

# BOLD

## **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS**

Experiencing the world through exchange programs

## **EMPOWERING WOMEN**

Katherine Henderson '86 talks the value of sports

## **SHÌ, JE PARLE FRANÇAIS!**

Peer-tutoring program helps students succeed

# BOLD

*What's Inside*



3

## OPEN TO THE WORLD

Message from the Principal

4

## VIEW FROM THE HILL

News from Brescia

6

## EMPOWERING WOMEN

Katherine Henderson talks the value of sports for people and communities

9

## RAINE WILLIAMS TAKES THE LEAD

How Brescia's Take the Lead program changed everything for Raine Williams

10

## THE WAY WE WERE: PART THREE

The third part in a series dedicated to the history of Brescia leading up to the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary

12

## FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT

Discovering a new world of Renaissance literature with Professor James Doelman

14

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR, CATHY VITKAUSKAS, VICE-PRINCIPAL ADVANCEMENT

Brescia's success in preparing women leaders is epitomized by Dr. Chan's career

16

## DONOR FEATURE STORY

Peer-tutoring program helps Chinese students succeed

18

## PARTNERSHIP FEATURE STORY

International partnerships enrich learning at Brescia

21

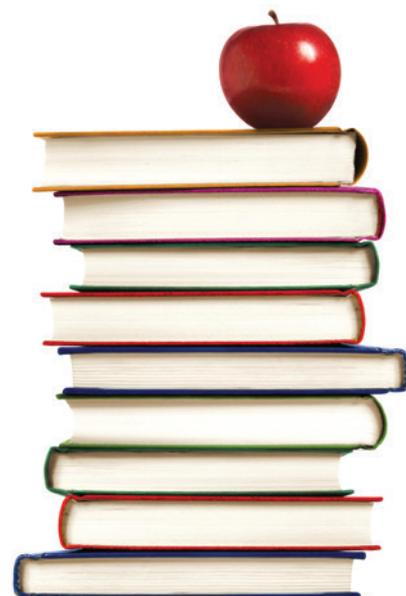
## VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Honouring the volunteers who give to Brescia and its community

22

## MILESTONES

Catch Up with Fellow Alumnae



### Brescia University College BOLD Winter 2017

Published by the Advancement Department  
Brescia University College  
1285 Western Road  
London ON N6G 1H2  
Phone: 519.432.8353, ext. 28293  
Fax: 519.858.5116

**Editor in Chief:** Cathy Vitkauskas  
**Editor:** Colleen Aguilar  
**Editorial Consultant and Writer:** Pat Morden

**Cover Photo:** Phil Bell  
**Additional Photos:** Phil Bell, Mike Kovaliv, Caitlin Core & Rachel Lincoln

News items and letters to the editor are welcome. Send by post to: Editor, BOLD or e-mail [brescia.communications@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.communications@uwo.ca)

The alumnae magazine is published twice annually. Please submit your milestones for the Summer 2018 edition by May 15, 2018 to [brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca)

*We reserve the right to edit some submissions for length.*

### Brescia University College Alumnae Association Board 2017-2018

Anne Brooks '07  
Stephanie Dunlop '02  
Laure Eldik '07  
Stacey Erdie '10  
Catherinanne George '91  
Lisa Haagsma '92, '07  
Heather Hardy '11  
Nicole Lewis-Bateman '14  
Kelsey McLellan '10

Melissa Nantais '14  
Samantha O'Brien '13  
Chris Patrick '97  
Sylvia Ranson '73  
Fran Tran '07

**Ex Officio:**  
Dr. Susan Mumm  
Alison Vilaca  
Cathy Vitkauskas

 **Brescia**  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
Choose to Lead.

## OPEN TO THE WORLD



Brescia's mission to educate and empower women knows no borders. When girls and women are educated, families are healthier and communities thrive. That's just one reason Brescia is committed to recruiting and supporting international students, and enhancing opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to experience the world.

I know at first hand the benefits of an international education. I grew up in Saskatchewan in the 1970s and did my first degree at the University of Saskatchewan. When I went to the U.K. to do my DPhil, I expected little or no adjustment. I was so wrong! At first everything seemed different and the simplest tasks were challenging. But once I settled in, I found it very stimulating to be exposed to diverse perspectives and ideas.

We believe it is critical to design and deliver an educational experience that embraces the global world in which we all live. However we recognize that being an international student isn't easy. It is a big adjustment for the

student, and often, a financial sacrifice for the family. Our goal is to grow our international student population to 18% over the next five years up from 13% today. Thoughtful growth will allow us to continue to offer the necessary supports and services for our international students as we want to ensure that all students feel safe and supported.

We also want to be sure that Canadian students have a chance to study abroad through exchange programs. That means having the right financial aid in place to encourage and support their participation.

You, our alumnae, are an important part of Brescia's international strategy. You open doors for us in your country, sharing your invaluable local knowledge.

Brescia has a long history of welcoming people of exceptional talent from around the world. In fact, the first female international student to graduate from a Canadian university, in 1935, was a Brescia woman. International students add richness to Canadian society and take their learning back to share in their home countries. As we prepare to mark our centenary, that's a legacy worth celebrating. I hope we will do it for another 100 years!

# VIEW FROM THE HILL

## WELCOME HOME!



On October 21 and 22, Brescia welcomed over 100 alumnae back to campus for a weekend full of celebrations including campus tours, an engaging lecture offered by Professor Colleen Sharen “To Boldly Go: Developing Women Leaders”, A Recipe for Generosity, which celebrated the unveiling of the Martha Molina Steers '51 Cookbook collection, the traditional football game and the Homecoming Mass and the Principal's Reception & Reunion Luncheon. Many alumnae also enjoyed celebrating with Dr. Margaret Chan, who was honoured by the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and who gave the Dean's Distinguished Lecture.

During the weekend, two alumnae were recognized for their achievements.



### Carmelle Murphy Alumnae Award of Distinction

Mary McGrath '57 was a food columnist at the Toronto Star and has published three cookbooks, which have generated close to \$30,000 for the Star's Fresh Air Fund and the Santa Claus Fund, both supporting children in need. She has served on numerous boards such as The Catholic Family Services Board of Directors and has volunteered countless hours with The Art Gallery of Toronto, St. Michael's Hospital and many others.

### Sister Mary Lou McKenzie Young Alumnae Award of Merit

Carmelita Tang '07 is a graduate of the Community Development program. She is the Business Manager for Executive Education at Ivey Business School and is an active volunteer in the London community. She was recently elected President of the Board of Directors at Nokee Kwe, as the City of London appointee on the London Council for Education and the Chair of the London-Fanshawe Federal Liberal Women's Commission.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL



Since 2012, the United Nations has marked October 11 as the International Day of the Girl. Brescia joined the global event by welcoming over 100 local high school students to the University for a half-day event on October 18. The event began with an artistic presentation by students from the Nancy Campbell Academy in Stratford, Ontario. Participants then broke into small groups to discuss issues of discrimination and privilege, under the guidance of students enrolled in Brescia's Community Development program.

## WELCOMING NEW BOARD LEADERSHIP



Karen Fryday-Field became Chair of the Brescia University College Board of Trustees in July. Fryday-Field is Senior Partner at Meridian Edge Leadership and Governance Consulting Group and recently led the development of Brescia's new strategic plan. She has also given her time to United Way of London

and Middlesex, London Community Foundation, the Arthritis Society, and London Health Sciences Foundation. "Now more than ever, women's education and the development of women leaders are critical to our society," says Fryday-Field about her decision to take on the role. "I am deeply committed to the students, faculty, staff and many communities who support Brescia, and excited to work with Board colleagues and University leadership to advance the school's mission."

#### **BRIDGING THE CULTURE GAP**



More than 50 students took part in Brescia's innovative Bridging Program in late August. The program, which is mandatory for international students and available to out-of-province students, provides an in-depth introduction to Brescia, Western University, and London. The program included sessions on cultural adjustment, student services, and classroom expectations, tours, help setting up bank and email accounts and getting student ID cards and bus passes, mock lectures, shopping expeditions, restaurant visits, a trip to Niagara Falls, and more. Separate workshops were available for parents and other adult family members. International Student Program Coordinator

Christina Lord says, "Bridging provides an opportunity for our international and out-of-province students to transition into life here while things are quiet on campus. They are able to make connections with each other and our upper year student facilitators as well as to meet some faculty and staff. The students and their families who sometimes join us really appreciate being able to participate and many long term friendships are established during this program."

#### **ANN CURRY HEADLINES BRESCIALEAD AWARDS**

After a very successful inaugural event in 2016, the second BresciaLEAD Awards Dinner is scheduled for April 19, 2018. Emmy Award-winning journalist and news anchor Ann Curry will be the keynote speaker, and awards will be presented to three exceptional female leaders and an organization that values and supports women in leadership. Tickets are now available.

Curry was a reporter for more than 30 years, focusing much of her work on human suffering in war zones and natural disasters. She has reported from wars in Syria, Palestine, Darfur, Congo, the Central African Republic, Kosovo, Lebanon, Israel, Afghanistan and Iraq, and from tsunamis in Southeast Asia and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

"I try to do stories that make a difference - stories that affect the way people think, stories that people need to hear. Usually what drives me is to do stories about people who have no voice, people who have no political power, people who are overlooked by society."

- Ann Curry

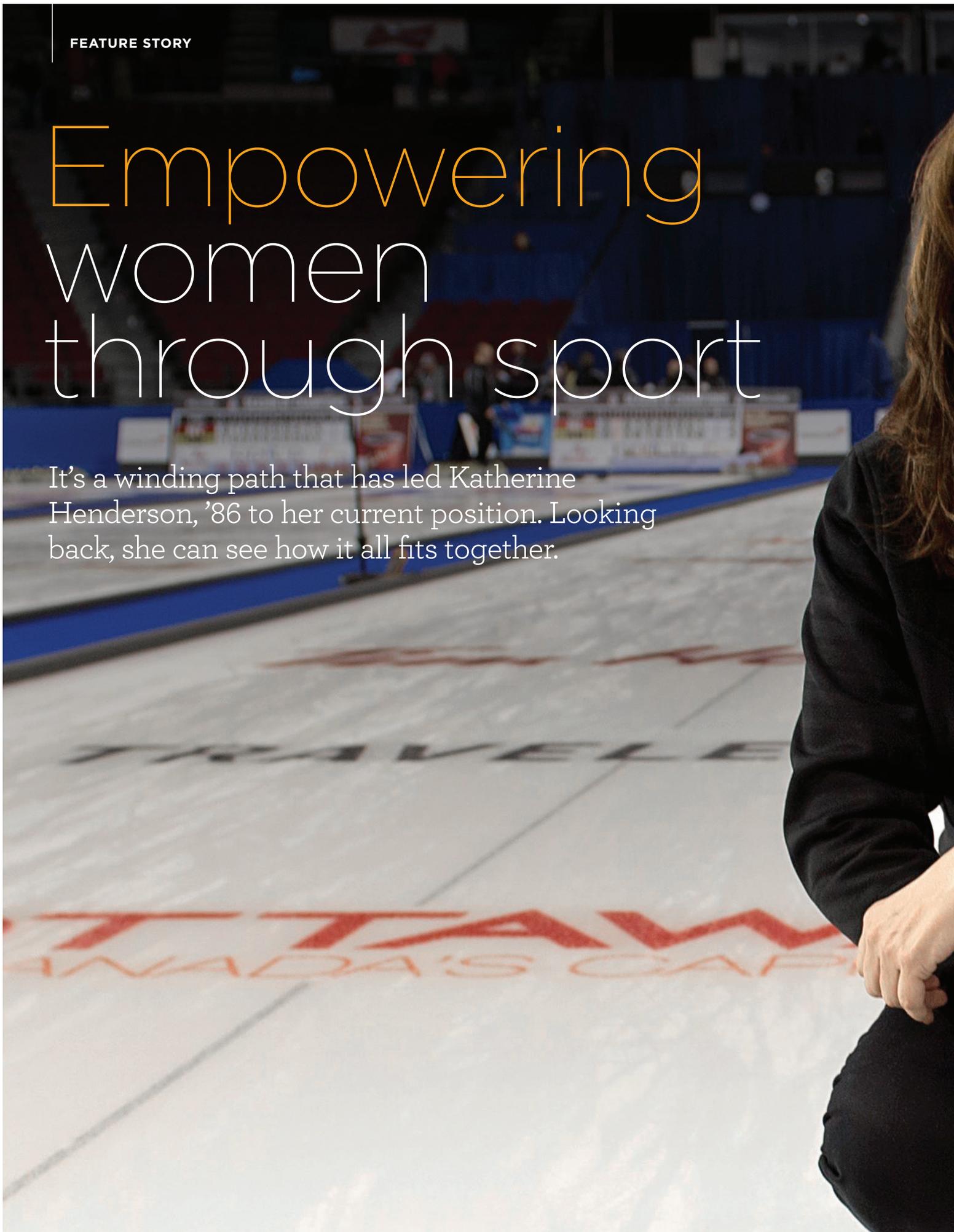
#### **LEADERSHIP PROFESSOR RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED CASE AWARD**



Management and Organizational Studies Associate Professor Colleen Sharen was recently awarded the Curtis E. Tate Jr. Award for outstanding case published in the Case Research Journal in 2016/17. Her case, *The Balancing Act: Making Tough Decisions*. The case is currently distributed on the Harvard Educators website and will also be available through Ivey Business School website, making it an accessible resource to faculty from institutions around the world.

# Empowering women through sport

It's a winding path that has led Katherine Henderson, '86 to her current position. Looking back, she can see how it all fits together.





It began with growing up in an active family in Thunder Bay. “My mother and father played tennis, golfed, and skied, and sports were important to all of us,” she says. In 1981 she volunteered with the Canada Summer Games in her hometown, experiencing first hand the impact of a major sporting event on a community.

The following year, she arrived at Brescia. Throughout her degree in Foods and Nutrition, she took several courses on the main campus, but found that she preferred the Brescia environment. “I really grew to appreciate the small classes,” she says. “At Brescia I had world-renowned professors teaching undergraduate classes. I’m not sure that I realized what a privilege that was until later.”

After graduation she worked at Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto and in public health. But it was when she started an MBA that she discovered her true passion. “I took my first marketing class, and I was hooked!”

She moved into marketing roles with leading packaged goods companies, including Colgate Palmolive Canada, Campbell Soup Canada, and General Mills Canada. As part of her work, she had an opportunity to work on sport sponsorship deals with the NHL, major league baseball, women’s professional golf, the NBA, and the Olympics.

She put that experience to work as Senior Vice President Marketing and Revenue for the 2015 Pan/Parapan American Games Organizing Committee. For Henderson, it was a chance to make a difference in her community. “I knew that facilities, programs, volunteerism and development would all be part of a valuable legacy left behind, and I wanted to be part of that.”

*Continued on next page*



*So many good things happen when girls play sports. Sports organizations and people, like me, have to make sure that we're aware of any barriers that keep anyone from getting involved, and work very hard to remove them.*

When the hugely successful Games were over, Henderson chose to stay with sport, becoming CEO of Curling Canada. "I have nothing but respect for athletes, whatever level or sport," she explains. "I've seen what sport does for people and communities, and the values it teaches. It can be a very pure thing."

Curling is a \$600 million sport in Canada, with just under two million curlers at all levels. Canadian teams won all the gold medals in the last winter Olympics, and are undefeated champions in men's and women's curling globally. Events like the Brier, the Tournament of Hearts, and the World Championships are massive, with TV audiences in the millions. Yet Henderson says there are challenges. "Today almost all sports are available to all people, so the competition is higher to get people to like and support your sport," she says. "We have to work hard to engage younger people and new Canadians, many of

whom come from countries that don't have ice." It's also important, she says, to ensure that Curling Canada events are competitive with other major entertainment options, including the NBA and major league baseball.

Henderson is also Vice Chair of Rugby Canada and sits on a committee looking at women in rugby globally. She points to research that shows, while girls are less likely to participate in sport, those who do are more confident and better able to manage relationships and life's challenges. "So many good things happen when girls play sports," she says. "Sports organizations and people, like me, have to make sure that we're aware of any barriers that keep anyone from getting involved, and work very hard to remove them." She also wants to see more women in sports management and leadership. "Women should have a say in how their sport is played, and in how it's run, administered and funded."

## STUDENT PROFILE

# Raine Williams takes the lead



Raine Williams pictured in Jamaica with her brother Max Williams

Jamaica native Raine Williams was sure she wanted to go to the University of Guelph, and told her mother so. But then she got involved in Brescia's Take the Lead program, and everything changed.

**T**ake the Lead is a unique public speaking contest. Girls in Grades 11 and 12 are invited to prepare and deliver a speech about a woman whose leadership inspires and empowers others. The finalists are invited to visit Brescia and deliver their speeches in person, competing for the grand prize of one year of free tuition and residence. "I was nervous about making the video," says Williams. "But I did like the idea of Canada's only women's university, a place where women are in a classroom bettering one another."

As it turned out, Williams was one of seven finalists. Her mother is Canadian, so Williams had been to Canada many

times, but never to London. Her visit convinced her that Brescia was where she belonged. "I didn't know I wanted to come until I saw the nice residence rooms and how kind everyone is." She also credits Christina Lord, Brescia's International Student Program Coordinator, with encouraging and supporting her.

Now in her second year of the Management and Organizational Studies program, Williams had little difficulty adjusting to life in Canada (although she admits that winter seems too long by February!). London is smaller than the cities she's used to. "It's kind of nice, because it's easy to get to know people and make friends."

She loves Brescia's elegant residence, and the small classrooms. "You're a little more eager to participate and ask questions, compared to larger classes at Western," she says. "The profs are really good, and I feel comfortable asking any kind of question."

In fact, she's so enthusiastic about Brescia that she is now a Brescia Ambassador, providing tours and following up by email to offer support to prospective students. "It's a lot of fun, and a great way to meet new people," she says. She also enjoys the socials and other events planned by the Caribbean Students Organization on the main campus.

# The way we were, Part Three

**In 2019 Brescia University College will celebrate its Centenary. In the lead-up to the celebration of this important milestone, BOLD Magazine is presenting a series of articles about our history and the Ursuline tradition. In this installment, we re-visit the 1960s and 70s.**

The 60s were a time of social and political ferment across North America. At Brescia, too, changes were happening. Traditions like dressing for dinner and the wearing of academic gowns died out, and curfews were eliminated.

Bonnie Austen, '67, remembers returning to Brescia for her second year to find the Ursuline sisters liberated from their full-length gowns, wearing modern dress with short veils. Their commitment to students didn't change, though. "The nuns were so dedicated to their teaching - they really cared about us and were willing to spend time with us outside the classroom," says Austen. "I feel very fortunate that I received all that attention from such a caring community." Inspired by their example, she went on to become a teacher and community worker.

It was a time of growth for Brescia. A house was purchased from the Gunn family in 1961 and converted into a residence for students. Construction on the St. James Memorial Arts Building began in 1962, creating space for an auditorium, a student lounge, a library, classrooms, offices, and a language lab.

Some traditions remained. Austen remembers the Brescia Ball, held at the London Hotel with a late-night meal at the college. One of the students brought Alan Thicke as her date. "Even in those early days, he had star quality," she said. She

has fond memories of the Final Fling at the Stork Club in Port Stanley, where she met her husband-to-be in 1966.

*There is something precious and unique about the camaraderie and good fellowship shared with girls from all corners of the world... Joys and sorrows shared over after-study coffee are given greater dimension in their sharing. Brescia friends are friends for life.*

Brescia celebrated its 50th jubilee in 1969 with receptions, masses, meals and the publication of a booklet entitled, "I Remember." One excerpt suggests that while much has changed, much remains the same.

As Baby Boomers reached university age in the late 60s and early 70s, Brescia continued to grow. The Marie Rosier Wing, with 54 additional resident spaces, was opened in 1971. Later textile and food science labs were added to the building. In 1976 a new first floor office wing was opened in the Merici House, and the second floor remained a resident for novices.

Sister Corona Sharp's Shakespearean puppet plays were a special feature of this period. A scholar of traditional puppetry, she created the characters with painstaking artistry. Helena's angry outburst in *Midsummer Night's Dream*, "Fie, fie! you counterfeit, you puppet, you," took on new meaning in Sister Corona's production!

Bonnie Austen speaks for many graduates when she reflects on her time at Brescia. "Sometimes I think about what made it all so special. It wasn't one or two things, but rather a combination of positive experiences that added up to great memories!"



# Faculty achievement

DISCOVERING A NEW WORLD  
OF RENAISSANCE LITERATURE:  
PROFESSOR JAMES DOELMAN



Students of literature are familiar with the works of great writers of the Renaissance period – Shakespeare, Donne, Milton and others. But imagine discovering previously unknown works from this golden period – poetry that may have been read only by a handful of people hundreds of years ago.



That's precisely what Professor James Doelman has been doing for several years. His research involves unearthing manuscript funeral elegies from the 16th and 17th centuries, transcribing them, and then studying their fascinating contents.

While working with manuscript sources for other research projects Doelman noticed several unpublished funeral elegies – poems written to express grief at a death – tucked away in archives and libraries. Doelman points out that death and grief are universal, spanning centuries and cultures. “Death is one of those things that is always prominent in the human imagination.”

Another intriguing aspect of these works is that while unpublished, they were widely known in their time. Doelman's most important insight is that while the elegies were primarily or ostensibly about the death of individuals, they often became a springboard to social satire or political commentary. For example, an elegy to Thomas Washington, a page to King Charles, who died in 1623 while Charles was in Spain courting the daughter of the King, reflects the author's concerns about the intended match allying England with Spain.

Doelman has found manuscript elegies through the catalogues of major libraries and archives in the U.K.,



PHOTOGRAPHER: PHIL BELL

including the British Library and the Bodleian in Oxford. He has written several articles on his discoveries and is currently at work on a book.

Doelman's research is an important contribution to the field. “The elegies are rich and interesting works that in many ways have simply been ignored,” he says. “They are about much more than sorrow and grieving: they explore big issues of the time, and in that sense, offer a new perspective on the world of the 16th and 17th centuries.”

Being an active researcher makes him a better teacher, Doelman believes. “I'm working on an area that's all new, to me and others. I can share with my students the delight of exploration, the joy of discovery and the depth and breadth of the discipline.”

Doelman's research was funded through a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grant. In addition to receiving the grant, he was also recognized for his research accomplishments when he was awarded the Brescia Excellence in Research Award in 2016.

MESSAGE FROM EDITOR, CATHY VITKAUSKAS,  
VICE-PRINCIPAL ADVANCEMENT



In a report published in June, Dr. Margaret Chan '73, Director-General of the World Health organization, and Brescia alumna, wrote the following words: "I personally welcome the political attention being given to women, their health needs, and their contributions to society. Investment in women and girls has a ripple effect. All of society wins in the end."



PHOTOGRAPHER: MIKE KOVALIV

**D**r. Chan, now retired from the challenging job that saw her lead the world through the SARS, Ebola and Zika outbreaks, was the keynote speaker at the Dean's Distinguished Lecture and one of the honorees at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry's Homecoming Gala in October.

Dr. Chan's career epitomizes Brescia's international breadth, and our success in preparing powerful and compassionate women leaders. Born in Hong Kong, Dr. Chan came to

Brescia as an international student, and then studied medicine at Western University. She returned to Hong Kong to work in public health, becoming Director of the Department of Health in 1994, and Director-General of WHO in 2007.

As Director-General, Chan took on tobacco companies and advocated for universal health coverage. During her tenure, health and life expectancy improved nearly everywhere, the number of people dying from malaria and HIV was cut in half and the number of child deaths dropped below 6 million for the first time.

Brescia shares Dr. Chan's belief in the importance of investing in girls and women. In this issue of BOLD, you'll read about several ways that we reach out, broadening the perspectives of Canadian students, and welcoming students and ideas from around the world.

As you read, I hope you'll enjoy the refreshed design of BOLD magazine. We're always looking for better ways to connect with you and connect you with one another. If you have any comments or suggestions about what you read in BOLD, please send us a note.

Alumna funds an innovative peer-tutoring program to help Chinese students succeed.



# Shì, je parle Français!

"It's like an English speaker learning Japanese in Mandarin."

That's how Professor Nadine de Moras describes the challenge that faces Chinese students in Brescia's beginner French class. And that's why she developed an innovative tutoring program to help them. Thanks to Brescia student and tutor Ying Chen and donor Diane Teetzel, '64 the successful program continues to grow.

A native of France, Professor de Moras has taught at Brescia since 2006. Recognizing that learning a second language takes a lot of practice, de Moras has introduced several strategies to help her students develop their skills. In 2016, she hired Ying Chen, a Chinese student in the third year of the French program, as a work-study student.

She saw an opportunity to help a group that needed special attention – students whose first language is Mandarin or Cantonese learning French for the first time.

"All Indo-European languages are related," she explains. "It's ten times easier for an English speaker to learn French or even Russian, than for a Chinese speaker to learn English or French." Several studies have demonstrated the benefit of using the learner's native language to teach a second language, especially at the beginner stage. Even basic vocabulary can present unexpected challenges. For example, there is no word in Mandarin for sister or brother, which makes learning the French *sœur* and *frère* more difficult.

Ying began offering tutoring in October 2016. While help was available to all students taking the class, most of the eleven Chinese students in Brescia's beginner French class took up the offer, several of them visiting Ying on a regular basis. "I worked with them mostly on pronunciation and grammar," she says. "Our grammar is so different from French grammar – I helped them to connect the two, and to understand the cultural context." She also went over their class notes and worked with them to prepare for tests and exams.

By Christmas break, all the funding for Ying's services had been used up. Reluctant to end the program, de Moras went looking for more funding. "I knocked on every door, trying to find a way to continue it."



L-R  
Ying Chen  
Diane Teetzel, '64  
Professor Nadine de Moras

That's where alumna Diane Teetzel came in. The project was a perfect fit for Teetzel. She has a strong connection to Brescia - her mother and two aunts attended the University and she followed them. She also has family in France. Intrigued by what she heard about the program, she provided funding so that Ying could continue tutoring the Chinese students.

But her contribution went much deeper. After a visit to campus, she formed a close friendship with Ying. "As soon as I met her I knew that this young lady was something very special," she says. "Her knowledge and love of the language just exudes from her. I'm sure she's having a tremendous impact on the girls she tutors."

The tutoring program was remarkably effective. In the 2015-2016 school year, the grades of Chinese students in beginner French were 10 to 15% lower than those of English speakers. By the end of the 2016-2017-year, Chinese students received higher grades than the English speakers, with an average final grade of 82%. Says Ying, "I'm not surprised they made progress because they are very hardworking students - but I am surprised by such big progress!"

Two Chinese students from the class decided to pursue French in their second year. There are now 24 Chinese students in this year's beginner French class, more than double the previous year. "Chinese students have always said French was hard," says Ying. "But

last year's students told their friends that it was easy."

de Moras wants to make the tutoring program a permanent fixture. "International students try their best to succeed, but often find it difficult because of language and cultural differences. If we give them extra help, it compensates for this disadvantage, and because they're so serious about their studies, they can do very well." Teetzel adds, "To me, this program is indicative of what Brescia is about - the education and empowerment of women."



International  
partnerships  
enrich learning  
at Brescia

Dr. Colleen O'Connor admits that she was a little bit hesitant about traveling to the Netherlands to present at a conference at Stenden University. "I'm not a well-travelled person," she says. "To me going to a strange country with a different language was intimidating."

**M**aria Theresia Schroder, a student at Stenden University, had the same hesitation coming to Brescia on exchange. "I was really nervous," she says. "I was intimidated going across the ocean and being alone in a different country."

O'Connor teaches clinical nutrition in Brescia's School of Food & Nutritional Sciences. She graduated from Brescia in 2000, and returned as a faculty member in 2008. When an invitation was posted for faculty members to attend Stenden's International Week, O'Connor stepped forward. "I saw it as an opportunity to go outside my comfort zone and learn more about internationalization and exchange programs."

She was immediately touched by the beauty of her surroundings and the warmth of her welcome. "I left feeling very confident that every student should have an international experience," she says. "You grow in so many ways by going somewhere new and learning about a different culture."

Schroder grew up in Germany and decided at an early age that she wanted to study internationally. She enrolled at Stenden University, where she is studying media and entertainment management. All Stenden students are required to have at least one international experience as part of their programs. Schroder decided to do an exchange at Brescia, because she had always wanted to visit Canada.

She was picked up at London International airport by Christina Lord, Brescia's International Student Program Coordinator. "Christina, the first person I met, was so nice, I thought, 'Okay, this could work!' Everyone at Brescia was so friendly and welcoming that I didn't even miss home all that much. I wanted to stay!"

*Brescia has always had an international focus, but now students and employers are demanding it.*

Stenden is one of several universities around the world with which Brescia has formal partnerships. The partnerships enable student and faculty exchanges and research collaborations. "We look for institutions that are similar in terms of size, mission and academic programs, and offer a safe location," says Marianne Simm, Brescia's Vice-Principal Students. For example, Brescia recently signed a partnership agreement with Mary Immaculate College in Limerick Ireland, a small, Catholic university that was actively seeking international partners. Canadian trade commissioners also help Brescia identify potential partners around the world.

One of Brescia's long-standing partnerships is with Wayo Women's University in Japan. Wayo faculty members have visited Brescia to learn about Canadian teaching methods, and Dr. Alicia Garcia, a Professor in the

School of Food & Nutritional Sciences, has traveled to Wayo. As part of an innovative new course offering, Dr. Garcia will lead a group of 14 Brescia students on a 10-day visit to Japan during the spring break. Last year, the 12 students enrolled in this course travelled to Cuba.

Simm says university partnerships are part of Brescia's overall international strategy. "We are looking at how to integrate internationalization into teaching, research and service," she says. "Brescia has always had an international focus, but now students and employers are demanding it."

Fostering student exchanges is an important part of the strategy, she says. "Exchange programs are an organized way for students to have an immersive experience in a different culture," says Simm. Brescia is looking at ways to support students financially and to ensure that they can exchange credits seamlessly when they return. The students traveling to Japan will each receive a \$1,000 stipend to help with travel costs.

Brescia is also hoping to foster more faculty exchanges and research collaborations. "Being at Stenden really opened my eyes to faculty opportunities," says O'Connor. "I saw how enriching they could be."

Schroder says her exchange at Brescia has made her more self-reliant, confident, and open to the world. "That's important to me," she says. "I don't want to live in my little bubble. I want to burst the bubble and go out into the world and conquer it!"

L-R  
Marianne Simm  
Maria Theresia Schroder  
Dr. Colleen O'Connor



**Reserve your table now!**

Join us April 19, 2018 for a special evening to celebrate and recognize extraordinary women and organizations. We're proud to present Ann Curry, Emmy Award winning journalist and former NBC News Network anchor as our keynote speaker. Ms Curry will draw upon her experiences as a war correspondent to share lessons on women's empowerment, humanitarianism and learning the art of compassion.



**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

London Convention Centre  
Reception 5 pm | Opening Remarks & Dinner 6 pm

\$1,600 table of 8 • \$200 per person

**Early Bird \$1,400 table of 8 • \$175 per person**

RESERVE YOUR TABLE NOW!



For more information, please contact Cathy Vitkauskas, Vice-Principal Advancement at Brescia University College at 519.432.8353 ext 28298 or cvitkaus@uwo.ca | [brescia.uwo.ca/brescialead](http://brescia.uwo.ca/brescialead)

**Early Bird tables \$1,400**

Available until Dec. 31/2017

**LEAD CAMPS WELCOME BUMPER CROP OF INTERNATIONAL CAMPERS**



Since its launch in 2008, Brescia's Girls LEAD camps have become a top choice for parents looking for an empowering experience for their daughters, ranging from Grades three through seven for local campers. In 2017, close to 60 students from Hong Kong attended the July two-week sessions to learn through the program's three tiers: self-discovery; connecting with others; and building community and making change. Students came from Brescia partner school St. Paul's and from other schools in Hong Kong. The number of participants was double that of 2016.

Each day of the camp focused on a specific theme, explains Madison Olson, a Brescia student and the international camp coordinator. After a short classroom lesson, campers and counsellors did a variety of related activities, such as crafts, games, projects and off-site visits. The camps also included a weekend trip to see Niagara Falls.

Olson says one of her favourite events was Culture Night, when the campers from Hong Kong decorated the dining hall, planned, prepared and served a Chinese meal, and made a presentation about their city. "I just had so much fun getting to know them, and learning more about their culture," she says.

Olson hopes the camps had a real impact on the young women at a critical time in their development. "We want them to understand that it's our differences that make us unique, and that our individual strengths and weaknesses add to our leadership potential. I also hope they will remember we are all leaders, and one way we can lead others is by leading ourselves."

# VOLUNTEER PROFILE

In this issue we honour not one volunteer, but all the committed people who give their time, talent, experience, energy and creativity to Brescia and its community.

Below you will hear from a few of the many volunteers who give of themselves and their leadership to help to further advance the University in its mission of educating graduates to lead with wisdom, justice and compassion, and why they chose to support Brescia in this way.



“I am totally aligned with Brescia’s values. The University provides an environment where women can excel academically while becoming great leaders – women who understand that leadership is not just about your title, but about how you contribute to society. Brescia has a strong foundation and I hope that it will continue to grow, foster and support women in whatever they choose to pursue.”

**KIM DARLING, MEMBER, BRESCIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND DIRECTOR, FINANCIAL SERVICES, LONDON POLICE SERVICE**



“When I got to Brescia as a mature student, I was immediately accepted and made to feel welcome. Brescia became a true family for me, and now when I go back, it feels like going home. I am so honoured to be able to give back, grow the legacy, and support opportunities for young women to live, work and learn together, striving to make the world a better place. In the future I hope Brescia will continue to support women in all aspects of their lives.”

**RUTH TISDALE '10, MEMBER, BRESCIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES, SENIOR STAFF ACCOUNTANT AT BDO CANADA LLP, TRUSTEE, THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**



“I enjoy the influence of the Ursulines in the whole fabric of Brescia – how they’ve worked to advance women through education and their passion for social justice and ecology. I also appreciate the fact that Brescia gives girls an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and get involved in their communities. I would like Brescia to be even more widely known as a launching pad for young women to develop themselves and then go out and make the world a better place.”

**DONNA TEEPLE, MEMBER, INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

## MILESTONES *Catching up with Alumnae*

### MARY DYSON, '43

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mary Dyson, who passed away on August 12, 2017.

### DENISE CASEY, '54

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Denise Casey, who passed away on September 18, 2017.

### HELEN KORRI-KUNKEL '55

Our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Helen Korri- Kunkel, who passed away on March 19, 2017.

### CLASS OF '57

Thanks to all at Brescia and Western who made our 60th celebration so very, very special. Saturday started on a high note with the Schulich Dean's Distinguished Lecture Award with Brescia's Dr. Margaret Chan in the spotlight. Brescia alumnae were graciously included on the invitation list for the lecture and the luncheon that followed across the road at Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.



And it didn't stop there! In the evening we were guests at a very special dinner in the Great Hall. It was back to the Brescia chapel on Sunday where we remembered deceased Ursuline Educators and alumnae during mass. Then it was on to a luncheon hosted by Dr. Susan Mumm in the posh Mercato dining room. We look forward to returning in 2019 for Brescia's 100th Anniversary Celebrations!

### BARBARA A. D'ORAZIO '71

and her family celebrated her youngest son's marriage two summers ago and is currently working on finishing up a PhD at the University of Alberta. She became a great-grandmother to a little girl named Emily in 2015 and is a grandmother to four granddaughters the youngest turning six this year. Barbara recently found out that she had a sister, as they were both adopted and also recently began a job with J.R. Watkins Natural Products.

### BARBARA K. DUNLOP '72

After a challenging career as the Coordinator of the Food and Nutrition Management program at George Brown College Barbara K. Dunlop retired in 2015 and spent time travelling with her husband. All too soon he unfortunately passed away in July 2017. Eighteen days later their first grandson was born to youngest son Michael. Barbara has two other children Robert and Stephanie.

### ANGELINE M. PRSKALO '74

recently retired in April 2017 after 42 years in the workforce. She celebrated her 65th birthday with family and friends on May 28. Since her time at Brescia she has had a rewarding career at IBM Canada Ltd., Amdahl Corporation, Cominco Ltd. and Teck Metals Ltd. She now enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, Oliver, who is two and Antea, who is nine months. Every day is an experience to cherish!



### ANNE RIEDSTRA '75

and her husband Lee are newly retired having sold their business Jersey Dairy. They are excited to have more time to spend with son Justin and his wife Katie in London and daughter Erynne and her son Kieran in Toronto. Anne will also be travelling with Kathy Kirkham Burr and Mary Anne Gerber Hodgson both also of the class of 1975. The three recently celebrated 50 years of friendship, meeting in Grade 9 in 1967 and started Brescia together in 1972.

### REBECCA ALLISON '77

is a step-grandmother to granddaughters Catherine, who is five-years-old and Charlotte, who is two-years-old. The family is eagerly awaiting their newest addition and third grandchild.

### ELIZABETH J. MCKAY '82

recently took a position at Grace Christian Academy as a curriculum specialist.

*keep us updated!*

Send your photographs and milestones to [brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca) and keep your fellow alumnae up to date

**LINDA GILLIES (FOWLIE) '85**

will be married to her husband Scott for 32 years this December. She has been teaching for the London District Catholic School Board for 12 years; two of her daughters are also teachers. She has been blessed with five wonderful children and three beautiful grandchildren.

**MARY J. GANS '92** has two children. Alexandra, who is 18 and has just started her first year at Brescia and Jonathan, who is in Grade 10.



**NICOLE C. STUART '92** has been working in the field of Human Resources for over 20 years, and for GSK for the last 5 years. She was recently promoted to HR Country Head in January 2017.

**CHRISTINA L. SEELY '04** Congratulations to Christina L. Seely RD Recipient of the 2017 Excellence in Innovation and Evidence-Based Care Award. This award recognizes a healthcare professional who demonstrates the values of St. Joseph's Health Care London and who is known for her commitment to patient care improvement or practice change; practices in a theoretical/evidence informed way; consistently seeks and reviews research in their profession, the health sciences, and related disciplines; engages others in collaborating on the development of an action plan to achieve best outcomes; embraces and role models innovative ways to use technology; has a systematic approach to evaluation use of outcome measures.

**MICHELLE ANSTEY '11**

Congratulations to Michelle Anstey who recently took on the role of Project Manager in Food & Label Compliance at NSF International in Guelph, Ontario.

**CAROLYN M. SCHINKEL '12** welcomed Claire Elizabeth Schinkel, who was born in Chatham Ontario on April 6, 2017.

**KIM D. NGUYEN '14** completed a Bachelors of Education at Queen's University with a focus on Special Education. She volunteered at a private school in Manila, Philippines as part of an alternative practicum focused on exploring special needs supports on an international scale. Currently Kim is teaching an early education program at an educational facility in Calgary tailored to children with special needs ages 18 months to four.



**LOIS JUNE CATHERINE HEWITT**

On August 17, 2017 Lois June Catherine Hewitt, mother of former Board of Trustees Chair Liz Hewitt passed away. Loving wife and partner of Howard for 66 years, loving mother of Susan, David, Elizabeth and Dennis. Favourite aunt of many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her brothers Sonny, Michael, Larry, Arthur and Dennis; sisters-in-law Ruth and Theresa; and parents Cecil and Emily. Always a port in any storm for family and extended family, friends or any animal that needed a home. Best known for her shortbread cookies at Christmas, and her roast beef and Yorkshire pudding at any time. Lois is probably already playing the slots, bingo, or beating her brothers at crib or euchre. Terrific sense of humour and wit to the end, she was cherished, and will be missed by all who knew her. A special thank you to the staff at McGarrell Place for the care and the kindness shown to her.



Take advantage of your alumnae privileges.

Get preferred rates and coverage that fits your needs.

You could **save big\*** when you combine your alumnae preferred rates and bundle your home and car insurance.

Recommended by



### Supporting you ... and Brescia University College.

As an alumna of Brescia University College, you have access to the TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program. This means you can get preferred insurance rates on a wide range of home and car coverage that can be customized for your needs.

For over 65 years, TD Insurance has been helping Canadians find quality home and car insurance solutions.

Feel confident your home and car coverage fits your needs. Get a quote now.

HOME | CAR | TRAVEL

Get a quote and see how much you could save!  
Call **1-888-589-5656**  
Or, go to [tdinsurance.com/brescia](http://tdinsurance.com/brescia)



The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY. It is distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services, Inc. in Quebec, by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in Ontario, and by TD Insurance Direct Agency Inc. in the rest of Canada. Our address: 50 Place Cremazie, 12th Floor, Montreal, Quebec H2P 1B6. Due to provincial legislation, our car and recreational insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. \*Nationally, 90% of all of our clients who belong to a professional or alumnae group that has an agreement with us and who insure a home (excluding rentals and condos) and a car on October 31, 2016, saved \$625 when compared to the premiums they would have paid without the preferred insurance rate for groups and the multi-product discount. Savings are not guaranteed and may vary based on the client's profile. Savings vary in each province and may be higher or lower than \$625. Wide Horizons Solution® Travel Insurance is underwritten by Royal & Sun Alliance Insurance Company of Canada and distributed in some provinces by RSA Travel Insurance Inc., operating as RSA Travel Insurance Agency in British Columbia. All trade marks are the property of their respective owners. ® The TD logo and other TD trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank.