

SPRING/SUMMER '09

BRESCIA
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
ALUMNAE
BULLETIN

bulletin



ROMANCING BRESCIA
HOW SOME OF OUR ALUMNAE
MET THEIR BETTER HALVES

TAKE THE LEAD
HIGH SCHOOL PUBLIC
SPEAKING CONTEST

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS
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BACCALAUREATE 2009

ALUMNA PROFILE
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GET TO KNOW
DR. JUNE MATTHEWS '00,
DIVISION OF FOOD AND
NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES



Congratulations, graduates! You have achieved a very important goal. Your educational experience at Brescia has given you knowledge that you will carry throughout your lifetime. But perhaps more importantly, you have learned a lot about yourself. Take this time to reflect on your sacrifices and successes.

I often reminisce about my time at Brescia. Not only did I receive a valuable education from one of the best universities in Canada, I have fond memories of time spent outside the classroom with friends and faculty. My positive experience is one that is not unique and motivated me to volunteer on the Alumnae Council. I encourage you to become engaged on your Alumnae Council. You can help build great memories for future alumnae from the moment they arrive on campus as students.

and others were married in our very own chapel. Some are so fond of the College they have returned and are now working on Brescia's staff and faculty.

My own experience has taught me that your education does not end in the classroom. University life is a challenging, exciting and enriching experience, the true value of which may not be realized until years after graduation. I congratulate this year's graduates on your well-earned place at Brescia's 87th Baccalaureate celebration. Before I close my note to you, I want to remind you that your relationship with Brescia has not ended... it's just entered the next phase. How will you stay connected?

This issue of the *bulletin* recognizes other alumnae who hold Brescia close to their hearts—quite literally! Some met their partners while attending Brescia



Alumnae Council President's Message

Melanie Caldwell-Clark '00

ON THE COVER: Melanie Caldwell-Clark '00 with Dr. Marlene MacLeish '68, Baccalaureate speaker, Jennifer Hill '09, Valedictorian, and Dr. Colleen Hanycz, Principal.

ABOVE: (left to right) Dr. Paula Dworatzek '89, new alumnae Amanda Affleck and Alisha Giancarlo, and Dr. June Matthews '00.



“There is no doubt about it. Brescia is not just bricks and mortar; it is a living being that is shaped by everyone that it comes into contact with. The Brescia that greets me every morning is a product of the community that surrounds it.”



Principal's Message

Dr. Colleen Hanycz, Principal

At university campuses all over the world, spring is the time of year when we turn our minds towards our students who have completed the final laps of their education and are heading out into the world. At Brescia, as elsewhere, it is our alumnae who represent what is best and most noble about the work that we do every day. As alumnae, you are the product of our dedication to Brescia.

Not long ago, I had the opportunity to listen to some women from the Class of 2009 who were nominated for the role of Valedictorian. In speaking to these candidates, one young woman said, “Wherever my life takes me, I am a different person because Brescia has shaped me. I also believe that Brescia is a different place because I have shaped it”.

There is no doubt about it. Brescia is not just bricks and mortar; it is a living being that is shaped by everyone that it comes into contact with. The Brescia that greets me every morning is a product of the community that surrounds it. In our alumnae, we see women who have shaped and been shaped by Brescia and we value them for

that experience. We value them, especially at this time of year as a new group of alumnae are welcomed into the ranks, because they know, understand and love Brescia.

What is the measure of that knowledge, understanding and love of Brescia? For many of our alumnae, the years spent studying here are simply the beginning of an enduring friendship with Brescia. Many of these women return to Brescia in one way or another. We continue to be blessed with alumnae who volunteer, who participate in our faith community, who support the work of our Foundation or even those who choose to begin or build their careers at Brescia.

For many, Brescia has been the chosen site for weddings, anniversaries and simply to gather with friends at Homecoming every year. As alumnae, you must know that your commitment to Brescia is what energizes and supports the work that we do. I have spent time with so many of you during my first year here at Brescia, and I come away from each of these encounters having learned something about this wonderful community that I have been so privileged to join. I have shared in your stories, your joys and sorrows. Throughout it all, your enduring love of Brescia has shone through.

My warmest welcome to our newest alumnae members; I know that the Class of 2009 will continue to shape and be shaped by Brescia in so many ways. We all look forward to the creativity, the commitment and the love of Brescia that you will bring in the coming years.



EXCERPTS FROM THE **Jennifer Hill** VALEDICTORIAN '09 VALEDICTORIAN ADDRESS

Countless essays have been written, and the last few exams have been completed. Our undergraduate university careers are officially done! My fellow graduates, welcome to our celebration! We are surrounded here today by countless faculty, family and friends all here to celebrate in our achievements.

After four years of my university experience I have been excited, stressed, inspired, and overwhelmed, but most of all I have been supported. Brescia has given us as young women, the love, support, and attention we need in order to become inspired young women of the future.

These past four years have left me and many others with countless memories, unforgettable friendships and many lessons learned. What we have to look forward to is every day from this moment on.

The thought of leaving the comfort and protection of the loving family we have created here at Brescia can be difficult. Regardless of who we are, or where we came from, we all leave as Brescia graduates, a common bond that provides comfort and strength for many of us.

We are living in a world of instability. With future careers dramatically changing and altered by our economy, our futures outside of Brescia are uncertain. We must leave with the knowledge and strength that the lessons we have learned here have made us stronger, more resilient women, capable of handling the storms of the future. Although our undergraduate careers are over there is still much to be learned.

Every day is a chance to learn something new, to be inspired, and grow as individuals... We need to approach this world of uncertainty with the knowledge we have the ability to succeed.

Brescia's goal is to create and support young women who will become the leaders of tomorrow. This is now our job to answer this call; we must become the leaders in our society. Stand firm in the knowledge you have gained over the past few years and be inspired to make a difference.

Arie Pencovici once said graduation is simply "a concept. In real life, every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life". Know that change cannot happen in an instant; we are not capable of walking out this door and changing the world in 10 minutes. It is when we recognize that every day is a new chance, a new day, and a new opportunity to change someone's life that we will truly be able to make a difference.

So no matter what the future holds for each and every one of us, take comfort in the knowledge that this day is an opportunity to stand up and make a difference. Now is our chance to become the young leaders of tomorrow.





Baccalaureate Speech

Dr. Marlene Y. MacLeish '68, Ed. D.



On Saturday, May 2, Baccalaureate speaker Dr. Marlene MacLeish '68 joined the Congress of Black Women (London Chapter) and several international students for tea. Pictured here (left to right): Di (Disney) Shen, Kadi Togola, Martine Uwamugabe, Dr. MacLeish, Achol Magok, Laura Banks and Jenille Hutchinson.

Returning to this Basilica takes me back to my own graduation in 1968, when I sat where you are now seated. Heraclitus said, "You could not step twice into the same river, for other waters are ever flowing on to you" (*The Universe*). Like Heraclitus, the founding Ursulines, understood that change is central to the universe; that the past provides firm footing for the present; and gives us bold courage to embrace the future.

Class of 2009, you hold this future in your capable hands. I am here to celebrate your fine academic accomplishments with you. But, I am also here to affirm that one Brescia woman—each and every one of you—can make a difference. I know this because all my accomplishments—many of which seemed absolutely improbable in 1968—grew out of the foundations of my Brescia liberal arts education.

The Brescia of yesterday was a place of paradoxes: a semi-cloistered convent that was focused on changing a bustling world and a place of strict boundaries that invited you to redefine and change the world. Class of 2009, I welcome you to our changing 21st century world-of-work. It is a globalized, technology-driven, changing landscape that is full of excitement and opportunities. I wish for you a life of discovery; the courage to speak for the disposed; the patience to reframe family, community, workplace problems, in such a way that you create partnerships to change conditions for others—if not for yourself.

When I arrived at Brescia in 1964, I was not very sure about where I was headed or what I was going to do with my life. I hope that, when you become frustrated and are about to give up on changing the world, you will remember that you are a part of an extended Brescia family that is enduring and that is committed to leadership and service. Your Brescia education has elegantly prepared you, not only to "make a living", but to remain active in your community, which is an extension of your family.

When you take leave of this beautiful Basilica, I invite you to embrace students that come after you—not because you are obligated to, or because you owe Brescia anything. Rather, because you will find in service a purpose that is bigger than yourself.

Class of 2009, step boldly into the future, look to your Brescia education, listen to the voices of your "better selves", and make partnerships and alliances that help you accomplish your dreams.



Alumna Profile

Heather Reier '96

Shares her Cake Recipe with Alumnae

By Julie Maltby

When Heather Reier graduated from Brescia University College in '96, she went into the world with the ability to think strategically, an unstoppable determination to succeed and a love of Brescia and the lifelong friends she made at Canada's women's university.

Reier's intrinsic gifts and those honed at Brescia have contributed to her success as the president and founder of Cake Beauty—the company she started in her kitchen in 2003, which today produces a popular bath and body product line, including Satin Sugar, for which Cake earned an innovation award from *Chatelaine* magazine in 2008.

Research and development preoccupied much of Reier's time in the first year, with a pinch of fun added to determine yummy product names and sophisticated packaging that appeal to women. Today, the Cake Beauty collection is sold worldwide and Cake products have become favourites among celebrities including Oprah, Rihanna, Kate Hudson and Naomi Watts.

The three traits Reier brings to her life and work are optimism, passion and resilience. "Resilience is going to keep you going. Passion fuels the strategy, but you've got to have that resilience or it's just not going to work. I also never celebrate the successes too long and I certainly don't dwell on the disappointments too long," Reier explains.

She learned about resilience and entrepreneurship from her parents. "My parents have been very influential. My dad's a business owner. My mom's a former teacher and a big supporter. One of the things they've instilled in me is resilience. There was no room in our household to complain about how things weren't working. We were told to get up and create our own destiny."



Growing up, Reier did not know that running Cake Beauty would be her destiny, but once she made the decision to start the business, she did so with intention and confidence. “I went into it believing it would be a success. I didn’t happen upon it. I did it with the intent to create a business. If you enter into business and have an idea, you have to really believe in the idea and have a passion for it. I just decided it was going to work.”

It took more than passion and determination to make Cake Beauty the success that it is today. Reier is an excellent example of the value of learning from experience and offers this advice to others wishing to start their own business. “Learn the industry that you’re going to embark upon. Work within it before you start your business. Surround yourself with people who have experience that you don’t. Especially for younger graduates, having access to that experience is important. Surround yourself with people who want to win and see you succeed.”

Reier always felt that the people at Brescia wanted to see her succeed. “Brescia’s been such a big supporter of mine. It warms my heart. I chose Brescia because I love that it was a small university with small class sizes, but I also really loved that it was exclusively women in the residence. Because it was an all-women environment in the residence, I made some warm friends there. I think the all-women environment fostered that.”

Skills learned at Brescia have served Reier well in business. “My major was Political Science. What my major did, and the classes I was part of, was teach my brain to think strategically and

methodically. You can be overwhelmed because there’s a lot to be done. To sit back and think strategically and write them in a succinct and methodical way helps to formulate the plan,” Reier says, and adds that Dr. Paul Barker had a particularly positive influence on her as an “engaging teacher”.

She remains open to learning from others, and she chooses her mentors carefully. “I have a few mentors in my life who give me advice from time to time. They tend to be older than me and have more experience than me. I’ve learned from them to surround myself with people that want me to win. I got that advice very early on and thought, ‘that’s great but I can’t afford these people’. One of the things I’m really proud of is the team I’ve put together.

“If I’m in a meeting and one of my superstars is able to outshine me or has more of a vested interest, if anything it’s something to be proud of. To put a team together is incredible. You’ve got to keep your ego in check if you’re going to get anywhere,” she advises.

Where is Reier planning to take Cake next? “We’re going to launch lots of new products. We have so many ideas. We almost have more ideas than we have time. We want to be in more markets and have more distribution. We’ve just scratched the surface. I want to elevate Cake even further through innovative products, innovative applications and spins on the products. Perhaps more opportunities like Barbie to enhance the brand.”

This year, Mattel is celebrating the 50th birthday of Barbie, the popular doll that has become an icon. Mattel chose Cake Beauty to launch the first-ever

women’s bath and body collection for Barbie. Reier and her team of eight employees responded with enthusiasm and developed “Barbie by Cake” – a new and exclusive bath and body collection packaged in boxes decorated to inspire women to reminisce and celebrate Barbie.

Reier and Cake have also been strategic in their philanthropic partnerships with Opportunities for Advancement, an organization that works with women in impoverished situations, and the Canadian Women’s Foundation, the country’s only national public foundation for women and girls. “Cake Beauty and I tend to focus on charitable organizations that have a women’s focus. Both are amazing organizations that are really there to support women and get them out of difficult situations and bring awareness.”

When she isn’t planning, working 40–50 hours per week or making appearances to support her business and her philanthropic interests, Reier values her personal time. “I love to spend time with my friends and my family. I’m a big fan of Sunday brunch. Weekends I do not work. It wasn’t always like that. One of the things I just love to do... my husband and I will go for a long walk and grab a latte. That’s our opportunity to really reconnect. We both lead busy lives from Monday to Friday.” Regardless of where markets open up for Cake, Reier says she will stay in Toronto in the neighborhood she loves, spending time with the people who join her in celebrating her success.





SIBLING RELATIONSHIPS STUDIED BY BRESCIA PROFESSOR

By Julie Maltby

Sisters have always been taken very seriously at Brescia. The relationship between Canada's women's university and the Ursuline Sisters is well documented and remains highly revered by generations of alumnae, faculty and staff. The Registrar's Office offers a Sibling Book Award in celebration of sisters who attend Brescia. There are several sibling pairs in the Alumnae Association. And, Dr. Lara Descartes, associate professor of Family Studies, has taken an academic interest in the unique bond shared by sisters.

Descartes joined the Division of Sociology and Family Studies at Brescia in 2008, after earning an impressive and diverse list of degrees. She completed her undergraduate studies at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences; at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) she earned an MS in Astronomy, and then went on to attain an MA and PhD in Anthropology from the University of Michigan.

A long-standing interest in family shapes her research. "I became interested in thinking about issues of family and people's ideas about family when I was taking Anthropology classes: it intrigued me to take anthropological ideas about culture and society, many of which were developed in research conducted in non-industrial societies, and see how those ideas could help illuminate the everyday lives of people in urban and suburban North America," Descartes says.

Her research for her dissertation at the University of Michigan included interviews with people in vulnerable

situations who relied on their siblings for emotional and financial support and day-to-day survival. "A lot of my older respondents, in particular, talked about their brothers and sisters and all the things they all did for each other through the years. Especially when people are taking care of aging parents, siblings can be very important sources of support.

"Then, as they themselves age, people's brothers and sisters are connections to their pasts, and ongoing sources of company and support. Also, the people I interviewed who were vulnerable in some way, through poverty for example, were often involved in networks of support with their siblings. I heard many stories of people sharing housing, child care, and other resources with siblings, which helped them all survive difficult conditions," she recalls.

Descartes says there are definite differences in relationships between brothers from those sisters share with sisters. "Sisters provide more emotional and caregiving support than brothers do, at least hands-on caregiving. Sisters tend to form closer relationships with each other, and if they have parents

or other relatives who need care, they often perform those tasks themselves. Brothers are important parts of families, though, and often provide siblings with financial help, help in making decisions about and organizing issues like parental care, and help with chores and transportation."

Work and family is Descartes' main area of expertise. Her research and teaching includes issues affecting family life related to class, gender, race, ethnicity, and sexuality; issues affecting family life related to place, i.e. urban centers, suburbs or rural areas; support relationships among family members, particularly between adult siblings and between parents and their adult children. Her other interests include popular culture, media and family. Like many of Brescia's faculty members, Descartes cares about social justice. In her field, this translates into concern that individuals and families of all kinds have what they need to lead healthy, satisfying, and productive lives. This year, Descartes and co-author Conrad Kottak published a book titled *Media and Middle Class Moms: Images and Realities of Work and Family*.



Take the Lead High School Public Speaking Contest Reflection

By Kaitlynn Hodgins '08

Brescia held its first annual *Take the Lead* high school public speaking contest organized by the Institute for Women in Leadership (iWIL). On Saturday, April 4, 2009, 26 female Grade 11 and 12 students from across southern Ontario presented speeches on their interpretation of women and leadership while competing for one year's free tuition at Brescia, a prize donated by the contest's sponsors, WCA.

Contestants were judged on content and delivery in a preliminary round by Brescia faculty and staff who selected the top seven contestants to move on to the final round. A panel of local celebrity judges determined the top three competitors.

The first-place winner was Nicole Bryck of Branksome Hall in Toronto; second place went to Amelia Galizia of St. Thomas Aquinas in London, and the third-place recipient was Ashti Chankar, also of Branksome Hall. The top three contestants each received a plaque and all contestants received certificates of participation.

The contest was truly inspirational as so many young women came forward to present their ideas on the importance of women and leadership. *Take the Lead* is an event that is in keeping with Brescia's commitment to help develop women who change the world, one leader at a time. It also holds true to iWIL's vision to support

the development of authentic leaders. *Take the Lead* empowered contestants to build confidence in presenting their ideas in a public forum—a valuable leadership skill. The diversity, range and profound ideas of the speeches left no doubt that this is a generation of young women who can change the world.

Dr. Colleen Hanycz, Principal, states that Brescia encourages students to choose leadership. "At Brescia we believe that leadership is a choice that each person can make. Helping women to choose leadership—in their communities, in their families and in their lives—is something that Brescia has been doing for 90 years. We are incredibly excited to be launching this initiative at a time when the world is desperate for positive, authentic leadership."

To see pictures from the event, go to www.flickr.com/photos/bresciauniversitycollege/sets.

ABOVE: Brescia's inaugural *Take the Lead* public speaking contest showcased the talent and passion of 26 contestants from across Ontario who vied for a year's tuition at Brescia. Pictured here (left to right) are WCA Chair Linda Callaghan, Ashti Chankar (Branksome Hall, Toronto), Nicole Bryck (Branksome Hall), Azzura Lalani (Central Secondary, London), Serena Klumpenhauer (John Paul II Secondary, London), Amelia Galizia (St. Thomas Aquinas, London), Ruba Najjar (Mark Garneau Collegiate Institute, Toronto), Julia Howe (Branksome Hall) and Dr. Colleen Hanycz, Brescia Principal.



“I wish I had artistic talent. I like to draw and create things...”

Get to Know Dr. June Matthews '00

DIVISION OF FOOD AND NUTRITIONAL SCIENCES

Did you graduate from Brescia and, if so, with what degree?

I graduated from Brescia with an Honors Bachelor of Science in Human Ecology (Foods and Nutrition). Following that, I obtained two professional designations: Registered Dietitian (RD) and Professional Home Economist (P.H.Ec.).

What was the last book you read?

The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering our Place in Nature by David Suzuki. I have dozens of ‘sticky notes’ throughout the book, highlighting information I use in my lectures.

Which would you miss more, your TV or car stereo?

TV. I love watching news reports from different countries, documentaries, and nature shows.

What talent do you wish you had?

I wish I had artistic talent. I like to draw and create things, but would not be considered ‘talented’ in that area.

Where do you go to think?

Hopefully, I’m thinking all the time, but I think more deeply about things when I walk to work.

What do you enjoy about your work at Brescia?

I enjoy the caring community atmosphere; the opportunity provided by a small campus to support students in their learning and personal development; and the fact that I can walk to work! It’s also exciting and rewarding to work with graduate students on research projects.

What is the biggest challenge in your role?

Assessing student learning.

What are the best and worst movies you have ever seen?

I enjoyed *Driving Miss Daisy* and *Young at Heart*. The worst are horror movies—I don’t watch them.

What is your biggest indulgence?

Naps—whenever I have the chance!

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment was returning to university and completing my BSc, MSc, and PhD. It took eleven years—including a year during which I had to re-take OAC credits before being allowed to enroll at Brescia—but it was worth it! I am also extremely proud of, and share credit with my wonderful husband for, our two amazing sons.

What do you use more often, the telephone or email?

Email. It’s a great tool for work and for keeping in touch with friends and family.

What motivated your decision to become a professor at Brescia?

I loved the idea of working with professors who were my mentors. I also appreciated the opportunity to work where students are really engaged in their learning—both inside and outside the classroom.

What is one of the most memorable moments in your career?

Winning the *Award for Excellence in Teaching* and meeting the honorary degree recipients at the Convocation dinners hosted by Dr. Davenport. I couldn’t stop smiling for weeks! My husband told me I should stop smiling so much or people would think I was ‘high’!

What is something about you that our readers may be surprised to learn?

In high school, I was sent to Ottawa for the Rotary Adventure in Citizenship, and I won a trip to United Nations’ headquarters in New York as the result of a public speaking contest.



LEFT: Join Noelle Martin '04, owner of RD Services, in promoting your business to Brescia alumnae.

BELOW: (left to right) Dr. Paula Dworatzek '89, assistant professor in Food and Nutritional Sciences; Jessica Patterson '05, admissions and liaison officer; Michelle Prestwich '99, senior academic advisor; Dr. June Matthews '00, professor in Food and Nutritional Sciences; Carmelita Tang '07, liaison officer; Kim Resendes '06, recruiting and alumni relations co-ordinator at Culture Works; Jacqueline De Leebeek '99, residence manager; Lesley Macaskill '93, lecturer in Food and Nutritional Sciences; Sister Mary Frances Dorschell '63 and '85, co-ordinator of the Department of Modern Languages.

Absent: Dr. Colleen Gobert '00, assistant professor in Food and Nutritional Sciences, Michelle Griffore-Kempe '99, director of Student Services; Sister Mary Lou McKenzie '58, professor in the Department of English.

ALUMNAE IN BUSINESS

If you currently own your own business and are looking for ways to reach Brescia alumnae, contact the Alumnae Relations Office at brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca about promoting your company on Brescia's website under the "Alumnae in Business" section.



The faculty and staff are peppered with alumnae who returned to Canada's women's university for the love of Brescia.

Alumnae Mentors Guide Students on their Journey

As an alumna, you have lots to offer to today's Brescia students. The Tri-mentoring Program helps students transition in and out of university by connecting individual student needs with peer and community mentors, some of whom are alumnae.



WENDY LAU '86

Wendy Lau is the Executive Director of Leads Employment Services, which provides employment and skills development services for people who have disabilities and/or barriers. She has been acting as a community mentor since September, 2008 and most enjoys the energy and kinsmanship among the mentors and mentees. "Being a mentor is part of my journey and it re-energizes me," she says, adding that she became a mentor so that she could "be part of a young woman's growth to exploring and accepting self, her journey of doing what she loves to do and to determine how she can make a difference in her own life and others."



TRACY REID '00

"I worked two jobs and tutored while attending Brescia so I didn't have the chance to be involved with a lot of extra-curriculars. I guess I'm doing that now! Mentoring allows me to still keep in touch with Brescia and help in ways that I would have liked to be helped," says Tracy Reid. She works as an elementary French teacher with the Thames Valley District School Board and has been a mentor to Brescia students since 2002. Reid most enjoys enthusiasm and inquisitive nature of the mentees at the "meet and greet" at the beginning of the school year. "Sometimes it feels like I'm still a rookie in my career but I really have experienced a lot. It is a confidence booster to be able to impart some of that knowledge," Reid says.

For more information about becoming a mentor, visit www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/careerservices/trimentoring.html or contact Donnafaye Milton, community outreach co-ordinator at 519.432.8353, ext. 28152.

VOLUNTEERS ARE A PRICELESS GIFT TO BRESCIA

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop. -Mother Teresa

The success of any organization is founded upon the talent of its members and their involvement in the accomplishment of its mission. Throughout the decades, Brescia has greatly benefited from the contributions of alumnae volunteers. Serving on boards, organizing events and being mentors to current students are just some examples of the many activities that alumnae volunteers take part in everyday at Brescia.

Alumnae are our best ambassadors and we are grateful for your ongoing commitment to the next generation of alumnae—and for your belief in what we do.

On behalf of everyone at Brescia, I want to extend our appreciation for your continued dedication. We share our every accomplishment with you. Thank-you.

Sincerely,
RITA GARDINER
Director of Communications, Alumnae Relations & Special Projects

MOTHER-DAUGHTER AWARD

Is your daughter a current Brescia student? She may qualify for the Mother-Daughter Award. Contact the Alumnae Relations Office at brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca or call 519.432.8353, ext. 28280 for details.

CALL FOR ALUMNAE AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Recognize outstanding alumnae you know for the Carmelle Murphy Alumnae Award of Distinction and the Young Alumnae Award of Merit. For more information and to submit your nomination visit www.brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae/awards or contact Rita Gardiner at 519.432.8353, ext. 28293 or by email at rgardin2@uwo.ca. Deadline for nominations: July 15, 2009.

BRESCIA EXPANDS CARIBBEAN CONNECTIONS

By
Marianne
Simm

On Sunday March 8, 2009, Dr. Colleen Hanycz, Principal, and Marianne Simm, Registrar, arrived in Barbados for their "Alumnae, Family and Friends 2009" visit to Barbados and St. Lucia.

Hanycz and Simm made this trip to connect with alumnae from the region, to visit local area high schools with information about Brescia's programs, to explore potential educational partnerships with leading institutions in Barbados, and to better understand the challenges and needs within the region given the current global economy.

The trip began with a dinner reception at Changers Restaurant on Sunday evening. A pre-dinner reception was hosted by Trident Insurance and CEO Algeron Leacock. Leacock graduated from The

University of Western Ontario (Western), and his eldest daughter is currently studying at Brescia. There were a number of Brescia alumnae and various educational administrators from Barbados at the event. Of particular note, alumna Mara Thompson '83 spoke with great fondness of her time at Brescia.

Monday morning started with a visit to St. Winnifred's, a school with community service requirements that closely align with Brescia's mission and values. The next stop was an informational presentation at St. Ursula's to a large group of fourth and fifth form students who had many questions for the visiting Canadian university representatives.

Through the assistance of Robert Le Hunte, managing director and CEO of Barbados National Bank and alumnus of Western and Brescia's Preliminary

Program, Hanycz and Simm were able to meet with Sir Hilary Beckles, pro-vice chancellor and principal of the University of West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. Beckles and Hanycz explored the possibility of an educational partnership between their institutions.

On average, Brescia admits 15 students from the West Indies into the Preliminary Year and another 10 women each year into undergraduate degree programs. Brescia welcomed back Dr. Marlene MacLeish '68, originally from Jamaica, as the Baccalaureate speaker on May 3, 2009. Other notable alumnae from this region include Patricia Charles '58 and Charmaine Gardner '72 who have organized a number of events and school visits in St. Lucia. Brescia anticipates building upon its strong relationship with Barbados and the broader region throughout Hanycz's time as Principal.



ABOVE: Brescia congratulates Joan Francolini '55 who received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the London YMCA's 2009 Women of Excellence celebration on May 5, 2009. Francolini has served her community in numerous capacities, including acting as chairperson of the Brescia University College Foundation. Today, she sits on the Foundation's Development Committee and the Finance, Audit and Investment Committee.



LEFT: Part of the life story of the Pollak family included a house fire in 1973, which destroyed all of their belongings, including the couple's wedding photos. Adrienne and Paul are pictured here at the Newman Ball.

Romancing Brescia

Adrienne (Birrell) Pollak '53

In 1949 the good Ursulines at Brescia Hall opened their hearts and doors to several “displaced persons” – refugees from Eastern Europe who had made their way to Canada. One of them was a tall, drop-dead-handsome native of Ljubljana, Slovenia (then Yugoslavia), named Paul Pollak. Like the others, he could be seen working on whatever chore needed doing in return for room, board, tuition, and a little spending money.

In 1950, along came a 17-year-old girl who needed to work off some of the expenses of going to college. In the week before most students returned, there was much to be done, including waxing floors. One afternoon I helped Paul to wax the floor in the lecture room in the new wing. He started waxing in the southwest corner, I started in the northeast, and we met in the middle.

We chatted without really communicating, because although his gentle basso voice was soothing and his accent enchanting, not a lot of English came through. I didn't even realize that he was actually inviting me to go to see a movie with him after supper! I'm glad I finally figured that out, and accepted.

What could be a more romantic beginning? Fast forward past our two graduations, to the wedding five years later, three

wonderful children, and six grandchildren. Paul's part of the story ended with the inevitable “until death do us part” in 1996, but Paul lives on in our hearts and memories.

More importantly, all three generations owe a great debt of gratitude to the alma mater which made the whole story possible, and especially to the vision and generosity of Mother St. James and all the other Ursulines of that era.

Darlene (Wideman) Daudlin '64

I met my future husband on a blind date arranged by a nun. The nun was Mother St. Dominic who Bob got to know through a former girlfriend, also from Brescia. He was visiting Saint D, as many of us called her, and when she asked if he was going to the Brescia Ball that year (1963), he replied that he had no one to go with. Her reply was, “We'll have to fix that!”

She came back through the “social room” and I was the first person she spied. We arranged to go to the Ball and the rest is history. We both graduated in 1964 and after Articles for him (a law graduate) and Teacher's College for me we were married in June of 1966. More than 42 years later, four children and five grandchildren, we are now both retired and enjoying a very busy life with family and community. Mother St. Dominic had excellent taste in men and she was a wonderful, practical, faith-filled woman who was an excellent model for the young women of Brescia.



John & Cathy Davidson

Cathy (MacDougall) Davidson '76

The Sisters were gracious hostesses, thinking of details that set our day apart. Sr. Margaret Hanley helped to make things happen. We were blessed to have Sr. Mary Doris Pook as our organist—John had a lot of fun with Sister, planning the music. New chairs arrived and the gardens were coaxed into an even more beautiful display. Our favourite memory was seeing some of the Sisters peeking into the Chapel from the mezzanine! We felt privileged to have our wedding at Brescia.

Laurie (Banks) Alexander '90

I met my future husband, Craig Alexander, at a Quad party with Medway and Brescia on the second day of Frosh week in '86. We hit it off right away and soon became an item. After six years of dating, with two years being long distance, since we were in separate cities continuing our post-grad studies, Craig proposed to me. It was on a September weekend trip to London where we were celebrating the anniversary of when we met.

Since Brescia was where our romance started, we decided to get married at Brescia. I always loved the beauty of the chapel and we thought it would be the perfect setting. Two years later, on September 17, 1994, we were married at Brescia's chapel and had our photos taken on the beautiful grounds with all the autumn leaves.

I'm happy to say that it will be 15 years this September since we both said, "I do" and 23 years since we met while I was attending Brescia! We always say that if it wasn't for Brescia we would never have met. Thank you Brescia for my happy-ever-after!



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE ABOUT BRESCIA LIBRARIAN CHRISTINE SUOKAITE?

If so, we would like to hear from you! Some of the stories will be featured in the fall *bulletin*. Brescia is also honoring Christine in the Beryl Ivey Library with a special tribute this fall. Stay tuned for more information.

Please contact Trish Gergich by email trish.gergich@uwo.ca or call her at 519.432.8353, ext. 28009 to share your story. Christine officially retired from the library in 2001 but remained a volunteer until the fall of 2007 when she moved to Chatham to live with the Ursuline Sisters.



HOMECOMING 2009 OCTOBER 3 & 4

All alumnae of graduating years ending in four and nine will receive a personal invitation to attend Homecoming. This is a public invitation to all alumnae to come back to reconnect and celebrate Brescia's 90th Anniversary! Registration information is available online at www.brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae/events/homecoming.html, by emailing brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca or calling 519.432.8353, ext. 28280.

MESSAGE FROM CLASS OF '64 REPRESENTATIVE ANGELA (RUBY) EVANS:

Greetings and salutations to all my classmates! Has it really been 45 years since we walked those hallowed halls? Yes this fall is the 45th reunion for the class of '64 and the 90th for Brescia!

If you haven't been back for awhile you will see many changes. This year the Wine & Cheese is at a restaurant where you can also stay and have dinner. As well, I have information about hotel rooms and football tickets being held for Brescia alumnae. If you have any news to put in the fall *bulletin* re: family, career, etc. please send to me at angeandrick@gmail.com. I look forward to hearing from you and will hopefully see you on October 3 & 4.

Warm regards!

Join us for a Special Brescia Homecoming and 90th Anniversary Celebration!

All alumnae are cordially invited to attend two exciting events at Aroma Mediterranean Restaurant on Saturday, October 3, 2009!

Event 1: 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

In celebration of Brescia University College's 90th Anniversary, we are hosting our traditional Wine & Cheese reception at Aroma.

Ticket price: \$20. Includes: One glass of wine and selection of light hors d'oeuvres. Cash bar will be available.

Event 2: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Second Annual Cocktail Classic Dinner

Ticket price: \$35. Includes: Three-course meal with your choice of entrée and dessert. Cash bar will be available.

All reservations must be received by September 24, 2009. No tickets will be available at the door. Please visit www.brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae/events/homecoming.html for all the details and contact Julie Maltby at 519.432.8353, ext. 28280 or julie.maltby@uwo.ca to place your order.

Schedule of Events:

Saturday, October 3

10:00 a.m. - Western Homecoming Parade

1:00 p.m. - Brescia Tour

2:00 p.m. - 90th Anniversary Tea

2:00 p.m. - Homecoming Football Game
Western vs. McMaster, Ticket price: \$20

Deadline for ticket purchase in the Brescia Block: July 10, 2009. Contact: Julie Maltby at julie.maltby@uwo.ca or 519.432.8353, ext. 28280

3:00 p.m. - Women's Panel—A discussion on yesterday, today and tomorrow at Brescia

5:00 p.m. - Wine & Cheese at
Aroma Mediterranean Restaurant

6:30 p.m. - Cocktail Classic Dinner at
Aroma Mediterranean Restaurant

6:00 p.m. - Golden Anniversary
Dinner Reception at Western

7:00 p.m. - Golden Anniversary Dinner
Tickets: Available for purchase in June.
Price: \$50 per person. Call: 519.661.2199,
ext. 85739.

The evening features a three-course meal, musical entertainment and a visit from Dr. Amit Chakma, President and Vice-Chancellor.

Sunday, October 4

10:00 a.m. - Mass

11:00 a.m. - Reception and Class Photos

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

2:00 p.m. - Brescia Tour



MILESTONES MARRIAGES BIRTHS & DEATHS

ABOVE: Dr. Jennifer Sutton of the Department of Sociology, her husband Marc, and daughter Marianne were thrilled to announce the arrival of baby boy Adrien Joseph Sutton Joannis.

'59 Barbara (Walker) Baker is still a faithful writer. In her last note she said that her daughter Heather has a monthly TV show in the York Region area with hints and ideas on decorating, cooking, etc. Barb hopes to be at the 50th reunion in the fall. **Gerri (Giacinti) Dunn** keeps busy visiting her children and grandchildren. She and Chris are always on call to visit with them or having them in Hamilton. **Helen Habson** mentioned that she would like to attend our 50th. She, like many of us, is awaiting knee surgery. **Margaret Motz** is still an active traveller, having spent three and a half weeks in India this past December. She still is busy volunteering in the Kitchener area. **Marian (Dravecky) O'Brien** is looking forward to the '09 reunion. **Ann Marie (Hargreaves) Christie** lives in Toronto. She and Ron enjoy their cottage in the summer and in winter enjoy visiting their daughter, Elizabeth, who now lives near Nassau. **Melinda (Cassio) Dozzi** is thankful for having had her second hip surgery. Both are done now. She is hoping to be at Homecoming '09 to celebrate her class's 50th anniversary and is encouraging all classmates to think seriously of attending. Congratulations to the Class of '58 for such a great turnout at their 50th! Submitted by Melinda Dozzi.

'72 Lynda (Tompkins) Hyckie retired in 2004 after 30 years of teaching. She lives in a bedroom community of

Winnipeg. She worked as a teacher/librarian for 15 years and as a French Immersion teacher for 15 years. Upon completion of an Honours Spanish Language and Literature degree, she taught in Barcelona, Spain for 1972–1973. She graduated from Althouse College in 1974. After 15 years of teaching, she was offered a job to implement an English program at the elementary level in France. She and her family lived there from 1989–1991. Lynda is currently retired but both she and her husband teach occasionally at the French Immersion level. Their son, Gordon, lives in Burlington with his lovely wife, April, and Lynda's beautiful granddaughter, Ella.

'75 Linda (Meyer) Winningham continues to provide nutrition consulting services for Genesee Community Mental Health for persons with developmental disabilities and mental illness. She and her husband recently moved to the East Lansing, MI area. Their sons are married. Patrick and Katie have two daughters, Sophia and Amelia. Ryan and Amie are experiencing life in the mountains in Denver, CO.

'83 Carol (McLaughlin) Morgan is now employed with the Thames Valley Family Health Team as the Dietitian at the Strathroy Medical Clinic, and is enjoying her work in Primary Care. She and her husband Murray have two children, Patrick (10) and Kathleen (7).

'94 Stephanie (Vachon) Claveau was surprised to see that she appeared on the Missing Alumnae list, and assures everyone that she has not been missing. She has been teaching for the last nine years (grades 3 through 12) and has two beautiful children (one boy and one girl). Her family is the 'apple of her eye' and she can't believe the magic that her children and spouse constantly bring to her life. She finds it ironic that she came across the 'missing persons' list for Brescia through her own family tree search.

'96 Stephanie (Bergmann) Malo sent this update: A Husband! Two kids! Annabelle (2004) and Isaac (2007).

'99 Amy Snider, BSc, Food Consultant & Nutritionist, has joined Dinewise Inc. as an Advisory Board Member. Amy will work with Dinewise chefs to create delicious nutritional meals and meal plans for consumers, and share practical tips and advice on how to live better, healthier lives everyday. Amy has assisted companies such as Heinz, Unilever and Clover Leaf Seafoods in developing meaningful nutritional messages for their customers, and has created recipe programs.

'04 Amanda Morrison left Synchronicity Wellness to offer home visits to provide nutrition counselling in people's homes or at her home office in Lambeth, ON.

'05 Jenna Flannigan was admitted as a lawyer to the New York State Bar in March, 2009. She is currently living in Vancouver, BC and is working as a researcher on the Braidwood Inquiry. Jenna is also pursuing a number of personal interests, including travel writing and teaching yoga.

MARRIAGES

'02 Laura (Kiteley) Brown was married October 25, 2003 to husband Gary Leslie Brown. The couple gave birth to son Spencer Leslie Brown on September 9, 2007.

BIRTHS



Anya Marie

'72 Charmaine Gardner is proud to share this photo of granddaughter Anya Marie, born on April 29, 2009.

'96 Tanya M. Goreing became mom to Justin Taylor Hill on December 21, 2006.

'00 Amy (Brooks) Dell welcomed daughter Brooke Kaela Dell on September 6, 2008.

'03 Jennifer (Kindrat) Purdy, husband Mathew, and son Dylan are pleased to welcome new baby Evan Peter Wayne Purdy to the family. Evan was born on April 22nd at 7:46 a.m. He weighed 7 lbs 9 oz and was 21 inches in length.

BRESCIA FACULTY & STAFF BIRTHS

Ingrid Christensen of the Business Office had a baby girl on March 3, 2009. Leila weighed 8 lbs 6 oz, and was 20 inches long. She is a very healthy little girl.

Jennifer Coghlin of the Registrar's Office and husband Ron are pleased to announce that baby Caden Ronald Coghlin was born at 12:19 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2009. He arrived at 8 lbs, 7 oz and was 21 inches long.

Melissa Jean, professor of Management and Organizational Studies, welcomed Megan Danielle at 10:30 a.m. on May 6, 2009. She weighed in at 7 lbs 6 oz.



Lauren Lynne Kleinknecht

Professor Steven Kleinknecht of Brescia's Division of Sociology and Family Studies and his wife Mandy announced

the birth of their daughter Lauren Lynne Kleinknecht. Lauren was born February 4, 2009 at 2:23 a.m. weighing 8 lbs 12 oz. Lauren's older brother Lincoln is happy to have a little sister.

Dr. Jennifer Sutton of the Department of Sociology, her husband Marc and daughter Marianne were thrilled to announce the arrival of baby boy Adrien Joseph Sutton Joannis. He was born at 12:34 p.m. on May 23, 2009 at St. Joseph's Hospital after an action-packed delivery in which dad nearly passed out. Adrien weighed in at a respectable 8 lbs 8 oz and measured 19.5 inches long.

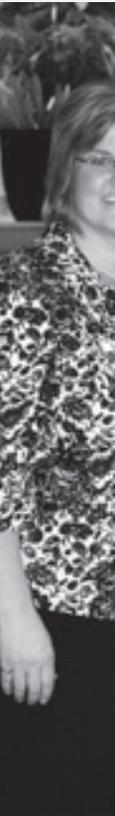
DEATHS

Members of the Brescia community send our sympathies and warm wishes to alumnae who have recently lost loved ones.

'58 Helen (Kelso) Cooper lost her husband David suddenly on September 28, 2008 in Woodstock. Helen is a cancer survivor and since surgery uses a feeding tube and has some difficulty speaking.

'85 Elizabeth Attridge's mother, Elsie (Stanton) Attridge, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family at Parkwood Hospital in London on Monday, June 16, 2008 in her 81st year.

Stephen Dempsey, father of **Monique Dempsey**, died in Toronto on May 5, 2009. He raised Monique and her six siblings on his own, as their mother died when they were very young.



UPCOMING EVENTS

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Brescia



Alumnae Association Annual Gathering and Meeting

Saturday, June 13, 2009
2:00 p.m.
Rose Room

Take Back the Night

Thursday, September 17, 2009
Time and location TBA

Homecoming

Saturday, October 3 and
Sunday, October 4, 2009

Breakfast for Bursaries

Friday, October 23, 2009
London Convention Centre
Speaker: Dr. Samantha Nutt,
Founder & Executive Director
of War Child Canada

More Than Just a Book Sale

Saturday, November 21, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Brescia Auditorium

Brescia University College Bulletin Spring/Summer 2009

Published by the Alumnae
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Brescia University College
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Manuscripts, photographs, news items
and letters to the Editor are welcome.
Send to: Editor, Alumnae Bulletin or email
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on our website: www.brescia.uwo.ca

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Hodgins, Julie Maltby and Marianne Simm
Photographers: Jason Selinger,
John Tamblyn, Julie Maltby and
Kim Young-Milani

The Alumnae *bulletin* is published twice
annually. Deadline for submissions for the
Fall/Winter edition is October 30, 2009.

Brescia University College Alumnae Council

Kelly Almeida '06
Melanie Caldwell-Clark '00
Marilyn Campbell '68
Tiffany Chin '03
Cathy Davidson '76
Katie George '03
Kristal Hartwell '03
Beckie Laskey '03
Helen McHenry '67
Sister Mary Lou McKenzie '58
Jennifer Purdy '03
Donna Stewart '81

Ex Officio: Dr. Colleen Hanycz, Rita Gardiner,
Suzanne McDonald Aziz, Julie Maltby

ABOVE: About 120 members of the Brescia community, including members of the faculty and staff, alumnae, donors and volunteers, celebrated the tenure of Western President Dr. Paul Davenport at a breakfast in his honor on April 1, 2009. Dr. Hanycz, left, and Melanie Caldwell-Clark, right, presented a framed certificate welcoming Davenport as an honorary member of Brescia's Alumnae Association; Dr. Davenport has the distinction of being the first male to join the association.

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