

THE MAGAZINE BRESCIA ALUMNAE CHOOSE TO READ

BOLD

SUMMER 2017



BOLD YET MINDFUL

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LEADERS SUCCEED

Empowering Children

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BRINGS CHANGE TO
INDIAN SCHOOLS

Recipe for Generosity

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11:00 a.m. - "To Boldly Go" Faculty Lecture

12:00 p.m. - Homecoming Open House & Lunch

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Sunday, October 22nd

10:00 a.m. - Mass

11:30 a.m. - Principal's Reception & Reunion Luncheon

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The World Needs More Brescia

A Message from Dr. Susan Mumm

On International Women's Day in March, I had the privilege of addressing two groups of London women. My talk happened not long after the January 21 Women's March on Washington — an unprecedented event involving some five million people around the world. I illustrated my remarks with an image of a sign held by one of the marchers. It read: "I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept."

Brescia has always been about quietly changing the things we cannot accept. Nearly 100 years ago, the Ursuline sisters did the unthinkable — they established a women's university, high on a hill. It was a time when post-secondary education was considered "wasted" on women. They proved otherwise, and Brescia continues to thrive.

Now more than ever, the world needs Brescia's focus on leadership, community and service.

This is a place where young women come to learn about leadership. In my generation, women fell into leadership roles. How exciting to see young women define themselves as leaders at the outset of their careers, and learn everything they can about what leadership means and demands.

Brescia is a strong and supportive community, as I have discovered during my first year. Staff and faculty are dedicated to providing an exceptional student experience, and the institution is small enough that they can see the impact of their efforts on a day-to-day basis. Students care for and support one another. People smile and greet one another in the halls. It feels like home.

We foster a commitment to service. Yes, it's important for women to advance their own careers and families. But we also encourage our students to look beyond themselves and think about how they can make a difference in the communities where they live and work. Often service starts right here at Brescia, and continues for a lifetime.

Brescia was a bold vision in 1918. It is bold vision today. As I look forward, I want to see Brescia live that boldness in everything we do, finding new ways to lead that keep us vibrant and relevant. When we do that, we can truly change the world. ■

BOLD

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Brescia University College
BOLD Summer 2017

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1285 Western Road
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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: Jennifer Atwell
Additional Photos: Caitlin Core, Adele Talbot & Rachel Lincoln

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The alumnae magazine is published twice annually. Please submit your milestones for the Fall 2017 edition by September 15, 2017 to brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca. We reserve the right to edit some submissions for length.

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VIEW FROM THE HILL



↑ PICTURED ABOVE Take the Lead Final Judges Panel with student finalists (from l-r): Wilma de Rond, Dr. Donna Rogers, Victoria McArthur, Jocelyn Douglas, Victoria Goldsack, MPP Peggy Sattler, Heather Austin and Mandi Fields



↑ PICTURED ABOVE Dr. Susan Mumm, Dr. Joan Francolini Distinguished Speaker, Mitra Khademi '95 and Chancellor Justice Eileen Gillese

↓ PICTURED BELOW Graduands take part in Brescia's ring ceremony



Brescia celebrates 95th Baccalaureate

On Sunday, June 18th, close to 900 members of the Brescia community filled St. Peter's Basilica in London to celebrate Brescia's 95th Baccalaureate and Magisterial Exercises that saw over 160 graduands participate in the time honoured tradition, where they received their Brescia alumnae ring and recited the alumnae pledge. The celebrations continued on June 19th as friends and family gathered on Brescia's campus to celebrate the Class of 2017 before descending down Brescia hill to their Convocation ceremony.

Celebrating Women's Voices

On April 1st, 20 young women from across Ontario gathered at Brescia to compete for a one-year full academic scholarship and room in residence — a prize worth over \$15,000 — at Brescia's 9th annual Take the Lead public speaking contest.

The 20 finalists were chosen based on pre-recorded five-minute videos submitted by contestants. The assignment was to speak about a past or present woman leader who inspires and empowers others.

Twenty-six judges were on hand to hear the speeches. The judges' panel included MPP for London West, Peggy Sattler, RBC Regional Vice President, Heather Austin, retired Director of the London District Catholic School Board, Wilma de Rond, CTV London Community Relations Coordinator, Mandi Fields and Brescia's Vice-Principal and Academic Dean, Dr. Donna Rogers.

Jocelyn Douglas of Cobourg Collegiate Institute took the first prize, with a speech about the charitable work of her best friend, Lily Mackenzie. Mackenzie has been involved in a variety of community activities, including organizing her school's Food Collective, raising money for international development projects and working on anti-bullying initiatives.

"Take the Lead is truly the embodiment of all that we believe in at Brescia — young women answering the call to lead and developing a unique and distinctive voice," said Brescia Principal, Dr. Susan Mumm. "We are so pleased to welcome the next generation of bold women leaders to campus."



PICTURED ABOVE Dr. June Matthews, Dr. Paula Dworatzek, Dr. Len Piché, Dr. Jim Doelman, Dr. Latifeh Ahmadi, Dr. Marlene J. Le Ber, Dr. Wei-Wei Da and Dr. Nadine de Moras

Celebrating Scholarship

On April 3rd, Brescia gathered to celebrate faculty members who had published books, articles or other publications in the past year. “Faculty research informs teaching and is one important way that faculty members stay current in their fields,” says Dr. Donna Rogers, Vice-Principal and Academic Dean. “This event was not just about recognition. It was a way of coming together as a community so that each of us understands what our colleagues are doing.” The list of publications reflected the breadth and depth of research under way at Brescia. Topics spanned from the origins of leadership in childhood to the impact of socioeconomic status on birth outcomes, and from concussion and eating disorders to teaching correct pronunciation in a second language and understanding sexual harassment.

Brescia students are also active researchers. “The ability to do research and communicate its results are part of the Brescia Competencies,” says Rogers. “It’s part of what it means to be a university student today.”

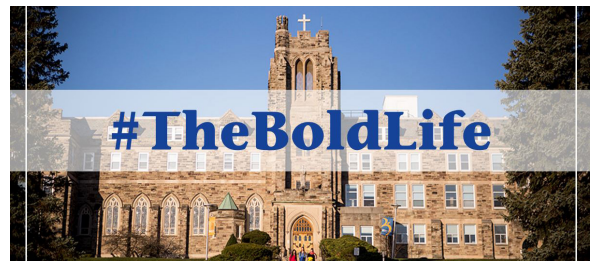
Students’ efforts were also celebrated at the annual Undergraduate Research Showcase in late March. Two presentations tied for first place. “Call Me Empowered” is a self-guided print resource for women who have recently left an abusive relationship. Developed by a team of psychology students, it provides information about a wide range of supports and services. “Experience at a Women’s University” is a research paper authored by Kathleen Griffith, a student in Family Studies. Through in-depth interviews with five participants, Griffith explored the “competing scripts” of attending a women’s university and concluded, “There is a sense of empowerment given to students in a women’s university. Student equality in class and on campus allows for increased confidence and access to leadership roles.” The top poster was entitled, “Exploring the Links between Perfectionism, Emotional Intelligence and Subjective Well-Being.”



PICTURED ABOVE Cindy Hartman ’96, Alysha Canton ’11, Lisa Haagsma ’92 & ’07, Dr. Susan Mumm, Cathy Vitkauskas and Kelsey Bron ’10

Meeting the Principal

“You are vital to the fabric of Brescia. You represent our past, present and future.” That was one of Dr. Susan Mumm’s key messages as she met with alumnae across Canada during her year-long road show. At Dr. Mumm’s request, events were organized in seven different cities to give her the opportunity to meet and get to know as many alumnae as possible. Says Mumm, “I wanted to bring Brescia to our alumnae instead of always expecting them to come back to London. We want to stay connected with our alumnae and ensure they know about amazing things happening at Brescia.”



Tagged!

Earlier this year, Brescia invited members of the community to submit their ideas for the University’s next official hashtag. The incentive? A \$100 gift certificate and the chance to make a mark on Brescia’s history!

More than 100 submissions were received, and a short list of five was developed: #TheBoldLife, #ThisisBold, #ThisisBrescia, #IamBrescia and #BetteratBrescia. In early February the community voted on their favourite hashtags, with almost 500 votes received. Brescia student Courtney Westerberg emerged the winner, when her submission, #TheBoldLife, was selected.



PICTURED ABOVE Brescia student Maggie McLellan and Director of Campus Ministry Catherinanne George with Pope Francis



PHOTO L'Osservatore Romano

A Visit to the Vatican: A dream come true

"The day I met the Pope" by Maggie McLellan Youth, Speak News Special

This article was first published in the Jan. 29, 2017 issue of The Catholic Register, permission provided by The Catholic Register for re-print.

The opportunity to visit Rome came through my involvement in Brescia University College Campus Ministry in London, Ont.

In late September, Catherinanne George, Brescia's Campus Ministry Director, presented me with an opportunity to apply to be the Canadian student representative at the IV World Congress for the Pastoral Care of International Students.

Catherinanne and I both submitted applications through the Catholic Canadian Campus Ministry and the Canadian Catholic Students' Association in a process where one student and one campus minister were chosen to represent Canada at the Vatican. By Thanksgiving, we received the news that we were both selected and our journey to prepare for the Congress began.

On December 1st, 2016, I walked into the Sala Clementina at the centre of the Apostolic Palace in Vatican City with 130 other members of the IV World Congress to visit Pope Francis.

He met with each of the delegates individually after his address. As representatives of Canada, Catherinanne and I walked together up the centre aisle to meet him and present our gifts.

She carried 5,000 small metal doves to be blessed and to take back to Canada and share with our communities. Running his hands through them, he blessed them by the sign of the cross.

When he turned to me, I presented him with three gifts: a journal with messages of appreciation, an adult colouring book created by Brescia's Campus Ministry and a picture of a large mural that 500 members of the Brescia community had coloured and signed.

He reached out to bless the gifts in my arms, but I instead offered them to him, saying, "For you." A large smile spread across his face and he placed his hands to his chest as if to say, "For me?" He then graciously took the gifts and shook both of our hands.

To be in Pope Francis' presence was a remarkable experience because you could tell that he was genuinely engaged with every single member of the Congress, as if you were the only person in the room.

Although meeting the Pope was a very special and humbling experience, it was only a small part of the Congress.

The theme for this Congress was "Evangelii Gaudium of Pope Francis and moral challenges in the intellectual world of international students, towards a healthier society."

Catholic delegates from all across the globe were joined with ecumenical and interfaith delegates representing Anglicans, Lutherans, Orthodox, Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and the World Council of Churches to discuss the care of international students and their impact on society.

I was honoured to be one of the student delegates to make a presentation on behalf of North America in a round-table discussion on social dialogue in university life towards the common good of the society. In my presentation, I detailed the accommodations and opportunities available to international university students in Canada.

The experience of talking with people from all over the world, who speak in many different languages and come from vastly different backgrounds, brought new light to the concern and care for international students.

These students are a vulnerable population with limited resources and no family or friends to help them once they arrive in a foreign land. They need advocates to take their concerns and give them a voice.

We were a part of history, contributing to the development of proposed guidelines and a pastoral statement to be approved by the Holy See.

This was a life-changing experience and I am forever humbled to have played a part in such important work.

(McLellan, 20, is a second-year psychology student at Brescia University College in London, Ont.) ■



A Bold Yet Mindful Leader

Consultant Jennifer Atwell '07 helps individuals and organizations be their best selves

Jennifer Atwell completed a honors BA in psychology at Brescia in 2007 and an MBA at Claremont Graduate University in southern California in 2015. Today her work as a consultant with Gina Airey Consulting, Inc. in Los Angeles focuses on leadership, teamwork and empowerment. BOLD spoke to Atwell in June.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR EARLY INFLUENCERS.

My mother is really resourceful and resilient, a very positive influence on me. My stepfather taught me a lot about the integrity of work and doing a good job because it's your personal responsibility. My coach in public school taught me pivotal lessons about teamwork and valuing my body beyond aesthetics. And my Big Sister exposed me to a range of growth experiences, including university life.

WHY BRESCIA?

It's an inspiring place to be, a beautiful campus. It gave me the best of multiple worlds — first class instruction, a strong community, and the ability to take classes at all the other affiliate campuses. It was like a passport to enjoy the best of everything!

WHAT DID YOU APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT BRESCIA?

The calibre of guidance counselling, small class sizes and the close connections with faculty. For me, the most standout example is Dr. John Mitchell, my thesis advisor. At Brescia, I learned the value of being accessible and taking the time to get to know people. When Dr. Mitchell or other professors shared life experiences, or options with me, it meant so much.

WHY THE MBA?

Coming out of psychology, I thought I wanted to work with individuals, and even now my greatest passion is connecting people to resources and experiences that empower them and create growth. But after working for a few years, I saw an opportunity to blend my background in psychology with a focus on leadership and strategy to strengthen organizations that are making the world a better place. I saw it as a way to positively influence even more people.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR JOB.

I work with an insightful woman and mentor, Gina Airey, who started her independent consulting firm. My home base is Toronto but I often facilitate with clients in California. I collaborate with senior teams to assess how they are performing, develop a vision and plan to improve

performance and then focus on conversations, approaches and tools that will help them move from where they are to where they want to be. It's a very rich, collaborative experience. I get to work with inspiring people and draw on my background in psychology every day!

WHAT IS LEADERSHIP TO YOU?

I define leadership on an individual and a collective level. As individuals, regardless of what level we are at currently, we can think critically and creatively, and look for opportunities to take initiative to make things better without necessarily being asked.

On an organizational level, leadership can be like conducting an orchestra. The leader sees all the moving parts and all the players, and has a vision for how to move forward, bringing out the best performance from the experts of each instrument, while harmonizing all of them as the song unfolds to completion. I also think the best leaders also look beyond immediate gain, and encourage players to experiment with perspective. It's about clearly communicating your plan and/or expectations of people, while understanding that you don't have to do it all yourself.

IS THAT A CHALLENGE FOR SOME LEADERS?

Yes. People are often promoted to management because they excel at what they do — they're star performers. But once they become managers, the job isn't necessarily to execute on the front lines anymore, it's to develop other performers who will. That's an additional skill set. I've been researching, writing and testing a program to teach managers how to coach their direct reports.

DO WOMEN LEAD DIFFERENTLY FROM MEN?

There are differences in the way that women and men lead. But there's also diversity in leadership approaches from woman to woman. We need different kinds of female leadership to complement the range of strengths, growth opportunities and challenges in any environment.

WHAT DOES "BRESCIA BOLD" MEAN TO YOU?

It's the interplay between the initiative you show up with, and the Brescia environment. Brescia offers the encouragement, connections and educational excellence to help you grow into a bold yet mindful leader, prepared to make positive contributions to the world around you. ■

“

IF PEOPLE HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE KEY, THEY SHOULDN'T BE GETTING IN THE CAR.



PICTURED ABOVE

Jordan Ammoscato (L) with project team member Emily Manka.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Spin Doctors: A student leadership project goes viral

It's a YouTube video that has been viewed more than 25,000 times.

Accompanied by pounding music, we watch several young people chug bottles of water, place their foreheads against the end of a baseball bat and spin around, and then try to use a key to unlock a car or house door. The hashtag at the end: #takethekeys.

The challenge, a version of a popular drinking game, was created by Jordan Ammoscato and her team as part of Brescia's Dimensions of Leadership course to raise awareness about the dangers of driving drunk. "We wanted to simulate how you feel when you're under the influence," she says. "If people have trouble with the key, they shouldn't be getting in the car."

Professor Kathy Burns teaches the Dimensions of Leadership course. It culminates in a group assignment — a project that pulls together the learning of the past year and provides an opportunity to apply team leadership skills. Once the project is complete, the teams report back about the theories and skills they used, and their major learnings.

Burns says that students often plan a fundraising event or clothing drive. Ammoscato and her team went further. "We wanted to use social media," she says. "For our age group, we thought it was a better way to reach more people. And we knew how big the ALS ice bucket challenge was." The team also recognized that impaired driving was a problem in their demographic. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among 16 to 25 year-olds, and alcohol or drug impairment is a factor in more than half of the crashes.

Each team member made a video doing the challenge and posted it on their social media the weekend before the project was due. By the time the team presented in class, there were 22,000 views, and the number continued to climb. Additional members of the project team included: Emily Manka; Luke Fenn and Riley Oickle.

"The project was sparked by creativity, it was simple and engaging, and it was impactful and filled with purpose," says Burns. "I am very proud of them."

For Ammoscato, the key learning was clear. "We realized that we could have an idea, put it into action and see it make a difference."

To watch the video visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVmgRKxmp0w&feature=youtu.be> ■

Taking on a Roomful of Men

Penny Rintoul has made her career in a male-dominated world, and shares her expertise and experience with Brescia

When Penny Rintoul '87 was touring Western University as a high school student, she spotted Ursuline Hall high on the hill overlooking campus and walked up to investigate. "I fell in love with the place," she says.

She completed her undergraduate degree at Brescia in what's now called Business Management & Organizational Studies (BMOS), and then switched to Western for her combined degree in law and business administration. After working at the City of London legal department as a limited-market securities dealer, and at Credit Union Central of Ontario, she is now an Associate with RZCD Law Firm, focused on wills, estates, and a corporate and commercial practice, largely with credit unions.

Through her work in the credit union system, Rintoul met fellow Brescia alumna Nadia Martin '55, who encouraged her to get involved with the fledgling Brescia Foundation. Rintoul served as a member and Chair of the Governance Committee, and then as a member and Chair of the Foundation board. "It's been a great group of people to work with," she says. "Because I want to support the institution it was a logical place for me to get involved."

Rintoul believes there is real value in a women's university. She remembers one of the first Brescia Bold advertisements, which depicted a brightly-coloured high-heeled shoe. Although controversial at the time, the ad resonated with her. "I'm frequently the only woman in a roomful of men," she says. "I love colour, so I'll be in a red dress surrounded by a sea of navy and black suits. It's about not being afraid to be a woman, taking on a roomful of men!"

She met her husband, Kirk, at the Bar Admission course, and today he teaches law at Humber College. They have two daughters adopted from China, now teenagers. Rintoul is an opera enthusiast and an accomplished photographer.

Although the Foundation has now formally amalgamated with the University, Rintoul continues to be involved. She is helping plan her 30th anniversary class reunion at Homecoming 2017, and will play a role in supporting Brescia's ongoing fundraising efforts. "A women's-only university might not be for everybody, but there's a group of women who do benefit," she says. "And there's only Brescia in Canada." ■



“

IT'S ABOUT NOT BEING AFRAID TO BE A WOMAN, TAKING ON A ROOMFUL OF MEN!



EMPOWERING CHILDREN



PICTURED ABOVE

In March, Selvi Santosham '84 received the MS Chellamuthu Award in recognition of her pioneering work in education

Selvi Santosham was 19 years old when she arrived on her own from India to start classes at Brescia. Thanks to a visa mix-up, she was a month late for the beginning of school, and the residence was already full. "I remember feeling very perturbed," she says. "I couldn't imagine how I was going to stay by myself."

The Brescia community soon embraced her. Her business professor, Ken Bowlby, offered to rent her a room in his family home, beginning a warm relationship that has lasted for more than 30 years. She settled into her courses, helped out in the Bowlby household and eventually worked as a teaching assistant, a research assistant and even as an Avon sales rep.

"Coming to Canada was a major culture shift," Santosham says. "Brescia taught me how to be on my own and how to adapt and adjust. My self-confidence was strengthened. Canada is the country that made me who I am."

Santosham returned to India when she had completed her degree. After her first daughter was born, she was hired to handle special assignments at House of TVS schools in Madurai. The company operates five schools, a teacher training college, a community college and a

school for children with autism. Santosham is now head of Administration for Lakshmi Vidya Sangham, the trust that runs the schools. Her responsibilities include supervising teaching staff, systems, recruitment and procurement, maintenance and budgeting. "My career journey has been exciting because of the opportunities given to me," says Santosham. "Over and above my responsibilities, I was able to pick up projects that I wanted to do, be creative and make improvements."

One of those improvements was the introduction of the Japanese concept of Total Quality Management (TQM) to the schools in 1998. Today, students complete some 170 TQM projects every year. "All of the 21st century skills we want young people to develop come out of this movement," Santosham says.

In one project, a group of grade nine students focused on reducing drinking water wastage in their school. A few simple recommendations resulted in cost savings to the school and earned the team national and international awards. Another project tackled food waste, reducing total wastage at one school from 14.2 kg per day to 1.8 kg. Santosham says students "have an edge" after working through TQM projects.



“Life is a series of challenges and problems,” she points out. “How you approach them is very important. You can’t jump to conclusions; you have to be calm and level-headed.”

Santosham has three adult children. Her husband, a lawyer, is now a district judge. As retirement nears, she is hoping to spend more time doing the things she enjoys — reading, writing, travel, gardening and especially working with disadvantaged people. She is currently completing a PhD in psychology, looking at the impact of teacher burnout on teaching effectiveness.

“Some people say an administrative job is boring, but it’s what you make of it,” she says. “The real reward comes when I am able to empower a child.” She adds that receiving a national award during the month of International Women’s Day had special meaning for her. “I dedicate my award to all the women in the world who are doing silent service and of course to God. What I am and what I achieved is sheer God’s grace.” ■

“

LIFE IS A SERIES OF CHALLENGES AND PROBLEMS. HOW YOU APPROACH THEM IS VERY IMPORTANT. YOU CAN’T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS; YOU HAVE TO BE CALM AND LEVEL-HEADED.

“Joyous and Elated”

Brescia professor recognized for her work on behalf of academic women

When Dr. Helene Cummins began her studies in sociology, there was no such thing as gender studies. It wasn't until she was working on her Masters degree at the University of Waterloo that she discovered the field that has inspired and fascinated her ever since. “A whole new world opened up for me,” she says. “It was so exciting and so relevant to everyday life. As a young woman, I could see how few women leaders there were, and the challenges and push-back they faced.”

Cummins joined Brescia in 1993 and completed her PhD in 1996. In July of 2017 she was named Full Professor at Brescia. While some of her research has been on rural issues, her core interest is women in the workplace. She has written about the “mommy track” in academia, “queen bees” and “female academic bullies” and other gender issues. Her current research explores the impact of being child-free on women's career paths. She has coined a new term — WINKs (women with an income and no kids).

Cummins has also been very active as an advocate for women. As chair of the Status of Women committee of the Ontario Conference of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA), she led a listening tour at seven universities, involving more than 70 female subjects. “We found that women were up against the same things they had been 25 years earlier,” she says. “Yes, there are more of them but they are still battling discrimination, harassment, wage and work inequities, high teaching loads, work-life balance and more.” The committee made five recommendations centred around the idea that each university should have a female faculty colleague to support women facing challenges. “It was hard and difficult work,” she says, “but it was also very joyous because we knew we could assist women and advocate for agency and policy changes.”

To honour her exceptional leadership and vision, Cummins received the 2016 OCUFA Status of Women Award of Distinction.

Cummins says Brescia has been a wonderful place for her to pursue her career. “The women who established Brescia had such an incredible vision — building a beautiful university to advance women in accessing knowledge as power. Although the Ursuline Sisters are no longer in our hallways every day, they will never be forgotten in my mind, heart and spirit.” ■



Inspiring Boldness

Dr. Edward Bell and Professor Jennifer Broxterman share top teaching honours

“Dr. Bell brought an unparalleled enthusiasm and thoughtfulness to the classroom, partnered with a collaborative learning approach. We were invited to engage, to question and to think for ourselves.”

“Professor Broxterman has an outstanding ability to make complex nutrition concepts simple, practical and easy to apply to everyday situations.”

“It is the respect and devotion he offers to all his students that characterizes Dr. Bell’s excellence in teaching.”

“Professor Broxterman has influenced many lives with her mentorship, commitment to student learning and passion for dietetics.”

As these comments from students reflect, Brescia celebrated two exceptional teachers this year — people who have touched, engaged and inspired their students.

Dr. Edward Bell, past Chair of the Department of Sociology and incoming Chair of the School of Behavioural & Social Sciences, received the Award for Excellence in Teaching for full-time faculty. Dr. Bell’s goal in teaching is to “awaken and sustain in students their natural wonder about the world around them” and to foster a love of learning and positive engagement with the world. Dr. Bell is known for teaching demanding courses in areas that students find challenging — statistics and research methodology. He provides a nurturing, low-stress and supportive classroom environment.

Dr. Bell is author of the most widely-used sociology methodology textbook in Canada, and is an active researcher who has published more than 30 articles, book chapters and other publications.

Professor Jennifer Broxterman is the recipient of the Award for Excellence in Teaching — Contract Faculty. Professor Broxterman is a registered dietitian and Brescia alumna who in her teaching, strives to help her students be independent thinkers and active learners. She keeps her course evidence-based and as up-to-date as possible, and uses a variety of active teaching approaches. Students often call Professor Broxterman a mentor and role model. ■



PICTURED ABOVE

Dr. Dominick Grace, Professor Jennifer Broxterman, and Dr. Edward Bell

Dr. Dominick Grace recognized for outstanding research

The Brescia Award for Excellence in Research was established in 2014 to recognize the outstanding research and scholarly accomplishments of a Brescia faculty member.

Dr. Dominick Grace has an Honors BA in English and Theatre from Toronto, and his Master’s and PhD from Western University. He began his research trajectory as a medievalist specializing in Chaucer studies. His academic career has spanned beginning first at Algoma University before arriving at Brescia in 2003.

Dr. Grace has a strong publication record of single-authored, peer-reviewed and refereed articles, as well as dozens of scholarly and popular culture reviews.

Dr. Grace’s nomination received letters of support from senior Canadian and international scholars, who cite the extensive range and diversity of his work and its important contribution to preserving and understanding cultural worlds that can be ephemeral. One of those letters describes Dr. Grace’s work by saying that it “represents the best kind of scholarship that makes Canada aware of its diversity and strengths.” ■



PICTURED ABOVE

A few cookbooks from the collection that includes over 850 publications donated by Martha Molina Steers

JOIN US!

Brescia will celebrate the official unveiling of the Martha Molina Steers Cookbook Collection on Homecoming weekend, October 21st and 22nd. Stay tuned for more details.

DONOR PROFILE

Recipe for Generosity

The Steers family donates a collection of cookbooks that mirrors food trends over the past 50 years

When Martha Molina Velez Steers, '51 stepped into a food lab at Brescia for the first time, she had never cooked before.

A native of Colombia, Martha came to Brescia to study the emerging field of Dietetics. At home, her large family had a cook, so she had no experience in the kitchen.

After graduation, she returned to Colombia and started the first-ever hospital-based dietetics program there. Then she married Canadian Barry Steers, and her life took a different turn. Barry joined the foreign service, and the young family began a peripatetic life that took them to postings around the world. Wherever they went, Martha quickly became the heart and soul of the ex-pat community, entertaining regularly.

"My mother was a recipe follower," says daughter Sara Steers, who served on the Brescia Council of Trustees from 2004 to 2012. "She believed recipes were the best way to entertain, and she entertained in support of my father's career." At each posting — Singapore, Greece, Israel, Bermuda and beyond — she also learned the cuisine of the host country.

Cookbooks were a natural way to pursue her interest — she read them voraciously, not only to plan menus, but also to feed her curiosity about the history and background of various foods. Soon, family members were bringing her cookbooks whenever they traveled, and there were new books under the Christmas tree each year. In later years, she continued to collect, often following celebrity chefs like the Galloping Gourmet, Martha Stewart and more recently, Lucy Waverman. "She had a most eclectic interest in cooking," says Sara. "From Osso Bucco to bread and butter pickles, she wanted to know about all of it." There are more than 850 cookbooks in the collection.

Among favourite family recipes were Chinese fried rice and Singapore-style curry, both recipes she learned from a cook while posted to Singapore, and Pike Chowder, an interpretation of Bermuda Fish Chowder using fish caught near the family cottage east of Ottawa.

The Steers family have made several generous gifts to Brescia, so it was no surprise that Martha wanted the collection to go the University. After her death in 2016, Sara and her brothers offered the books to the library, together with a donation to ensure that they could be restored, preserved and catalogued. Director of the Beryl Ivey Library Caroline Whippet explains the impact that the donation will have on the students and the programming at Brescia. "The Steers cookbook collection adds a new and unique dimension to the Library," says Caroline Whippet, Director of the Beryl Ivey Library. "Foods & Nutrition students, as well as those studying in other programs, will be able to learn about and try cuisines and culinary trends from around the world. It's also an opportunity to welcome the local and research communities into our library."

Sara says the collection provides a fascinating window into food, cooking and social trends from the 1960's to now. It also reflects Martha's warm and hospitable nature. "My mother made food, hearth and home the centre of her life and her family. The collection is an expression of that — the core of who she was." ■

LOOKING BACK

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, based on the excellent history written by Professor Pat Skidmore, we learn a little about special events and activities in the first decades of the University.

Hearken our pledge! This day we freely choose / This Ursuline College as our Alma Mater / Trusting that she her spirit may infuse / And make us each her own beloved daughter. / And we in turn pledge her with heart and hand / In loyal truth to love her and revere, / Honour her name, respect her least command, / Render her service, faithful and sincere.

So began the pledge taken by first-year students at Brescia in the early days. Then as now, Brescia was a community with its own culture and traditions. As Skidmore writes, "There was a family spirit about the College. The Sisters were motherly and the students were sisterly. Everyone shared everyone's triumphs and troubles."

Among the special occasions that marked early student life was St. Ursula's Day in October. An account of the 1933 event, which included a scavenger hunt, noted, "At two o'clock Brescia treasure hunters gathered in the social room where they were given the first clue. The second took them north and the third to 'some spruce grove' . . . We were eager even at five o'clock for supper. Presto! The fire blazed. Presto! Bacon sizzled. Bread toasted. The dean buttered and everybody ate. Bacon never tasted better. Strawberry jam topped off the last pieces of toast while the best coffee in America went round and round. Apples and candy disappeared and songs began . . ."

Another beloved tradition was the Christmas party lovingly prepared by the Sisters for the students. There were gifts from Santa tied on the Christmas tree, a musical program and seasonal refreshments.

In the mid-50's students began the tradition of giving a party for disadvantaged children and carolling at hospitals.

The social highlight of the year, then as now, was the Brescia Ball. The Ball was first held in 1938. When their escorts came to pick them up, students descended the marble staircase in the main rotunda of Ursuline Hall in a rustle of chiffon and taffeta. After the ball, they came back to Brescia for a buffet supper prepared by the Sisters.

A special end-of-year tradition was the Home Economics fashion show, involving carefully prepared scenery, flowers and music followed by a formal tea. In March, the College hosted students from across Ontario for the St. Thomas Symposium, a philosophy conference with prizes for the best presentations.

Graduation Week has always been special, of course. In the 1920's, Sir Philip Pocock, a strong supporter of Brescia, arranged for a picnic and baseball game at Port Stanley, a popular resort on Lake Erie. By the mid-40's, an elaborate Senior Serenade party had been developed to honour graduates, and a special dinner was the occasion for formal induction into the Alumnae Association. From the very beginning, the Baccalaureate service was at the center of everything. The first graduation in 1923 featured a speech by a great scholar, who went on rather longer than expected. Writes Skidmore, "When it was finally over, Brescia's graduates received witty congratulations not only for completing their four years at College, but also for passing this final 'endurance test!'" ■



PICTURED ABOVE
Brescia students gather in the
Rose Room in the 1950's

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ALUMNI BENEFITS

Best of Both Worlds

A message from Lisa Haagsma '92, '07,
President, Brescia Alumnae Association

We all know the benefits of being graduates of Brescia. The strong foundation of high-quality education. The confidence to lead boldly. Lifelong friends. Great memories. A warm sense of community with more than 8,000 alumnae living around the world.

But did you know there are also some very practical benefits of being a Brescia alum? First of all, you are automatically a member of the Brescia Alumnae Association. We keep you connected with Brescia through special events and activities, and you receive BOLD Magazine twice a year in addition to our quarterly online newsletter, BOLD on the Go. To help you stay in touch with your classmates, you have a free Brescia email account for life, and you can borrow books from any library on campus.

This year, in an effort to continue to offer new benefits, the Alumnae Association worked closely with Western to promote the free Western Alumni Card to all Brescia graduates. It includes Brescia-only perks like 15% off merchandise at the Bottega and 10% off accommodations. To learn more, visit <http://brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae/alumnae-services/>

We also partnered with Western on Ten Thousand Coffees, a free service that helps you find interesting graduates and connect with them online, one-on-one or as a group to share ideas and advice over a cup of coffee. This online network is exclusive to alumni and students of Western and the Affiliates. Looking for some helpful connections or want to give back to your fellow alumnae? To learn more, visit https://www.tenthousandcoffees.com/hub/westernu?vip_page=westernu

We are all very fortunate to have shared the Brescia experience, and it doesn't end with graduation! I hope you'll get involved with your Alumnae Association and take advantage of the many benefits of membership. ■



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IN MEMORIAM

Lives Lived

Brescia honours three remarkable trailblazers, who all made an impact in the community and who chose to lead

Sister Mary Louise McKenzie, '58

“She was so smart, so funny, and so kind. She gave all of herself to her students, and to everybody around her. She was deeply spiritual, and she was a broad-minded intellectual.”

That’s Dr. Monika Lee, talking about her colleague and dear friend, Sister Mary Louise McKenzie.

Sister Mary Lou did her early schooling at The Pines in Chatham and then attended Brescia. After graduating, she taught at The Pines and Brescia before moving to the University of Toronto to earn her PhD. A voracious reader, she focused her PhD research on Robert Louis Stevenson and later developed an interest in Canadian literature of the Second World War. In addition to her teaching duties at Brescia, she served as Superior of the Brescia Community and as a Councillor on the Ursuline General Leadership Council.

Monika remembers her as a “wonderful colleague,” able to give her sage advice and strong support. “I looked forward to department meetings — on one occasion we wore funny hats, on another we brought stuffed animals, we cracked jokes. Sister Mary Lou and (fellow English professor) Sister Corona were brilliant but could be utterly silly.” The two friends were famous for their puppet productions of important plays, with Sister Mary Lou acting as chief puppeteer.

Sister Mary Lou also gave her time to support Limberlost, an affordable housing community in northwest London, and helped many new Canadians get established. She herself sponsored several Vietnamese refugee families.

“People who had her as a professor were very fortunate,” says Mary McGrath, a classmate. “She had the knowledge, and she devoted herself to the people around her.” Monika Lee agrees, adding, “She loved to swim, she loved to laugh, she loved to read. She was a well-rounded, warm-hearted person who found pleasure in a life of service.”

Pat Doig

During the final months of her life, Pat Doig received hundreds of emails from friends, colleagues and former students. Says her sister Cathy, "The common theme was, 'I credit you with the person I am today.'"

Over a long career as an educator, Pat Doig led schools in the London District Catholic School Board, established the Robarts Demonstration School and was Principal at Matthews Hall, a private school, for 18 years.

Long-time colleague and friend Janet Frame says she loved to work with Pat because of the values she held and practiced. "She was a person who could build a team and develop people who saw what she saw," says Janet. "You had to work very hard for her, but it was satisfying because her values were so child-centred." Pat had a special talent for spotting the potential in people, and bringing it out and developing it.

Pat served on the Brescia Board of Trustees for eight years. Janet says, "She felt special kinship with Brescia and its values." Adds Cathy, "Her work at Brescia gave her a great sense of meaningful contribution to an institution that she saw as an important element in education in Canada. The advancement of women was of high importance to Pat and she felt strongly that the most effective path was through education. She perceived Brescia as a leader in that arena."

Asked about her sister's legacy, Cathy replies simply: "Her students."



Joyce (Curran) Gillelan '55

Joyce Gillelan arrived at Brescia in 1952 and in a very real sense, she never left. She served as President of the Students' Council in her final year and then became Class Rep. She held that position long enough to plan the 60th reunion for her class.

Mary McGrath, '57, remembers meeting Joyce Gillelan. "Joyce was thoughtful, kind and charming — a true friend to all at Brescia, especially newcomers," says McGrath.

After Brescia, Joyce worked for the *Brantford Expositor* and the *Globe and Mail* as a journalist. When her family of eight was grown, she returned to school, completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at York University and was a volunteer with the McMichael Art Gallery and Colborne Lodge.

Throughout her life, Joyce maintained a connection with Brescia friends Joan Francolini, Pat Pettigrew and Nadia Martin. "Our first bond was Brescia, and it remained close to our hearts for over 60 years," wrote Martin in her eulogy. The women met regularly to plan reunions and discuss fundraising opportunities. Under their leadership, the Class of '55 established a scholarship, funded the computer lab and most recently created the Ursuline Leadership Award for a first-year student in the Master of Science in Foods & Nutrition program.

"Joyce served wholeheartedly in love for others — her family, her friends, her Church and her Brescia," wrote Martin. "Once a Brescia girl, always a Brescia girl!" ■

MILESTONES

JOYCE MARIE (CURRAN GILLELAN) '55 died peacefully on January 7th, 2017, surrounded by family at Dorothy Ley Hospice. She was the cherished wife of Thomas Johnson Gillelan for 59 years. Loving mother of Tom (Christine), Robert (Pascale), Janet (Scott), James (Lynn), Anne (Felix) and Margaret (Ivan). She was predeceased by her sons Patrick and Peter. A devoted Grandmother to Kelly (Jeff), Rebecca (Jordan), John (Brooke), Calvin (Amanda), Tyler, Kaitlyn, Sarah, Peter, Katie, Lya, Vianne and Christina. Great-Grandma to Claire. Loving sister of Betty Robson and sister-in-law to Katherine Smith (Calvin). Joyce graduated from Brescia College at UWO and worked for the Brantford Expositor and the Globe & Mail as a journalist. After marrying the love of her life, John, she raised her growing family. In 1987, she attended York University and completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts. She was a docent at McMichael Art Gallery and a volunteer at Colborne Lodge. Dinners, especially birthdays and Christmas were cherished family occasions, as she treated us to her culinary delights. Joyce touched the hearts of everyone she met through her kind and giving spirit, unconditional love, her strong faith and her passion for life. She will be greatly missed by her family and cherished friends.

Brescia mourned the passing of beloved **SISTER MARY LOUISE '58** (formerly Sister St. Wilfrid Mackenzie), who died on January 5th, 2017. Mary McGrath, '57 noted that, "Brescia friends gathered in Toronto at St. Cecilia's Church on Sunday, March 19 for a Mass in remembrance of Sister Mary Louise Mckenzie where she was baptized, named for St. Cecilia, the patroness of musicians and Church music. Our most sincere thanks to Father Edward Euczynski. We were blessed to have known her, an awesome educator and friend, who taught her students, as Psalm 119 suggests, "goodness, discipline and knowledge," and so much more. Prayers for the deceased during Mass also featured students who came to Brescia in September 1954 with Sister Mary Louise and included: Dr. Catherine Cole-Beuglet; Annette Calarco; Pat (Griffin) Charles; Mary Kay (Brown) Kelly; Mary (Minhinnick) Pritchard and Betty (Grundy) Rothwell. Class Representative for 1957, Nora (Hanley) Newton organized the event including lunch after at the nearby Grenadier Cafe.



Five friends who met at Brescia more than 50 years ago and who have remained good friends ever since: **CLAIRE COLLINS PRIEUR '67; COLLEEN OGILVIE '67; PAT MCMANUS CAREY '67; RITA BERDUSCO CORSINI '66 AND JOYCE O'CONNELL MCGUIRE '67.**

KATHERINE A. STRANKAY '70 has four grandchildren and belongs to her city's Senior Fitness Association where she enjoys playing shotput, golf and walking during her retirement years.

SISTER MARGOT FISH '71, osu recently celebrated her 79th birthday. She recalls some of her fondest memories teaching in the primary system in Canada and Peru and her best teaching experience as an Instructor of T'ai Chi Chih with seniors since 2002.

NANCY REYNOLDS '87 received her 25 year milestone watch from the City of Toronto in the fall of 2016 and has been Curator at Mackenzie House for the past 2.5 years. Prior to that she worked for 18 years as Museum Site Coordinator for Spadina Museum.

MICHELLE DEVOS, '88 had the fortunate opportunity to attend the 2017 Baccalaureate and Magisterial Exercises at Brescia on June 19th as she watched her daughter Alicia Devos '17 receive her Brescia ring and recite the Alumnae Pledge.

Condolences to the family and friends of long-time Brescia community member and volunteer **PATRICIA DOIG**, who passed away on December 23rd, 2016.

IZABELA BIELASKA '09 married the love of her life, Justin Hornblower on September 1st, 2012. They welcomed their first child on June 28th, 2014, Preston Hornblower, and their second child on April 13th, 2016, Ella Hornblower.

CASSANDRA STIVER '12 married Darryl Stiver on June 12th, 2016. During her time at Brescia, she played for the Western Mustangs Softball team. She met her husband on the ball diamond, he proposed on the ball diamond and naturally, they had a baseball themed wedding — because "some of the greatest memories are created at home," she says. One of her bridesmaids, Amanda Passi, also attended Brescia.



EDITA DINDIC '12 got engaged in April 2016 and has since purchased a home with her fiancé. Their marriage took place on July 8th, 2017. Edita is currently working at the University of Waterloo as Coordinator of International Student Experience.

AYA MAGDY MOHAMED ALI SOROUR ALGHERIANY '13 successfully completed her dietetic internship at London Health Sciences Centre, while employed at the Muslim Association of Canada (MAC) and is now working as a registered dietitian as the Operations Manager at MAC.



SISTER JANE FRANCES (MABEL CATHERINE) STOCK entered eternal life on Sunday, June 18th, 2017 at Villa Angela, Chatham, Ontario. She was born in Kinkora in 1921, daughter of the late Mary (Kelly) and Leo Stock. She entered the Ursuline Sisters of Chatham in 1941. During her religious life she served as a pastoral worker, nurse's assistant and sacristan in Chatham, Wallaceburg, Windsor, Stephenson and St. Ignace, Michigan, Rockyford, Alberta and Brescia University College, London. She moved to Villa Angela in December 2010. She is survived by sister-in-law Ruth Stock (Jim) and was the cherished aunt of many nieces and nephews. She is predeceased by her siblings Leo, Joan Martell, Eleanor Bannon, Hazel Howe, Sister Marina OSU, Dorothy Lenihan, Audrey Martell, and Jim.



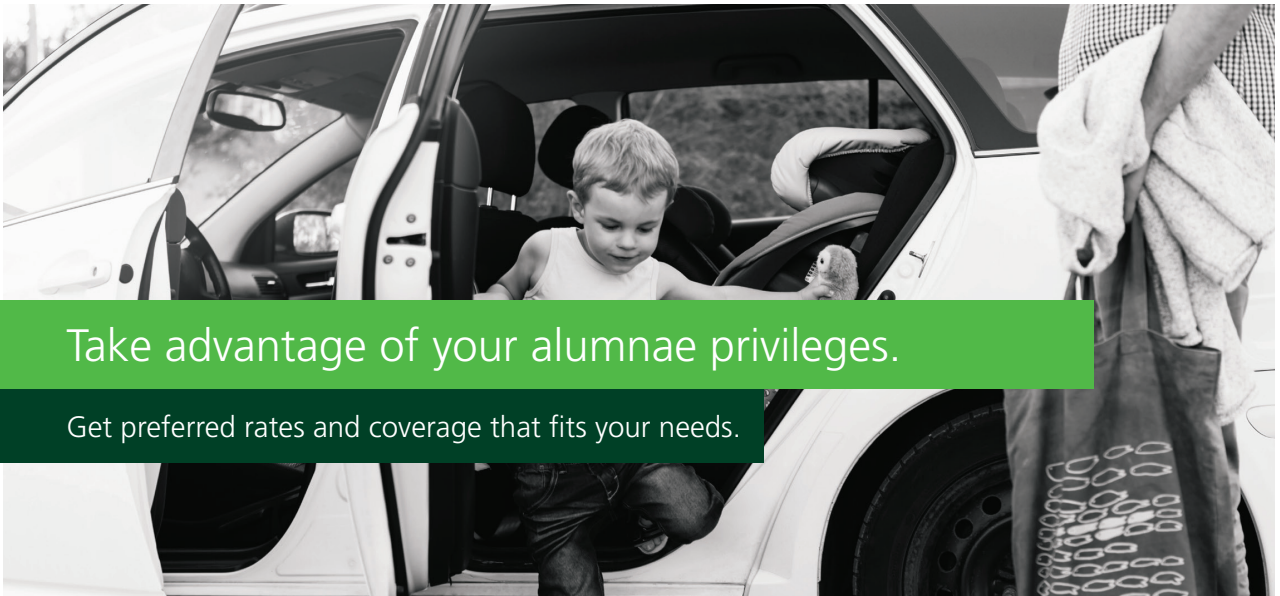
CAROLYN SCHINKEL '12 and her husband gave birth to a baby girl, Claire Elizabeth Schinkel, who was born in Chatham, Ontario on April 6th, 2017.



SAMANTHA GIANOTTI '07 and her husband Adam welcomed their newest addition Rocco on February 25th 2017, weighing 8lbs 3oz. Big sister Alba is thrilled. ■

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