I flourished in that environment."

That tradition carries on today in his workplace. Objective conversations, debates and soul searching on a myriad of topics is commonplace in a Kuhlmann-led work environment.

"So the arc between, in a very practical sense, between subjective and objective is something that I learned so well at Western that it serves me today."

"I've been blessed – my whole career, my life – by mentors. People who have taken a chance on me and given me something. And I was lucky enough that I found that at Western. And there are a number of professors I still have connections to today. That's one of those unsung huge benefits out of the university education that people should not underestimate." **WAG**





By Mark Witten

# POWER TRAIN

Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby and trainer Andy O'Brien celebrate the Penguins' 2009 Stanley Cup victory. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)



**A**ndy O'Brien, BA'02, loves the challenge of training elite athletes from diverse sports and using a sport-specific approach to prevent injuries and boost their performance. As a premier strength and fitness coach, his high-profile clients have included NHL superstar Sidney Crosby, Yankees slugger Alex Rodriguez, Olympic gold medalist swimmer Dara Torres, Miami

Dolphins quarterback Chad Pennington and world champion figure skater Patrick Chan.

"The best thing about my career development is that I've been able to work with athletes in multiple sports. Every time I had to work with an athlete from a different sport I had to study the sport and tailor my approach," says O'Brien, who took on a new role in 2015 as Director of Sports Science and Performance for the Pittsburgh Penguins hockey team.

O'Brien first developed his sport-specific philosophy and aptitude for training athletes from a variety of sports in the gym and the library as a Western student. While studying psychology and kinesiology, he also trained regularly in the gym for the world junior power lifting championships, which he won in 2000.

"I started a performance lifting club and got involved with training athletes from different sports around the university including football, hockey, and track and field. I remember thinking of the university as this tremendous overall resource," says O'Brien, who spent many hours in the library in those pre-Internet days reading books and articles on

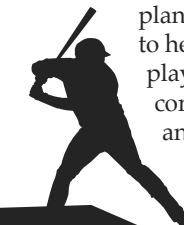
the science of high-performance sports training for athletes from the former East Germany and Soviet Union.

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 of 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



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 Dara 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 Dara'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 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. These 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.

O'Brien now has the opportunity to share and apply his high-performance training knowledge



“ THE BEST THING ABOUT MY CAREER DEVELOPMENT IS THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO WORK WITH ATHLETES IN MULTIPLE SPORTS. ”

stabilizing muscles like the gluteas medias and lateral hamstring that skaters use for balance and propulsion. He also used exercises developed for track athletes to analyze the mechanical correctness and efficiency of Crosby's lower body movements, and worked on coordinating the angles of his hips, knees and ankles to engineer a smoother stride, with explosive acceleration.

O'Brien was fortunate that his first full-time client was highly motivated and open to new training methods that could help to maximize his development and performance as a hockey player. "Studying psychology at Western I learned how people are motivated and influenced in different ways and how complex human behaviour is. Some athletes like Sidney have this great appetite for learning and are very open, while others have more difficulty absorbing new information. I adapt my coaching style to their way of learning," he says.

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 Penguin's 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. **WAG**

# OUTFOXING THEM ALL

By David Scott

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



"A Tale of Two Foxes" – the photo by Don Gutoski that earned him the title of Wildlife Photographer of the Year. Below are two other wildlife photos by the E.R. doctor that are on display in the waiting room at St. Joseph's Urgent Care Centre in London. Also below is Gutoski with his Canon 1DX equipped with a telephoto lens. (PHOTOS SUBMITTED)



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.

**"I LIKE TO TAKE PICTURES OF PREDATORS - THE TOP-OF-THE-FOOD-CHAIN-TYPE SPECIES."**

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." **WAG**

# CULTIVATING COOL

## JARED GUTSTADT CHANGES AN INDUSTRY'S TUNE WITH JINGLE PUNKS

By Jason Winders, MES'10

**Y**ou'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. And 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



Jared Gutstadt

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.

**'SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, WE CAPTURED PEOPLE'S IMAGINATION IN A BIG, NOISY MARKETPLACE.'**



"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



Gutstadt with supermodel Tyra Banks (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

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." **WAG**



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# COLLECTOR BRINGS WESTERN ARCHIVES INTO THE GOLDEN AGE

By Adela Talbot, BA'08, MA'10

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 lot in the recent past, with somewhere in the neighbourhood of 8,000 hard-to-come-by comics, books and magazines going to Western since he first started donating in 2009.

That first donation, which established the Dr. Eddy Smet Comic Book Collection at Western Archives, included Silver and Bronze Age classics like rare Batman appearances from the 1970s and 1980s

written by Denny O'Neil, Frank Miller's revolutionary run on Daredevil, Alan Moore's complete runs on Watchmen, Miracleman and Swamp Thing, and the first 14 issues of Captain Canuck, arguably Canada's most popular and important superhero comic.

Among his most recent donation to Western Archives is a rare collection of 'Canadian Whites.' For collectors, these are books produced and published in Canada as a result of the War Exchange Conservation Act (WECA) which banned the import of American comics during the Second World War. Implemented by the Canadian government in December 1940, WECA was repealed in 1946. Once

Eddy Smet, who taught Math at Huron University College for more than 30 years, has been collecting comic books for more than 40 years. He has given thousands of comics, graphic novels and magazines to Western Archives over the years, most recently donating his collection of 'Canadian Whites,' comics published during the Second World War and are rare representations of a Canadian comic industry. (PHOTO BY ADELA TALBOT)



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 favourites like Lucky Comics and Wow Comics.

"They (the 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 collectors at the time, he said, so he and his wife often hit the road, looking for new additions and driving as far as Hamilton, Ont., visiting variety stores and scouring the region for new releases.

"I had piles of comics; that takes up a lot of space. We thought of selling some out of our apartment, but I was still getting new comics. London was not well served if



**"COMIC BOOKS NOW DOMINATE THE WORLD ...YOUR BIGGEST MOVIES ARE THINGS THAT ARE SPINOFFS FROM COMICS."**

you collected comic books. It was very difficult in the city at the time; they weren't that well distributed," Smet said.

"I loved books, always did, and I 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.

Smet and his wife operated the store during his tenure at Huron; they sold it in 1986 to a customer, not looking to make a large profit but instead hoping to foster his love of comics.

But the years spent collecting comics were about much more than growing his stock pile. In comics, Smet said he encounters a different era – one that endures in the medium and still has an impact on the world of today.

"They're entertaining, but as much as anything, it takes me back to a different time. It takes me back to the 1950s when life was much simpler. But I love everything from the period," he explained.

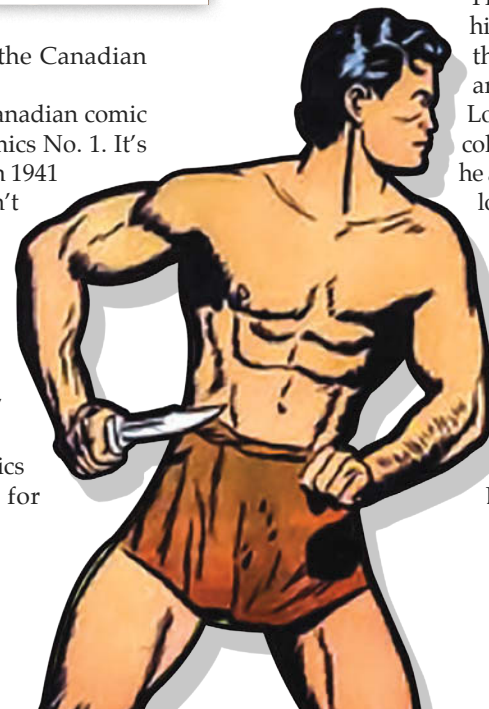
"Comic books now dominate the world, maybe not directly, but your biggest movies are things that are spinoffs from comics. They're a tremendous source of material for pop culture, even if they don't have big readership now," Smet continued, adding while it may be difficult to part with items he worked so hard to collect, he is happy his collection will prove a good resource for students and faculty at Western.

"I was a completist. I've been collecting for more than 40 years now and I just stopped buying them. This means I would have had a complete set of Star Trek comics from when it first came out, right up until two or three years ago. I had the complete set of a character called Vampirella, that started off as a black-and-white magazine, not restricted by comic book codes. The complete set spans 40 years, so you're talking about a female character, not even in mainstream comics, that was represented and lasted more than 40 years, and is still going on," he said.

Women's Studies might have an interest in this, and students from various backgrounds can now examine his collection and pop culture as it's been represented over the years, added Smet.

"We're at an age now where it's more important to have everything comfortable and accessible – I can't deal with things being crammed. I've been giving my comics away, bit by bit – went from the easiest to get rid of, then worked down. I'm left with about 2,500 I don't know if I'll ever give away, some Conan (The Barbarian) and my Tarzans," he noted.

"But most of my life was teaching. I taught all first-year courses – some of those students were afraid of math, some were really good, a lot of them needed it for their program. And I put myself into teaching. If they didn't get the math course, it would seriously affect their chances of pursuing their goals, the college appreciated me for it." **WAG**



Smet's favourite titles include Tarzan (left) and Conan The Barbarian. (IMAGE: WIKIPEDIA)

# BIRTH OF (TUBA) COOL

**I**n 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.



## Gift of a lifetime: making a bequest

### 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](mailto:cstinson@uwo.ca)), Mike O'Hagan (519.661.2111, ext. 85595 or [mike.ohagan@uwo.ca](mailto:mike.ohagan@uwo.ca)) or Jane Edwards (519.661.2111, ext. 88829 or [jane.edwards@uwo.ca](mailto:jane.edwards@uwo.ca)).

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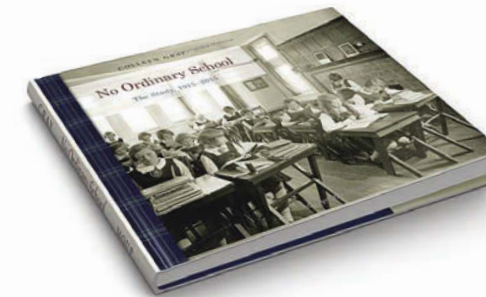
from Western alumni

- 1) Children's Rights and Moral Parenting**, by Mark Vopat, PhD'04
- 2) Unguided**, by Roberta Jane Glatt, BA'95
- 3) Fresh strange music**, by Donald S. Hair, 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 Nofle, BA'07, BEd'08
- 15) Awesome Life**, by Ahsan Khan, BA'92, and Shazad Ahmad
- 16) Astro-Imaging Projects for Amateur Astronomers**, by Jim Chung, BSc'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, BEd'15
- 23) Training for Armageddon**, by Richard D. Merritt, MD'68

## No Ordinary School – The Study, 1915-2015

by Colleen A. Gray, BA'74

Published by McGill-Queen's University Press, [www.mqup.ca](http://www.mqup.ca)



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.

Colleen Gray teaches history at Concordia University and is the author of *The Congrégation de Notre-Dame, Superiors, and the Paradox of Power, 1693-1796*.





# COWIN: EMBRACE A WORLD BEYOND YOUR DOOR

By Jason Winders, MES'10

It was only a two-door hardtop. But to Jack Cowin, BA'64, LLD'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. That'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 piqued 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 16,000 staff throughout Australia.

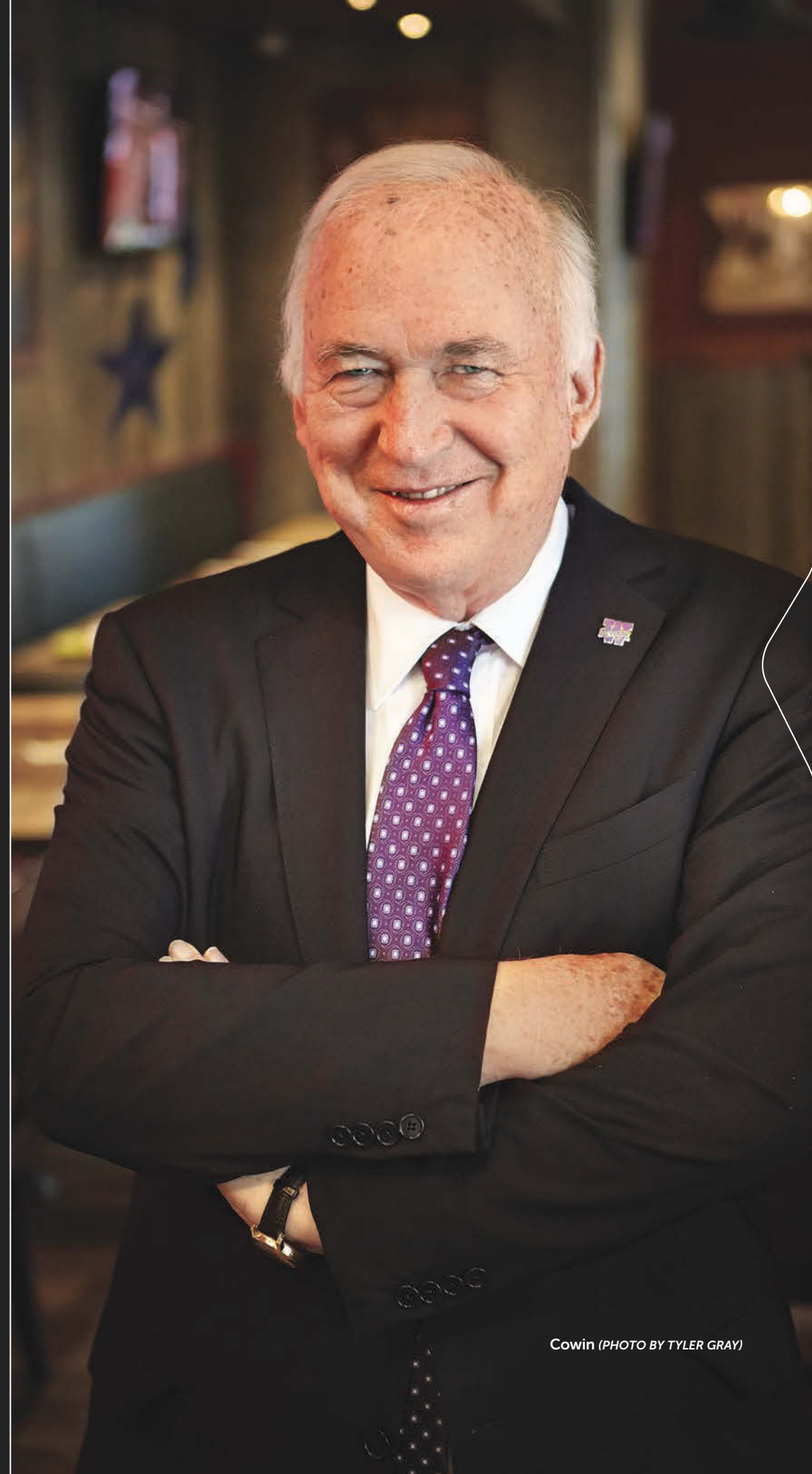
The group is also a major shareholder in three companies operating in Canada and the United States with a joint venture in Malaysia. In addition to operating 350 restaurants in Australia, the company operates five manufacturing facilities producing frozen value-added meat products, as well as processing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

"When you move halfway around the world like that, especially when you haven't really been 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 of what is going on in the world."

He is a strong supporter of Western's efforts to increase international student enrolment, and a financial backer of its efforts to internationalize domestic student education. Cowin and his wife Sharon, BA'64, established the Jack and Sharon



Cowin (PHOTO BY TYLER GRAY)

Cowin Scholars Award, a partnership between Bond University in Queensland, Australia and Western that facilitates academic exchanges between the two universities.

"That's the transformation the international aspect of a university provides."

Cowin has contributed to numerous leadership projects on campus, including acting as Chairman of Western's International Advisory Board. He was conferred with an honorary degree in 2000. One year later, Western's Alumni Association recognized him with the Professional Achievement Award.

Cowin was a graduate of the Faculty of Social Science (Psychology), but was heavily involved in extracurricular activities as a student, especially as a varsity athlete in both wrestling and football.

"Sport gave me a competitive edge. It teaches

**"For Western to be a significant university going forward, it has to increasingly have a global view..."**

you those things – all those things you hear about – like doing the best you can, never giving up, keeping on, getting better," he said. "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 Jack Cowin/Lone Star Coaching Excellence Fund designed to support Western's efforts to retain and recruit top-level head or assistant coaches for its varsity teams.

"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 is a real life lesson."



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 PILGRIM)

# Alumna blends worlds together in her music

By Adela Talbot, BA'08, MA'10

**Y**ou'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.

"Even when I was studying as a kid, my teacher was very encouraging with exploring 'serious' music with more fun things, like rags and pop music. It has always been this idea that 'anything goes' that probably most informed my work and inspired me."

Coverdale, BMus'08 (Music History) and MA'10 (Popular Music & Culture), has lived in Montreal since graduation. There, she plays organ at her parish, the St. John Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church, and writes her own music, electronic samplings that blend and transcend genre and style.

"I 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.

"As much as I look out and see what's new and interesting, I keep coming back to this idea of what is timeless, what is forever and what stands the test of time."

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

"For me, being an organist in a church is a lot about being a student of more than just religion per se. So, it's been a study of culture and community.

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 Bannon, Coverdale has cut three solo records. Most recently, *Decoder* magazine said 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. **WAG**

**"I am playing on a computer one day, an organ another, a New York basement club on another."**

## 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](http://alumni.westernu.ca/athletic-awards) for nomination information and forms.



Western Alumni



# Ten thousand reasons to talk



By John Eberhard, BA'66, LLB'69

**O**ne 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.

One coffee meeting may change the course of a career path, it may cement a long held dream of vocational change or it may be just the start of a long-term mentor-based relationship. Today's students are tomorrow's leaders.

The Ten Thousand Coffees hub can be accessed at the

Western Alumni website, [alumni.westernu.ca](http://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 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.

## ALUMNI EVENTS

Find us on Facebook

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](http://alumni.uwo.ca/connect/events)

### Featured Events

**February 11** | Discover Robarts Community Presentation Series 2016 - Dr. Jane Rylett (Chatham, ON)  
**February 18** | London Lightning Alumni Suite (London, ON)  
**February 23** | Classes without Quizzes: Killing Fields: Genocide in Modern History (London, ON)  
**March 1** | Classes without Quizzes: Mythical beasts: Fiction, fact, or something in between? (London, ON)  
**April 4** | Classes without Quizzes: So You Think You're Female? Sex Testing and the Olympic Games (London, ON)

**April 14** | President's Reception (San Francisco, CA)  
**April 15** | Wall of Champions Dinner (London, ON)  
**May 5** | Extraordinary Mustangs Gala (Toronto, ON)  
**May 7** | Alumni Day at The Stratford Festival – A Chorus Line (Stratford, ON)  
**June 3** | Rick McGhie at Steam Whistle (Toronto, ON)  
**June 19** | Alumni Day at African Lion Safari  
**Sept. 30-Oct. 2** | Western Homecoming 2016 (London, ON)



Celebrate 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**.

## Alumni Career Management

Learn. Connect. Advance.



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 alumna 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.

To learn more and view our events, visit [alumni.westernu.ca/careermanagement](http://alumni.westernu.ca/careermanagement)



## 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/awards/merit.html](http://www.alumni.westernu.ca/connect/awards/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 Luckman,**  
MED'82  
Dr. Ivan Smith Award

# ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

**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. At any time you have the right to request that your personal information cease to be used to recognize outstanding achievement or distinguished service in University publications. For more information or to make a request about the kinds of contact you would like to receive, please contact the Operations Administrator, Advancement Services, 519-661-4176 or 1-800-420-7519, fax 519-661-4182, e-mail advser@uwo.ca.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

**Amy Gibbons**, BA'02 (Huron), MBA'08; **Mana Khami**, BA'06, JD'09; **Gillian Mandich**, BHSc'07, MSc'12; **Titus Ferguson**, BSc'08; **Kathryn Graham**, BFA'07; **Jeffrey Pastorius**, BA'08 (Huron); and **Ryan Hodge**, BA'00 were named among the 20 Under 40 by *Business London*.

Ten Western alumni were elected or re-elected in the Oct. 19 Canadian federal election:

- Irene Mathysen**, BA'74, BEd'75, London-Fanshawe;
- Diane Finley**, BA'79, MBA'82, Haldimand-Norfolk;
- Pamela Damoff**, BA'80, Oakville North-Burlington;
- Catherine McLeod**, BScN'81, Kemloops-Thompson-Cariboo;
- Cheryl Gallant**, BSc'82, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke;
- Kyle Peterson**, BA'94, Newmarket-Aurora;
- Peter Fragiskatos**, BA'04 (King's), London North Centre;
- Filomena Tassi**, LLB'86, Hamilton West;
- Jane Philpott**, MD'84, Markham-Stouffville, named Minister of Health; and
- William Morneau**, BA'86, Toronto Centre, named Minister of Finance.

**Carolyn Merchant**, BA'08, DpiPR'09; **Lauren Jacob**, BA'08; **Amanda Lai**, BA'10; and **Heena Verma**, HBA'10, were named to the 2015 Top 30 Under 30 in Marketing by the *Marketing* magazine.

**Sylvia Chrominska**, BA'73, HBA'75, LLD'14; **Dorian Lo**, MD'90; and **Farah Mohamed**, MA'96, were named to the 2015 Diversity 50 List released by the Canadian Board Diversity Council (CBDC).

On Nov. 12, the following Western-connected physicians and family practices from across



**67 Anantha Konanur**, MESC'67, and **Gail Konanur**, BA'78, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Aug. 28.

Ontario were recognized at the Ontario College of Family Physicians Awards Ceremony at the College of Family Physicians of Canada's Family Medicine Forum 2015.

- Dr. Dale Ziter**, Regional Family Physician of the Year (Region 2);
- Dr. Peter Deimling**, Regional Family Physician of the Year (Region 6);
- Dr. Christina Cookson**, Resident Teacher of the Year;
- Dr. David Millar**, Award of Excellence;
- Dr. Deborah Smith**, Award of Excellence; and
- Dr. Eric Wong**, Award of Excellence.

Seven Western alumnae and one current student were named recently among the 2015 Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award Winners, sponsored by the Women's Executive Network (WXN). The winners included:

- Cynthia Clarke**, BA'93 (Huron University College), LLB'97, Partner and National Group Head, Specialized Litigation, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP;
- Marni Dicker**, BA'91, Executive Vice-President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary, Infrastructure Ontario;
- Laura Dottori-Attanasio**, BA'88, Senior Executive Vice-

President and Chief Risk Officer, CIBC;

- Marilyn Emery**, MScN'74, President and CEO, Women's College Hospital;
- Catherine Karakatsanis**, BESC'83, MESC'91, COO, Morrison Hershfield Limited;
- Linda McCurdy**, MBA'91, President and CEO, K-Bro Linen Systems Inc.;
- Akela Peoples**, BA'88, President and CEO, The Learning Partnership; and
- Sarah Saska-Crozier**, PhD candidate, co-founder and Partner, Feminuity, and fellow, MaRS Discovery District.

Five Western alumni were named to the 50 Most Influential People in Toronto 2015 by *Toronto Life* magazine, including:

- Timothy Hockey**, EMBA'97;
- J. Gary Slight**, BA'73;
- Cameron Bailey**, BA'87;
- Kevin Donovan**, BA'91; and
- Jeffrey Stober**, BA'80.

## 1950s

**52 Frederick R. Hunt**, BSc'51, MSc'52, PhD'55, of Ottawa, was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honour by the Ambassador of France for his part in the 1944 Liberation of France.

**55 Lorne Buck**, BA'55, BA'59 (Phys-Ed), and his wife Mary, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Aug. 20.

**57 Joseph Rotman**, BA'57, LLD'09, was posthumously honoured with the Meritorious Service Cross (Civil Division), an Order of Canada award, on Nov. 18. His Excellency the Right Honourable **David Johnston**, LLD'91, Governor General of Canada, presented the award to Rotman's wife, Sandra.



**1952**  
Passing  
of King  
George VI

## 1960s

**61 W. Jack Purvis**, BA'61, was inducted into Great Lakes Marine Hall of Fame. He is an owner of the second-largest Canada flag tug and barge operator on the Great Lakes.

**63 Brian Sinclair**, LLB'63, was recognized by the Law Society for his 50 years of legal service.

**64 Gail Benjafield (Darroch)**, BA'64, and **John Benjafield**, MA'64, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by driving two hours to London, having lunch at The Toddle Inn and a beer at The Ceeeps, going to the site of their first date (in Arva) and staying overnight at the 'boutique hotel' once known as Spencer Hall. Gail's first-year residence hall. They met at Western in 1962. 64 Western's Board of Governors named Hanny Hassan, BESC'64, as the university governing body's next Chair on Nov. 24. His term began Jan. 1. Named to the Board by the Alumni Association in 2009, Hassan is President of Alef Consulting.

**65 Richard Hawkins**, BA'65, MD'69, is the recipient of the 2015 Robert E. Leach Sports Medicine Leadership award. Hawkins is the 42<sup>nd</sup> recipient of this distinguished award.

## 1970s

**70 Don McLeish**, BA'70 (Huron), recently moved back to London and rejoined London Rowing Club. He teamed up with Mike Moloney of Peterborough to win the men's T-7 2x doubles category at the Canadian Sculling Marathon in August. McLeish, 76, and his partner posted a time of 54 minutes 56 seconds.

**71** Western's Board of Governors named **Paul Jenkins**, BA'71 (Economics), as the university governing body's next Vice-Chair. His term began Jan. 1. Named to the Board as an Alumni member in 2010, Jenkins was appointed Senior Deputy Governor of the Bank of

Canada in April 2003, for a term of seven years. He retired in April 2010.

**71 Margaret J. McMaster (Lawson)**, BA'71, DipEd'72, has won a Gold Medal in the 2015 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards for her book, *The Complete Babysitter Out of Control!* Series.

**72 Philip Griffin**, BA'72, was appointed as Chair of the Board of St. Joseph's Health Care, London.

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

**74 John J.T. Fetterly**, MD'74, is happily retired after 40 years as a family doctor – 21 years in Wallaceburg, Ont., and 19 in Devils Lake, N.D. He has been married to Mary Anne for the past 40 years, and now has time to travel and visit his grandchildren.

**77 Patricia Beaudry**, BA'77 (King's), earned her MEd (2014) at Acadia University, N.S., and successfully defended her master's thesis, *Communicating Hope and Optimism: Support Mechanisms for Beginning Teachers*.

**77 Betty Mary Vandenbosch**, BSc'77, MBA'83, PhD'93, was appointed President of Kaplan University, headquartered in Chicago with campuses in seven states. She has been with Kaplan University since 2008.

**78 Shelley Banks**, MA'78, published her first poetry collection, *Exile on a Grid Road*, with Thistledown Press. The book also features her photography on its cover.

**79 Sharon Johnston**, BSc'79, has been appointed Patron of L'Arche Canada, an international not-for-profit organization dedicated to people with intellectual disabilities.

**79 Barbara (Glenn) Mahaffy**, BA'79, retired from her position as Executive Assistant to the Commissioner of Finance and Administrative Services for the

City of Saint John in July 2014, bringing a 35-year career as an administrative professional to a close.

## 1980s

**80 Wendy Robertson**, BA'80, took early retirement from the City of Toronto, Park, Forestry and Recreation after 37 years. She immediately put her energies into painting Canadian landscapes, and serving as a Deputy Venue Manager for the TO2015 Pan Am Games.

**83 Grant Wren**, BA'83, and **Deborah Kemp**, BSc'85, were married on Oct. 10 at the Rose Chapel in London.

**84 John Walsh**, PhD'84, has been appointed to a third five-year term as vice-provost of the University of Guelph-Humber.

**85 William Aird**, MD'85, has been appointed deputy editor of *Hematology, Endocrinology and Nephrology* for DynaMed Plus, a clinical information resource publication. Aird is Chief of the Division of Molecular and Vascular Medicine at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston.

**86 Stephen de Boer**, BA'86, LLB'89, has been named Canada's Ambassador to the Republic of Poland.

**86 Joseph Shlesinger**, MBA'86, has been appointed member of the Board of Directors of Alpine Canada, the governing body of alpine ski racing in Canada.

**87 Michael Gort**, BA'87, has been appointed Canada's Ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica.



**78 On Sept. 9, 2015**, Sabine Nolke, BA'78, MA'81, LLB'85, presented her letters of credence as Canada's Ambassador to the Kingdom of the Netherlands to His Majesty, King Willem Alexander. She serves concurrently as Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons; her portfolio includes representing Canada at the international legal institutions resident in The Hague.

**87 Pamela Griffith-Jones**, HBA'87, MBA'90, has been appointed deputy editor of the Nieuport Aviation Infrastructure Partner GP, owner of the passenger terminal at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.

**87 Michael Jones**, BMus'87, MMus'89, was appointed CEO of the Saskatchewan Arts Board.

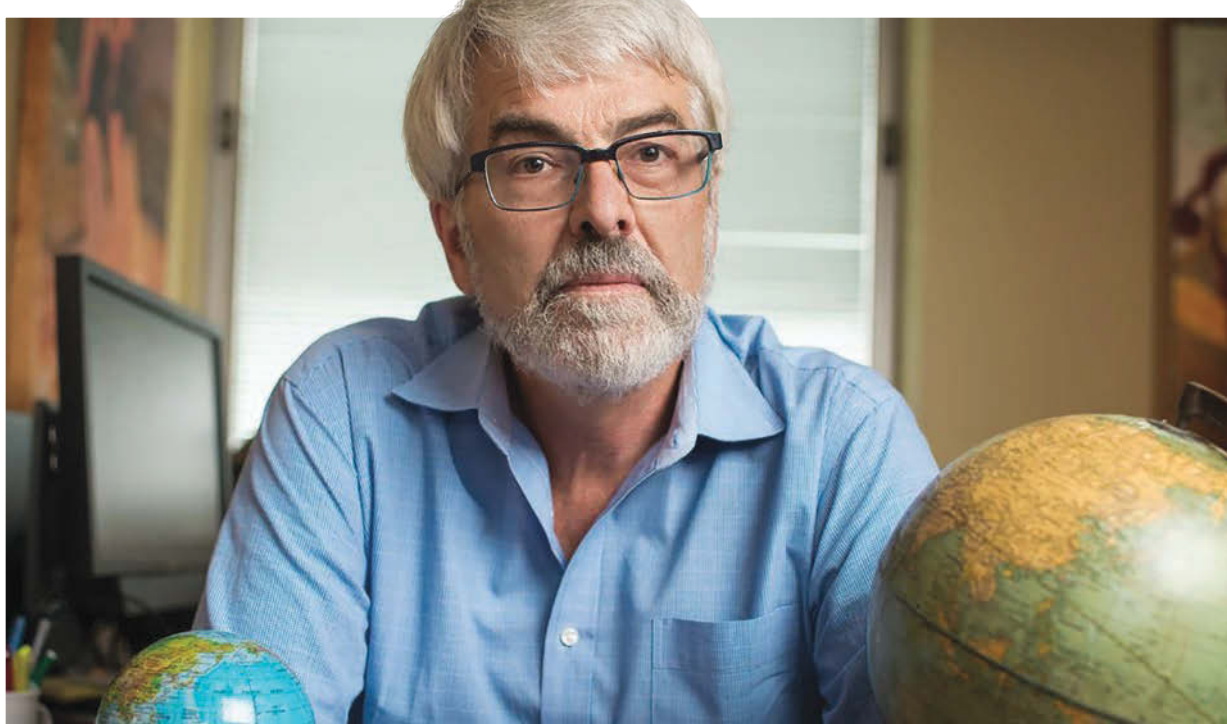
**87** As curator of Prints and Drawings at the Getty Research Institute, **Louie Marchesano**, BA'87, initiated an international collaboration with the Bibliothèque nationale de France and produced the exhibition catalogue, *A Kingdom of Images: French Prints in the Age of Louis XIV, 1660-1715*, Los Angeles, Getty Research Institute, 2015.

**87 Martine (Stranges) Mackenzie**, BA'87, celebrated her 25<sup>th</sup> year of teaching with the District School Board of Niagara. She has been a French Immersion teacher in the elementary panel and has taught a variety of grades.

**87 Peter Shearing**, BESC'87, has been appointed COO of Canada Rare Earth Corp. of Vancouver, a mining company that concentrates on rare earth elements in Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador.



**1987**  
World  
population  
reaches  
5 billion



**76 Harvey Krahn**, BA'76, MA'78, Sociology professor, received The University Cup, the University of Alberta's highest academic award, for his lifelong achievements. Krahn has published three books, 40 research reports and 84 research papers in his 32 years at U of A.

**87 Martin Tewari**, BA'87 (Huron), has been appointed President of Tracking for USA Truck Inc.

**88 Harry Taylor**, MBA'88, was appointed Executive VP Finance and CFO for WestJet Airlines.

**89 David Brule**, BSc'89, has been appointed General Manager for Canadian Subsidiary of Columbia Sportswear Co. in London.

**89 Christine A. Cook**, HBA'89, was appointed Chief Financial Officer for *The Globe and Mail*.

### 1990s

**90** CBC senior correspondent **Adrienne Arsenault**, BA'90, MA'91, LLD'13, was among the network's team that won an International Emmy Award for its coverage of the Ebola crisis.

**91 Rob Dobson**, BSc'91, purchased a third distributorship of Weston Bakeries and now operates in Kitchener/Waterloo, Mitchell and Goderich. Rob and **Laurie (Lewis) Dobson**, BA'91, have three children, Melissa, a third-year Health Science student at Western; Spencer, a first-year Engineering and Business student at Western; and Ben.

**90** Crown Capital Partners, a specialty finance company, recently named **David Turnbull**, BA'90, MBA'96, as Senior Vice-President, Business Development, and **Timothy Oldfield**, BA'94, as Chief Investment Officer.

**91** Headed by **Shantal Feltham**, BA'91, CEO, Stiris Research Inc. was recently ranked No. 454 by *Canadian Business* on the publication's 27<sup>th</sup> annual PROFIT 500, the definitive ranking of Canada's Fastest-Growing Companies.

**94** Working at CN Rail based in Calgary, as a Solutions (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 working across Canada.

**94 Annalisa Rasaiah**, LLB'94, has been named Justice of the Superior Court in Salt Ste. Marie.

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

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

**97 Cheryl-Lee E. Campbell**, BMus'97, DplMus'98, recently released *Once In a Lullaby*, a fundraising CD of classical music for babies. All proceeds go to establish music therapy in the NICU at Mount Sinai Hospital.

**97 Dr. Derek Michael Krete**, BA'97, 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 NFL tryout and two seasons in the CFL. He's now a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist in Peterborough.



**97 Mason Ross**, BSc'97, MD'01, EMBA'10, has been appointed a Strategic Advisor to the Sirona Biochem Corp. in Vancouver, a cosmetic ingredient and drug discovery company.

**98 Luc Arsenault**, MMus'98, recently composed an orchestral piece commissioned by the Ontario Arts Council that will be premiered by his hometown orchestra, the Timmins Symphony Orchestra, in April 2016. It is an instrumental work inspired by the life of his paternal grandmother, a pioneer whose family was recruited in rural Québec in the early 1900s to settle and populate Northern Ontario.

**99 Michael Aniballi**, EMBA'99, has been appointed President of Momentum Digital Solutions (owned by OnX), an IT solutions provider in Toronto.

### 2000s

**01 Melissa (Dancy) Bickford**, BA'01, BEd'02, and **Brian Bickford**, BA'01, celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their company, Pendleton 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 (2008) and Top 40 Business People Under 40 for the Halton region (2013).



**1997** Zaire becomes the Democratic Republic of the Congo



**75 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First J-School MA Graduating Class (MA'75)** - On the weekend of Aug. 21-22, the members of the UWJ Journalism School class of 1975 got together for a 40<sup>th</sup> reunion. There were 16 graduates. Nine showed up. Two (possibly three) are deceased. The years melted away, and as one of the group said, "It was as if we picked up talking right where we left off in 1975." They posed for a retake of a class photo taken on the steps of Middlesex College, which was the home of the j-school in 1975. Left spaces for those who are no longer with us or couldn't make it. Every full-time prof but one -- Ken Bambrick -- has died. Front row (l-r): Norma Kimmins, Ken Cuthbertson, Paul Weinberg. Second row: Jerry Johnson, Debbie Aldcorn, Mary Doyle, Louise Brown, Azzo Rezori, Cecil Rosner. (Photo courtesy Ken Cuthbertson)

**01 Shafin Diamond Tejani**, BA'01 (Huron), was named Entrepreneur of the Year 2015 for Technology at the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual EY Entrepreneur of the Year awards held recently in Vancouver and Toronto. Tejani also received a Special Citation for Advancing Entrepreneurship.

**02 Henry M. Kurban**, MD'02, will lead the new Department of Behavioral and Community Health in Dutchess County, New York, as its first Commissioner.

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

**04 Megan Claucherty**, BACS'04, and her husband, Kevin Marx, welcomed their second child, Claire Kathleen Marx, on April 22.

**05 Matthew Krofchick**, BACS'05 (King's), and **Evan Krofchick**, BACS'05 (King's), both took part in the Toronto 2015 PanAm Torch Relay on July 6 in Toronto.

**07 Sharif Karmally**, HBA'07, graduated as a MBA

valedictorian from the University of California Berkeley's Haas School of Business last summer.

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

**08 Derek Chechak**, BA'08, BSW'08, MSW'09 (King's),

successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in social work at Memorial University of Newfoundland and graduated in June.

**08 Steven Wolstenhome**, EMBA'08, has been appointed as COO of the Tiger Resort Casino in Manila.



**2008** Barack Obama elected U.S. President



**03 Steve Kurzbock**, BACS'03, and **Susan Kurzbock**, BScN'06, announced the arrival of their second son, Alexander, on Aug. 13. Two year-old Connor is excited to be a big brother.

**07 Nicole Verkindt**, HBA'07, joined the *NextGenDen* as a Dragon this season. Along with alumnus **Michael Hyatt**, BSc'96, the Western alumni make up two-thirds of the show's hosts.

**82 Fraser McDonald**, LLB'82, recently established a boutique law firm, Allen McDonald Swartz LLP (AMS LLP), focusing on corporate law, capital markets transactions and securities law.

## 2010s

**10 Erick Sonke**, BMSc'10, MSc'15; **Jorge Roses Labrada**, PhD'15; and **Melanie Kok**, PhD'15, were awarded a Governor General Academic Gold Medal.

**10 Emily (Try) Leye**, BA'10, recently married **Nick Leye**, BSc'10, BEd'12. The couple met in the Film & Media program at Western. They dated for five years and finally tied the knot on May 16.

**10 Amber Ruddy**, BA'10, was promoted to Director of Provincial Affairs, Alberta, at the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB).

**11 Carin Fraser**, BA'11 (Brescia), BSW'15 (King's), started a new job as Case Manager at Regional HIV/AIDS Connection in London in August.

**11 Aden Hamza**, BScN'11, represented Canada at the Commonwealth Youth Forum in Malta.

**11 Emely Rodriguez**, BA'11, completed the Programme de droit canadien, a bilingual and bijuridical law program at the University of Ottawa.

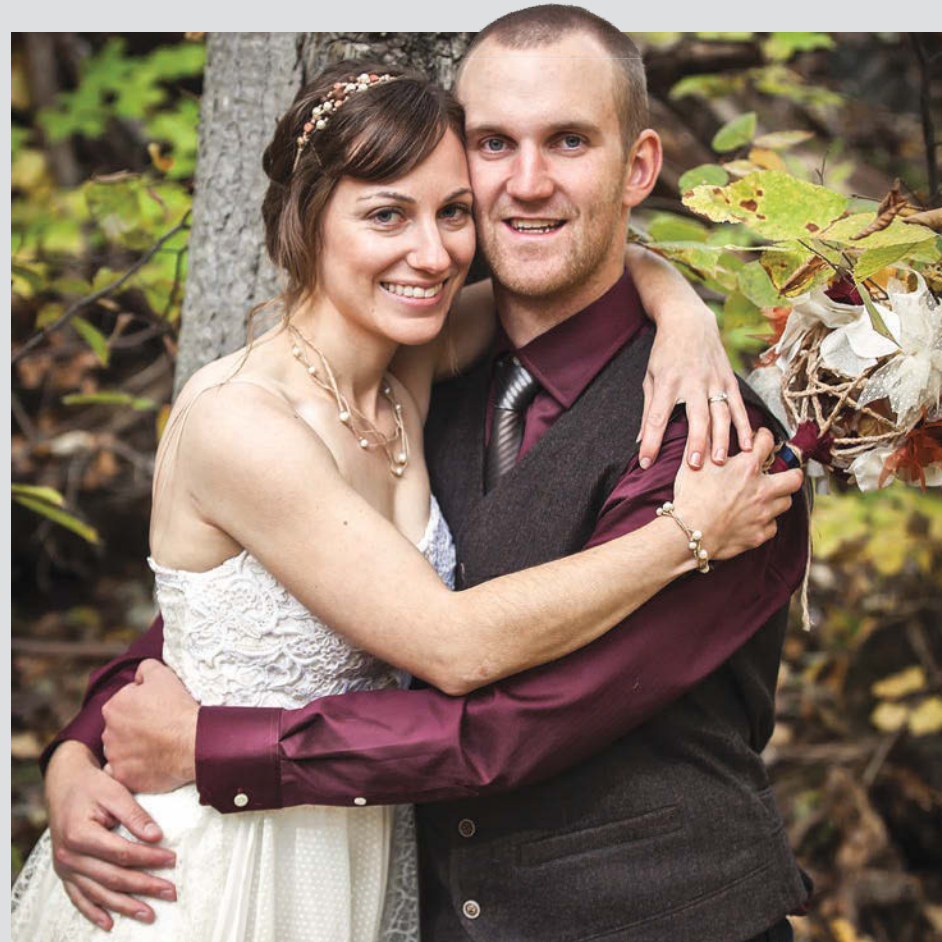
**12 Matthew Teeter**, PhD'12, is a winner of the 2015 John Charles Polanyi Prize. The \$20,000 award recognizes the excellence of Teeter's research in joint replacement.

**12 Diana Vania**, HSc'12, recently began a new job as an Associate Research Scientist at Precision Health Economics, a health-care consulting firm in Austin, Texas.

**13 Courtney Western**, BA'13, was named Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator at Coca-Cola Refreshments Canada.

**14 R. Ken Weston**, BA'14, Dpl'15, recently started work at Info-Tech Research Group as a Consulting Analyst.

**15 Tami Laird**, BScN'15, and **Scott Robinson**, JD'13, were married on Aug. 8 in San Diego.



**14 Marcus Reid**, BA'14, and **Shannon Stroud**, BMOS'12, met in fall 2011 while working for Intramural Hockey at Western. He was a referee; she was a timekeeper. They married on Oct. 10, on Manitoulin Island.



**09 Kristina Smailys**, BA'09, married **Thomas Armstrong**, BSc'08, on July 4, in Toronto. They met at Western in September 2007 and had their first date at The Spoke. Three members of their bridal party are Western grads.

## IN MEMORIAM

## FACULTY

**Prof. Maurice Bergougnou**, on November 30, 2015, in St. Mary's, Ont. Engineering professor who started teaching in 1967. He was known for his pioneering work in biofuel technology. He will also be greatly missed by more than 3 generations of students.

**Prof. Elias Gammal**, PhD'66, on July 22, 2015, in London, Ont. Joined the Department of Anatomy (School of Medicine), UWO, joint appointment with Obstetrics & Gynecology at St Joseph's Hospital. Respected and adored by undergrad and grad students (1966-1996, prof Emeritus), supported the Murray Barr lectures, instrumental in adapting problem-based learning as part of the medical program and advocate and voice for physician immigrants.

## ALUMNI

**Barbara Galt (Wilson) Harrison**, BA'48, on September 6, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**Frederick William Thompson**, BA'49, on August 25, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**Alexander M. Burnett**, BA'50, MD'54, on June 17, 2015, in Falls Church, VA.

**Glenn H. Dickout**, BA'50, on July 20, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Murray C. Thompson**, MD'50, on July 21, 2015, in Collingwood, Ont.

**Douglas Harry MacAllan**, HBA'51, on July 3, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**James Howarth Bennett**, BA'54, on August 27, 2015, in Galt, Ont.

**Maxine M Mackle**, BA'54, on

July 14, in Norwalk, CT.

**Dr. Wilson Burnett Muir**, MSc'55, on May 16, 2015, in Knowlton, Que.

**Isabel Joyce McMullen**, BA'55, on December 13, 2012, in Peterborough, Ont.

**John Michael Wade**, MBA'57, on June 22, 2015, in North Vancouver, B.C.

**Dr. Mitchell Anthony Baran**, HBA'59, LLD'11, on August 28, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Eleanor M Maltby**, DplN'59, on August 13, 2015, in Wallaceburg, Ont.

**Marion K. (West) Young**, BA'60, on April 26, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Frank W. Faure**, BA'62, on February 28, 2015, in Ottawa, Ont.

**George Nelson Steels** BESC'62, MESC'66, on June 5, 2015, in Markham, Ont.

**Margaret Anne Williams**, BA'63 (Huron), on June 29, 2015, in Collingwood, Ont.

**Francis Xavier Fay**, BA'64 (King's), on August 28, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**Carol Patricia McKinley**, BA'64, on July 19, 2015, in Dresden, Ont.

**Thomas G. Osler**, BA'64, on July 29, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**Brian Richard Jordan**, BA'65, Crt'67, on July 22, 2015, in London, Ont.

**James S. Pritchard**, MA'65, on April 14, 2015, in Kingston, Ont.

**John Wesley Holland**, MBA'66, on August 23, 2015, in Georgetown, Ont.

**John M.A. Young**, BA'66, on July 17, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Capt. Maurice Antoine Pigeon**, HBA'67, on January 28, 2015, in Kingston, Ont.

**Denis Peter Donovan**, MBA'68, on August 5, 2015, in Muskoka, Ont.

**James Stewart Duddy**, BA'70, MEd'84, on July 2, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Benedict R. Rosehart**, BSc'70, on July 18, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Doreen Elaine (Taylor) Johnson**, MA'71, on June 29, 2015, in Brampton, Ont.

**Hon. Marc Rosenberg**, BA'71, on August 27, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**Dianne Elizabeth Bocking**, BA'72, on June 26, 2015, in Muskoka, Ont.

**David Charles Levere**, BA'72 on October 19, 2015, in Winchester, Ont.

**Allan Douglas Brock**, LLB'73, on July 26, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Jeanne Janke Baker**, BA'74, on July 18, 2015, in Clinton, Ont.

**William A.J. Hudson**, BA'74, on June 29, 2015, in Innisfil, Ont.

**Ian James Bryans**, BA'75, Crt'77, on August 1, 2015, in Mississauga, Ont.

**Mary Jane Colovic**, BEd'75, on August 10, 2015, in Windsor, Ont.

**Arthur Rene Goethals**, BA'75, on March 12, 2015, in Vienna, Ont.

**Virginia Kirk Biljetina**, BA'76, on April 10, 2015, in Haliburton, Ont.

**Stephen Benet Cheley**, BSc'79, PhD'84, on August 2, 2015, in Powder Springs, GA.

**Shelagh Donovan**, HBA'79, on August 27, 2015 at Jokulsarlon, Iceland.

**Francine Marie Turpin**, DplEd'79, on July 3, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Elda A. (Stonefish) Antone**, BA'80, on August 10, 2015, in Oneida of the Thames, Ont.

**Martha Louise Haines**, BA'80, on June 27, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**Robert Lawson Chamberlain**, BA'82, LLB'86, on July 30, 2015, in St. Thomas, Ont.

**Robin Phillips**, LLD'83, on July 25, in Stratford, Ont.

**Jane Scott Sedgwick**, MBA'83, on August 1, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**Rachel Mary Mayos**, BA'84 (King's), on June 30, in London, Ont.

**Marion Venhorst Clouse**, BA'86, Crt'95, on July 8, 2015, in Sarnia, Ont.

**Judith Lynn McCahill**, BA'87, on July 31, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Mark Andrew Reid**, LLB'89 (Huron), on August 13, 2015, in Huntsville, Ont.

**Lorraine P. (McGovern) Bonsteel**, BA'93, on August 6, 2015, in London, Ont.

**Deborah Joann Verhoeven**, BA'93, on June 29, in London, Ont.

**Harold Heft**, Ph'94, on July 23, 2015, in Toronto, Ont.

**Vivian Walker**, BA'97, on April 22, 2015, in Sarnia, Ont.

**Jeffrey Allen Wielhouwer**, BA'98, on January 18, 2015, in London, Ont.



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# How will you celebrate Western Founder's Day?

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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](http://alumni.westernu.ca/founders-day)

Tag your Founder's Day photos with #purpleandproud #since1878



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## The Final Say

With Shannon Proudfoot, BA'03



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, peeking 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

*“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.”*

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 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.*

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