

SPRING/SUMMER '08

**BRESCIA
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE
ALUMNAE
BULLETIN**

bulletin



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INEZ & LARISSA MELECA

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN
IN LEADERSHIP
UPDATE

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS
JODY EDWARDS

BACCALAUREATE 2008

STUDENTS MAKING CHANGE
**KATE BRYANT, STUDENTS'
COUNCIL PRESIDENT '08/'09**



GET TO KNOW
**KRISTAL HARTWELL,
CHAIR OF THE ALUMNAE
COUNCIL'S STUDENT & YOUNG
ALUMNAE COMMITTEE**



Alumnae Council President's Message

Mary Beth Sullivan '98
mbsullivan@diadhuit.com

Baccalaureate is a highly valued tradition at Brescia. This year we celebrated the accomplishments of 93 graduates. Brava to each of you! Many of you were met by alumnae ambassadors and encouraged to leave contact information with us. We will be getting in touch because we want to know how we can help you and only you can tell us. You can get in touch with the Alumnae Association, too; several ways are listed in the bulletin. As you leave Brescia, please do not forget why you came.

A special thank you to the many who work faithfully to make Baccalaureate the grand day it is. Your efforts do not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated. For those alumnae who missed Baccalaureate this year, please contact the Alumnae Relations Office and book the day for 2009. You know you want to be there!

This year has been particularly rewarding for me. I am indebted to the alumnae and to the College who continues to support positive change within our volunteer structure. The Alumnae Council recently gathered for a day to discuss its guiding principles and determine how we can accomplish some of our immediate goals. We have been listening to your suggestions and recommendations so it is my hope that you will be pleased about plans we will initiate.

The Annual Gathering and General Meeting is just around the corner. On Saturday, June 21 from 2:00 to

4:00 p.m. we will be serving locally grown strawberries in our strawberry shortcake and sharing the results of Council's productive year. A highlight of the day is our keynote speaker, Theresa Topic. Theresa is an engaging speaker who is always articulate and witty not to mention informative. The day will afford you the opportunity to enjoy a last oratory from her and to question her about future plans. Future plans? Ah, yes indeed there are future plans but you will have to attend the AGGM to learn more.

I do hope to see many of you on June 21. For those I miss, please have a joy-filled summer.

ON THE COVER: Baccalaureate speaker Martie Grof-Iannelli '77 with Dr. Patricia Skidmore.

ABOVE: (left to right) Melissa Mask, Melanie Caldwell-Clark, Beckie Laskey, Helen McHenry, Mary Beth Sullivan, Kristal Hartwell, Katie George, Jenn Purdy and Cathy Davidson
Absent: Kelly Almeida, Marilyn Campbell, Tiffany Chin, Sheriann Heath-Johnston, Donna Stewart (absent from photo, but present at the Strategic Planning session), Stephanie Zonneville.

“It’s not surprising that women learn to be change agents at a women’s university college. Our students are expected to think critically and to bring careful analysis to the problems they encounter in the classroom...”



Principal's Message

Dr. Theresa Topic, Principal

A new tag line has emerged at Brescia recently. “Women who can change the world” appears on the College’s *viewbooks*, annual reports and other documents as a confident statement that Brescia is educating women who are empowered to make change happen.

It’s not surprising that women learn to be change agents at a women’s university college. Our students are expected to think critically and to bring careful analysis to the problems they encounter in the classroom, and they are encouraged to carry those practices to the world they encounter beyond the classroom. Because we are a women’s college, our students are accustomed to women as leaders and as decision

makers. Alumnae from earlier eras at Brescia share in this perspective, since they observed the model of the Ursuline sisters managing the College and making the decisions that allowed the institution and the students to thrive.

As I near the end of my term as principal, I am struck by the intensity of change that has enveloped Brescia in the last nine years.

The change with the most profound effect is probably the transformation of the governance structure. Following careful planning and consultation, the Ursulines ceded control of the College in 2001 to a Council of Trustees charged with ensuring Brescia’s continued excellence. The Council of Trustees has emerged as a wise and committed team with broad representation from the community, from alumnae, and from the Brescia community. This spring the College completed the purchase from the Ursuline sisters of 43 acres of Brescia land and of the buildings, a purchase that is possible only because the Ursuline community continues its generous support of the College’s mission.

The focus on women’s leadership has strengthened at Brescia in the last few years. The Alumnae Council’s institution of the Carmelle Murphy Award of Distinction in 2001 to honor outstanding graduates of Brescia was one of the first steps on this path. The award has provided an annual opportunity to celebrate alumnae who have carried the Brescia ethos out to the world and served as agents of change. The new award to an outstanding Young Alumna, to be presented at Homecoming 2008, is a welcome addition.

With the founding of the Institute for Women in Leadership (IWIL) in 2007, we have launched an exciting array of programming that is encouraging students, alumnae,

women in the community, grade school girls, college employees and others to explore their capacity for leadership. The College has collaborated in the hosting of three conferences that have considered women as leaders, and other gatherings are in the planning stage. Alumnae have been strong supporters of IWIL initiatives, and planners are keeping the interests and needs of alumnae in mind as they consider future steps for the Institute.

And certainly upgrades to the College’s teaching and study space rank high on any list of important changes at the College. The new Beryl Ivey Library was the largest single project and continues to enjoy a high level of enthusiastic use among students who appreciate its open and inviting atmosphere. Alumnae were key supporters of the library project, and of the SuperBuild projects that allowed construction of new classrooms and offices, and upgrades of existing space. Today’s university students have high expectations. They expect to find high quality facilities that will meet their needs and enhance their learning experience. Brescia students now enjoy space and facilities that have been significantly improved. There’s more to do, of course! But recent graduates returning to Brescia express astonishment at what has been accomplished.

Alumnae Council has changed, too. It has become a very forward-looking organization committed to higher levels of communication with alumnae, and intent on encouraging more alumnae to be actively involved with the Council and with the College. All of us at Brescia are inspired by the pride that Brescia alumnae feel in their alma mater as an organization that stays true to its mission and vision while actively embracing change as essential to growth.



EXCERPTS FROM THE **Jody Edwards** VALEDICTORIAN '08 **VALEDICTORIAN SPEECH**

Whether you're off to work, teacher's college, grad school, or travelling, you have an advantage over those in the world around you. This is because you had the opportunity of being part of such a privileged environment at Brescia.

I remember when I chose to come to Brescia in high school. It was friendly, had small classes, and offered generous scholarships. At the time, I figured I would only stay a year, and transfer to main campus for second year. However, once I came through the Brescia doors for orientation week and my first classes here, I knew I belonged, and never considered leaving again. I was especially inspired to attend Brescia as a women's college because of my greatest academic inspirations. My mother went back to school while I was in high school, and my Grandmother took courses after raising her 10 children. I have been so proud to follow in their motivational footsteps.

We have all changed and developed so much in the years we have spent at Brescia. We have been shaped by our surroundings into respectful, compassionate, intelligent women. There is a diverse variety of women here today... Although we are all so different, we all have so much in common from our time spent at Brescia. Aside from the obvious similarity of all being female, we share some other important qualities. We have learned to be self-confident leaders, unafraid to share our opinions.

We all aspire to fulfill goals with inspiration from the great women whose portraits line our classroom halls. We all know and appreciate the feelings of solidarity, acceptance, community, and diversity. Along with the vast knowledge we have all gained, we have also had the advantage of learning how to be beneficial members of society.

I have so many memories from the past four years at Brescia...The people I have met have taught me a lot, and mean so much to me. If you are like me, you have been lucky enough to create friendships that you will always value, and have even made friends with professors who have always supported and guided us.

When I look around this room and see all of the exceptional women that are going to make a difference in our world, I can't help but imagine how many more women have graduated since Brescia opened in 1919. I am honored to be graduating among all of you, and cannot wait to continue my life with the strong base I have built as a Brescia student.



Baccalaureate Speech **Martie Grof-Iannelli '77**

It is an honor and a privilege to address this august body. First, I would like to congratulate the graduates! Well done! You are the fruit of an arduous struggle to ensure that women have the right to education; traditionally it was thought that, if educated, we would be better wives and mothers. In fact, we now choose education in preparation to take our rightful place in all aspects of life and to make a difference!

Brescia had a profound, life altering effect upon me. Brescia gave me a sense of community, a sense of belonging—not only in lasting friendships but also by offering me an intellectually rich environment that opened up new worlds of thought for me. One course, in particular, had an overwhelming impact upon me. “Women in History”, taught by Dr. Pat Skidmore, influenced me well beyond my undergraduate experience and continues to influence me today. Dr. Skidmore transformed me into a “tenacious information terrier” and thereby was influential in my choice of profession—librarianship.

I want to personally thank Dr. Skidmore, and Brescia for opening my mind and for providing me with the intellectual tools to compete and to succeed in my life's chosen profession. In fact, this has made all

the difference in my life. **In your life's story remember to picture yourself as the heroine.**

But how do you make a difference? Where do you start? Give of yourself within your family, your circle of friends, within your job and within your community. **Get involved!**

Have integrity and surround yourself with those with integrity. Lead by example and set your standards high.

Be passionate about your life's work. Make sure that you find a career that gives you a sense of fulfillment. Do something you love and all else will follow.

Take risks. Open your mind to opportunities. Explore the possibilities. Confucius has been quoted as saying, “our greatest glory is not in never

falling, but in rising every time we fall”. **You will make mistakes.** Do not be disheartened. For every incredible invention, miraculous cure, technological innovation people have made mistakes.

It's a big world... it's just too big a task... there are too many things which need to be done... You do not have to tackle the whole world or all its problems. You have been given solid, sustainable tools with the education received through Brescia—choose just one tiny project... just one need, rise to the challenge and give of yourself and make a difference.

The truth is, we have been given many blessings and many privileges. We take so many things for granted. **Count your blessings.**

Christopher Robin said to Winnie the Pooh, “You are braver than you believe; stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think”. The tools have been given to you. Accept life's challenges and **grow.** Enjoy life's blessings! Remember at all times that WE believe in you—You are ready and you will make a difference! Congratulations graduates!





Alumnae Profile

Mother & Daughter Share Brescia Bond

Julie Maltby
INEZ REID MELECA '72 & LARISSA MELECA '02

When Inez Reid Meleca graduated in 1972 with a BA in English, her plans for her future included raising a family. Years later, when her daughter Larissa Meleca (BA '02) was exploring her post-secondary options, Inez encouraged her to consider Brescia. Today, they share a love of their alma mater and the lessons learned at the College that have helped them to navigate the change in their lives.

Inez's decision to attend Brescia was also influenced by an alumna. Sister Maris Stella, known as Marjorie MacDonald to her classmates from the class of 1940, was also Inez's high school teacher. At Brescia, Inez learned values that have guided her life choices. After graduation, she attended Toronto Teachers' College and enjoyed a teaching career for 31 years. In her retirement, she is active in the Catholic Women's League and other ministries at St. Joan of Arc parish. "The value of sharing time and talents with others was encouraged right from Frosh Week at Brescia. Over time, I came to appreciate the tremendous service and commitment that the Ursuline Sisters provided for us. Their example inspired me to also encourage my children and students to seek excellence and happiness in personal and academic pursuits."

Recently, Inez's strength and faith helped her to fight an unexpected and frightening life change. "Discovering I had cancer last year threw me into a temporary tailspin. However, I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of incredible support and understanding from family and Brescia friends, especially Miriam, Anne and Mary Roselle. I've learned to appreciate that life really is a one-day-at-a-time adventure and I'm more conscious that every day is a gift." Larissa has also learned the value of giving. She treated Inez to a mother-daughter trip to Italy before Inez's surgery, which Inez describes as "the trip of a lifetime".

It was not a forgone conclusion that Larissa would follow in her mother's post-secondary footsteps. "Larissa was initially reluctant to go to Brescia, but I had confidence that she would benefit from the experience and I'm so grateful that she did enjoy her time there. Sharing the Brescia experience has certainly played an important part in creating a special bond between us," Inez said.

Larissa is grateful to her mother for encouraging her to go to Brescia. "My years at Brescia gave me time to reflect on what I wanted to do with my life and who I wanted to be. I learned about my strengths and weaknesses, and chose an appropriate career for myself...The mentors I had, especially Sister Corona Sharp and Dr. Monika Lee, gave me lots of personal attention and advice to help me grow and mature into an authentic person. Knowing how to be authentic has been my key to making good life decisions."

Since graduation, Larissa has embraced change. She moved to Calgary and worked with a top-producing realtor. In 2004 she became a licensed realtor. A year later she changed her focus from sales to real estate financing, and started her own business as a Mortgage Broker. She and a partner are currently preparing to launch a new online business designed to help the mortgage

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.

"Professionally, I am most proud of my success as an entrepreneur. When I wanted to start my own business, almost everyone said it was a mistake. To be financially prosperous and be so happy doing what I love to do, is such a gift," says Larissa. In addition to Larissa's professional success, she is grateful for the people that fulfill her personal life. "Personally, I'm most proud of the healthy, mature, personal relationships I have. I am so lucky to have many friends, mentors, and loved ones that I respect."

Inez attended Homecoming for each of the three years that Larissa received a Mother-Daughter bursary. Larissa recalls her joy in sharing this and other Brescia experiences with her mother. "I was proud to see my mother's picture among all the Brescia graduates in Ursuline Hall's living room. It made me feel as though I was part of a family

tradition. I will encourage any daughters I have to attend Brescia for the reasons my mother wanted me to go, and the reasons it was a special and significant part of my life, too."

Students Making Change



Kate Bryant
STUDENTS' COUNCIL PRESIDENT '08/'09

Change surrounds us. We change our minds, our clothes, our beliefs, our plans. In my life as a university student, change is especially present: my relationships are changing, my life path is changing, my world is changing, and I am learning new things every day. With all this change already upon me, why would I choose to go to a school that encourages me to be a “woman who can change the world”?

The answer is simple: I’ve realized (as much as I’d sometimes like to deny it) that change is inevitable. That leaves me with only two options: I can be a woman who can change the world, or I can be a woman who lets the world change me...and what if I don’t like what the world has in mind?

At Brescia, I have found an environment that has helped me to realize my desire to shape my surroundings as I am shaped by them. Being in a women-centered community that values participation and interaction has given me the opportunity to play an active role within the college.

In two short years at Brescia I have seen the inauguration of the Institute for Women in Leadership (IWIL), the development of the Scholar’s Electives program, the creation of the Master Plan, the opening of the new library, the establishment of a new student

conference, the launch of the summer camp program, the hiring of a new principal, the expansion of the Sophia Series and much more.

At other institutions these milestones may have passed me by unnoticed, but at Brescia I have been directly involved in every one. I have seen the hard work that goes into long-term planning; I have celebrated Brescia’s new library; I have had the amazing fortune to meet and introduce Severn Cullis-Suzuki; I have participated in the Women Making Change Conference; I have sat on several committees and I have had the opportunity to contribute something of my own in the form of the girls’ leadership camp.

However, it is not only the opportunities that I’ve had at Brescia that have impacted me profoundly. Brescia does not just encourage me to be a “woman who can change the

world”. The women at Brescia show me what that means. They have helped me realize my potential not only through their words and actions, but also through the enormous support and encouragement that they have provided me. I am certain that at no other college would the Director of Student Services, the Registrar, the Chaplain, the Dean, the Principal, the Residence Manager, my professors, the co-ordinator of the Circle Women’s Center, and other amazing college women personally check in with me on a regular basis to make sure that I’m happy, that everything is going well, and that I’m not too overwhelmed by the wealth of opportunities that they have provided me. As well, I am constantly amazed by the wisdom, creativity and dedication of my peers, whether it is working on a class project, participating in students’ council, or swapping ideas in the library. Being surrounded by women who are strong, confident, focused, and real has made me further appreciate myself and how incredible it is to be a woman.

This coming year, I am both honoured and excited to have the chance to serve as Brescia’s Students’ Council President. This seems a little unbelievable, since not so long ago I was setting foot on Brescia’s campus for the first time, not entirely convinced

that a women’s college was the place for me! Without my experiences at Brescia so far, I am sure that the duties of the Presidency would seem impossible. From supporting student leaders, to representing Brescia in a variety of capacities, to the day-to-day work of leading an organization, the President’s job is huge!

Amidst all these responsibilities, I feel that my most important duty is leading council through change. I want to ensure that we have direction, and that we build on past successes to further develop a council that supports students and meets their needs. Fortunately, Brescia has given me so many of the tools that I need to be successful: a caring community, inspiring role models, leadership skills, a sense of social responsibility, support and encouragement. While I am sure that next year will be full of challenges, I know it will be worth it: in a world that sometimes seems beyond my control, the opportunity I have at Brescia to make change in the world is truly a gift.



girls LEAD

The Girls LEAD Camp engages campers in self-discovery, team building, and leadership development, including arts, crafts, dramatic games, discussion, and more. Registration is limited to 18–20 campers per session so sign up now!

Session 1:
July 7–11
Entering Grades 3 & 4

Session 2:
July 14–18 and 21–25
Entering Grades 5 & 6

Session 3:
Aug 5–8 and 11–14
Entering Grades 7 & 8

For more information, contact Kate Bryant at 519.432.8353, Ext. 28037 or by email at lead@uwo.ca.

FRAME YOUR SUCCESS!

Congratulations to Alla Komar '08, who won the draw at Baccalaureate for a free degree frame! Degree frames are available for purchase by contacting brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca or calling 519.432.8353, Ext. 28280.



Get to Know Kristal Hartwell



THE YOUNG ALUMNAE AWARD OF MERIT

The Alumnae Council is pleased to introduce the Young Alumnae Award of Merit, to be granted for the first time at Homecoming 2008! To learn more about the criteria and to nominate a deserving alumna who graduated within the past five to 12 years, please submit your nominee(s) to Rita Gardiner by July 15, 2008.

CHAIR OF THE ALUMNAE COUNCIL'S STUDENT & YOUNG ALUMNAE COMMITTEE

When did you graduate from Brescia and with what degree?

I graduated Brescia in '03 with my Combined Honors French/History.

What was the last book you read?

I am currently reading *The Kite Runner*.

Tim's or Starbucks?

I am not a coffee/tea drinker so it would have to be Tim's with its wider range of products to choose from.

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

Although I do love my news stations on the television, I would have to say my car stereo. Music is a big part of my life. Music is always playing in the background. It's also a great companion when it's just you and the open road.

What talent do you wish you had?

I wish I could play an instrument, something like the piano.

Where do you go to think?

I tend to be a very social person, really hate being alone for any large amount of time. So with that, I would have to say since I am on the road so much going between work and home and Alumnae Council meetings at Brescia, I would say the road is my solace and where I can really think.

What do you enjoy about your volunteer work with Brescia?

I enjoy the camaraderie that takes place at Brescia and the chance to meet up with old and new friends. We all have that commonality with Brescia, so there is always lots to talk about.

What is the biggest challenge in your role on Alumnae Council?

The biggest challenge I find is getting the word out to alumnae about events and activities that we organize for them. There are some amazing events that your Council organizes and we want to make sure that all alumnae know that you are warmly invited to attend.

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

Best movie: *Pride and Prejudice* (BBC).
Worst movie: too many to chose from.

What is your biggest indulgence?

By far, it is chocolate. I cannot go a day without having it!

Is there anything you won't eat?

I am not a big fan of peas or refried beans; just something about the texture of them makes me cringe.

What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment is being the first in my family to receive a university degree.

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

I would have to say the telephone. There is something more personal about hearing the person's voice that you are talking with.

Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I became a teacher because I wanted to teach young people the importance of learning a second language like French and using languages to become citizens of the world. I also would like to credit my teachers and professors throughout the years that have instilled their love of learning a second language with such passion and enthusiasm. It is because of them that I appreciate learning languages and want to share it with others.

If you didn't become a teacher, what career path might you have followed?

My other passion has always been history and I have always had an interest in museums and preserving the past. I spent five summers working at my local museum while at university and learned so much about my community and the history of its institutions and people. If I wasn't a teacher, I could see myself as a curator of a museum.

What advice would you give to students graduating this year and to young alumnae?

Keep in touch! Whether it be through joining the Alumnae Council or coming out to your events, you are and always will be welcomed back with open arms. Brescia is such a special place to many and I want people to know that there is a whole other side to Brescia once you have gone through and graduated with your degree.

“My other passion has always been history...If I wasn't a teacher, I could see myself as a curator of a museum.”

NEWS FROM THE INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

As part of International Women's Week, Brescia hosted its first academic conference dedicated to the topic "Women Making Change". The purpose of this conference was to give women students and young alumnae the opportunity to share their research in a supportive environment. The topics were wide-ranging in content from Appalachian women songwriters to Sunday school teachers, to what makes studying at a women's college a very special experience. Participants came from universities across Ontario and Manitoba. What was also nice about this conference was that we had representation from women in the community who had never been to a university before. Further information and e-proceedings can be found at www.iwil.ca.

The evening before the conference, the Circle Women's Centre at Brescia hosted Michele Landsberg, journalist and author. A packed auditorium of 500 heard an impassioned, enthusiastic and amusing look at feminism over the last few decades.



Noelle Martin '04 BSc
Foods & Nutrition
RD Services
www.rdservices.ca

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.

LEADERSHIP: WHEN OPPORTUNITY MEETS PREPARATION CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2008
8:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.
BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Guest Speakers:

Anne Becker
Leading Successful Teams

Janet Frood
Creating the Vision

Allison Graham
*Business Etiquette/
Networking for Success*

Robin Honey
Personal Branding

Kathryn Munn
Negotiating for Success

Theresa Topic
Aligning People Behind the Vision

Lunch Keynote:
Emanuela Heyninck, Ontario
Commissioner for Pay Equity

Tickets: \$49.00 per person,
\$29.00 rate for students and
low-wage earners

For more information:
519.432.8353, Ext. 28293
or iwil@uwo.ca



Western Connections: Visits with Alumnae in Calgary & Vancouver

Rita Gardiner
DIRECTOR OF
COMMUNICATIONS &
ALUMNAE RELATIONS



ABOVE: Bernice McLean, Director of Education, Public Broadcasting Atlanta; Cherie Ann Richardson, Executive Director of Marketing & Communications, at Morehouse School of Medicine; Rita Gardiner, Director of Communications & Alumnae Relations; Judith Costello, Education Liaison Political Advocacy and Academic Relations Officer, Canadian Consulate General; Tina Bax, President, CultureWorks Inc.; Marianne Simm, Registrar; Dr. Marlene MacLeish '68, Professor, Department of Medical Education & Director, National Space Biomedical Research Institute Education & Public Outreach Program; Dr. Sally Davis, Vice President, Office of Institutional Advancement, Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. A. Elmoselhi, Dept of Physiology, Morehouse School of Medicine; Peter MacLeish, Director, Morehouse School of Medicine.

ATLANTA PARTNERSHIPS

One of Brescia's strategic directions is to expand international linkages with other women's colleges for student/faculty exchanges and the sharing of knowledge. Together with Marianne Simm, registrar and Tina Bax of CultureWorks, Brescia's partner in English as a Second Language (ESL) training, I visited Atlanta to explore developing partnerships and international exchanges. During this trip we visited colleagues at Agnes Scott College and Spelman College.

Much of the trip was organized by Dr. Marlene (Smith) McLeish '68, recipient of the Alumnae Award of Distinction in 2004, and Director of the Morehouse School of Medicine. She graciously hosted a dinner with representatives from Morehouse College, Public Broadcasting Atlanta and the Canadian Consulate. Future linkages will include knowledge sharing between Spelman's Centre for Leadership and Civic Engagement and Brescia's Institute of Women and Leadership (IWIL). This is just the beginning of establishing mutually beneficial relationships that will help Brescia promote its academic strengths and international reputation as Canada's women's college.



ABOVE: Calgary alumnae (left to right) Larissa Meleca '02, Caroline Malott '03, Kathryn (Weiss) Cliché '87, Rita Gardiner and Nicole Sansone, Brescia Admissions & Liaison Officer.

One of the most enjoyable parts of my job is being able to reconnect with alumnae in different cities. Together with Nicole Samson from the Registrar's Office, I met alumnae in Vancouver and Calgary. We also took part in Vancouver's first recruitment fair. Many of the young women I spoke with had not heard about "Canada's women's college" and were visibly excited at the thought of studying somewhere that focused on the whole person and enabling each woman to find her voice.

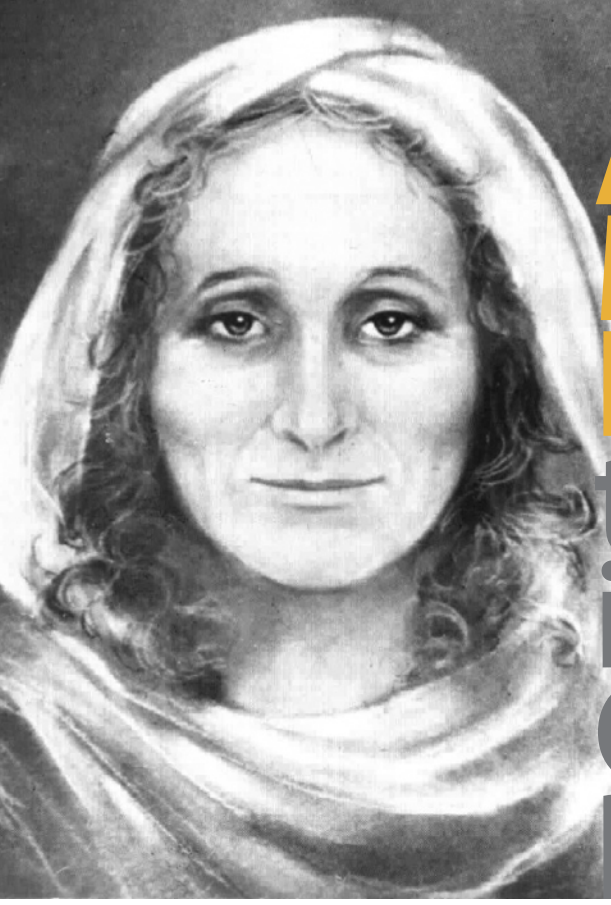
It was great to meet up with Maureen (O'Brien) Heath '78 whose son is currently at Western and her daughter is thinking about Brescia. I had breakfast with Denise Holliday-Lawson '99 and her lovely daughter, Livi. Denise told

me how she was the first in her family to attend university and how Brescia had taught her the value of good friends.

Each of the women I met was thrilled about the opportunity of becoming an ambassador for Brescia, and helping with recruitment efforts and general awareness of Brescia.

In Calgary, Larissa Meleca (featured with her mom, Inez, on page 7 of the bulletin) co-hosted a lovely gathering in a turn-of-the-century house that had been turned into a wine bar/restaurant. Through facebook, Larissa had reconnected with Caroline Vonka, who had lost touch with all her classmates. Kathryn Cliché talked about her change of career from major gift fundraising, and we discovered that she and Larissa were in the same line of business—financing mortgages.

When asked what Calgary alumnae want from their alma mater, the response was "more evenings like this one." It has been five years since my last trip out west. I hope it's not that long next time as the Brescia babes out west are great fun to be with. If you would like to host an alumnae gathering, please contact Rita Gardiner by calling 519.432.8353, Ext. 28293 or by email at rgardin2@uwo.ca.



Angela Merici's Legacy to Brescia included Change for Progress

Joan M. Lenardon
MA HISTORY

Editor's note: The following is a small sample from Professor Lenardon's original paper of more than 10,000 words. In keeping with the theme of "women making change", the excerpts chosen focus on Angela Merici as a force of change. Her legacy inspires change as a constant component of progress at Brescia.

Sister Frances Ryan had described Angela [Merici] in a previous Sophia Lecture as "a sage and a searcher." I would add that she was a uniquely typical visionary.

What was extraordinary about Angela from the time she returned to Desanzano till her death in Brescia, Italy, was her autonomy.

... on November 25, 1535, 28 "daughters" and "sisters", after attending Mass, signed the Book of the Company and formally inaugurated the Company of St. Ursula... Her Company, autonomously governed by women, succeeded in gaining the approbation of the Local Ordinary, Cardinal Cornaro, in 1536, just four years before Angela's death. This was a stunning achievement if one considers what was going on in the Church and society between 1516 and 1540, namely the transformation of Martin Luther's Protest into the Protestant Reformation.

The uniqueness of Angela's Company of St. Ursula was truly astounding... Angela

Merici's vision was egregiously ahead of its time, the same time which was being twisted to turn backward. It flew in the face of those religious and cultural taboos which were being dragooned to stifle the Protestant Reformation.

It is the examination of Angela's original and authentic vision within her own context that has enabled scholars to go beyond the facts, exemplary though they are, about Angela to a remembering of what Angela was about. It is the survival of the latter which we know inspired Mother Le Bihan to come to the New World and then later moved Mother Clare Gauckler to collaborate with Bishop Fallon to found Brescia College. And I believe, it is that gaze of Angela which still looks out at the world, "from a green hill set apart", from Brescia University College now in 2008.

The Ursulines of the Chatham Union have been transforming the inhospitable space of post secondary education for women, into a hospitable one since 1919, a very early date considering that "the first Canadian female student received her degree" from Mount Allison University in New Brunswick only in 1875.

... I should like to quote from Principal Topic's words of welcome to those who attended the first Sophia lecture on October 9, 2007. "We've all noted from

time to time that there seems to be a shortage of female role models for women aspiring to leadership. Especially with younger women, it's important that they be able to draw on examples of women whose actions have had impact, women of courage who are not afraid to speak their mind, women who have not been complacent but have worked actively and energetically for change."

I hope that we at Brescia continue to emulate the maternal generosity of the Ursuline Religious of the Chatham Union who for over 80 years have prepared their dear daughters to leave this strong and secure home, confident that in their own good time and their own way, they would return as friends.

So it is by way of these ruminations that I have come to think of Angela Merici as the Alma Mater, the Dear Mother, of Brescia Hall, Brescia College, Ursuline College of Arts, Brescia University College.

*** (Lyrics from the song "Looking back into our Future" by Mary Beth Sullivan)**

To read the entire paper, see the PDF on the "About Brescia" page of the web site at www.brescia.uwo.ca/about, or contact the Alumnae Office to request a printed copy.

URSULINE SISTERS MAINTAIN TRADITION OF CHANGE

Sister Mary Lou McKenzie



Brescia is an exciting place to be these days. The college is experiencing her potential in ways undreamed of in the past, while still expressing the founding values. In other words, Brescia is responding to Angela Merici's words of wisdom to the original members of the Company of St. Ursula in the 16th Century. Recognizing that nothing is static, she advised her followers to "change with times and circumstances". The founding of Brescia by the Chatham Ursulines in 1919 was in itself a remarkable change. Under the leadership of Mother Clare, the sisters dared to rely on their experience in elementary and secondary education to respond to Bishop Fallon's invitation to found a university-level college for women, affiliated with The University of Western Ontario (Western). Today we look with amazement at the evolution of this project, for the Brescia of 2008 owes its present reality to fidelity to Angela's advice about changing in response to "times and circumstances" while maintaining the original vision.

Perhaps the most far-reaching change in recent years has been the planning for and implementing of the current governing structure. Until the 1990s, the Chatham Ursulines managed the college according to their customs. As they faced the reality that there were not going to be sisters to do this much longer, they decided to set up a strategic planning committee including Ursulines, some faculty and staff from the college, from King's College and from Western. This group met for many months, worked very

carefully and consulted the college personnel as ideas for the new structure gradually took shape. In 1999, the first Council of Trustees was empowered; the following year, the college was incorporated and in the fall of 2000, the first Principal who is not an Ursuline was installed.

The structure also includes Councils and committees that provide for the involvement of all sectors of the college, including students, in its policy-making and operation. This arrangement means a lot of meetings; however, it has increased everyone's awareness of what is going on and gives opportunities to express concerns and views. New ideas, new programs, the Beryl Ivey Library and the south wing of the St. James Building give concrete evidence of the wisdom and promise of this change. Most exciting in this area is the new Master's Program in Food and Nutritional Sciences. "Home Economics" has certainly evolved from its beginnings in the 1930s in response to the changing role of women, especially as professionals.

Brescia's vision of herself as "student-centred community" is expressed in her response to the increased size and diversity of the student body. A new Student Services Department provides help in finding volunteer positions, organizes student workshops and listens to student problems and concerns. The Registrar's Office also has more personnel, including academic advisors. All of these people work in a spirit of collegiality and concern for the students that are part of Brescia's legacy.

In recent years, the student body has become more culturally diverse. The desire for such a development goes back to the 1940s and Mother St. James's efforts to welcome students from other countries. Now, international students form 15% of the student body. They come from South America, the Caribbean, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Their presence and involvement in student activities has increased student awareness of other cultures. This winter a group of Brescia students, along with two members of Student Services, raised the necessary funds and went to Thailand for "an alternative spring break." Their work with some children in an orphanage and their experience of the culture made a profound impression on them.

So, in the spring of 2008, as we stand at the foot of the hill and look up at Brescia, we see the original building, now called Ursuline Hall. We see the beautiful landscaping with trees, flowering shrubs and the garden. We know that inside the building, the art and architecture are still there, although "times and circumstances" may have brought about changes in the arrangement and use of various areas. The love of beauty that was an integral part of Mother Clare's philosophy of education for women is still evident. It has been continued in the buildings and landscaping that have been added over the years. The appearance of the Brescia campus, although different now from years ago, also speaks of the care and tending of Brescia's whole mission. The college has wisely followed Angela's practical words about undertaking change.

HOMECOMING 2008 OCTOBER 4 & 5

Come back to Brescia and make yourself at home!
All alumnae of graduating years ending in three (3) and eight (8) will receive a personal invitation to attend Homecoming. This is a public invitation to all alumnae to be our guest! Registration information is available online at www.brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae, by emailing brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca or calling 519.432.8353, Ext. 28280.

Dear Class of 1973,

Here it is, the spring of 2008, and I am hoping you are all thinking about the fall of this year as it is our 35th reunion coming up. I have been in touch with Linda (Koyanagi) Henderson and we have decided that we will organize a dinner location for the Saturday night (October 4). Please e-mail me at jsward6@cogeco.ca or Linda at larryhen@telus.net and let us know if you would like to join us.

YOUNG ALUMNAE COCKTAIL CLASSIC

The Student and Young Alumnae Committee of Brescia's Alumnae Council Invites You to Join Us for our First Annual Brescia Young Alumnae Cocktail Classic at Aroma Mediterranean Restaurant.

On Homecoming Weekend, come join us for an evening of great food, great fun, and great memories at Aroma Mediterranean Restaurant, Richmond Row in London.

There will be an extensive and delicious menu! A cash bar will also be available.

The event takes place on Friday, October 3, 2008, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Business dress is required. Tickets: \$30 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Julie Maltby at 519.432.8353, Ext. 28280 or by email at julie.maltby@uwo.ca.



BE OUR GUEST! Join Homecoming Chair Cathy Davidson and Alumnae Council President Mary Beth Sullivan at Homecoming 2008!

Schedule of Events:

Friday, October 3

7:00 p.m. - Young Alumnae Cocktail Classic at Aroma

Saturday, October 4

10:00 a.m. - Homecoming Parade

1:00 p.m. - Brescia Tour

2:00 p.m. - Anniversary Tea

2:00 p.m. - Homecoming Football Game Western vs. Windsor, Ticket price: \$30

A block of tickets for Brescia alumnae has been reserved in Section B. Contact Julie Maltby at julie.maltby@uwo.ca or by phone at 519.432.8353, Ext. 28280 by July 14, 2008 to reserve your ticket(s).

3:00 p.m. - Women's Panel

4:30 p.m. - Wine & Cheese Reception

6:00 p.m. - Golden Anniversary Dinner Ticket price: \$45, available for purchase in June. Call: 519.661.2199, Ext. 85739

Sunday, October 5

10:00 a.m. - Mass

11:00 a.m. - Class photos

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

2:00 p.m. - Brescia Tour

Visit www.brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae/events/homecoming.html for the latest details!



'57 Photo of the original class of 1957.

MILESTONES MARRIAGES BIRTHS & DEATHS

'57 At Homecoming 2007 class representatives Mary Kay (Brown) Kelly and Nora (Hanley) Newton served up a feast for the Class of '57. Classic French cuisine was on the menu at Auberge du Petit Prince on Friday evening. Nora provided wine for toasts. Following a leisurely breakfast on Saturday at the Hilton Hotel, grads toured downtown London, picked up flowers at the farmers' market for the Brescia Chapel and caught the Homecoming Parade of floats and fun. After lunch, it was on to Brescia for a program of a library tour, a panel discussion by grads and afternoon tea featuring shortbread made by Lucy Mahood. The day ended with the delightful Golden Anniversary Dinner in Great Hall at Western. Following mass in the Brescia Chapel on Sunday, the traditional reception, class photos, luncheon and presentations followed. The final highlight of the day was seeing Pat (Griffin) Charles '58 receive the Alumnae Award of the year for her development work at home in St. Lucia. Nomination material for this award was impressively prepared on behalf of the Classes of '57 and '58 by Mary Kay. Out-of-country alumnae at Brescia are missed at these Homecoming events and a mini-reunion somewhere in South America is being considered, so save your air miles fellow travellers.

Nora (Hanley) Newton's leadership skills were integral to the committee that

planned the World Day of Prayer 2008, held at her parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, on March 7, 2008 in Toronto. The ecumenical service was prepared by the women of Guyana and adapted for use in Canada by the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. Music accompanying the prayers and reception was provided by a harpist, the parish choir, Guyana drummers and the impressive young women belonging to the students' choir at St. Joseph Morrow Park Separate Secondary School in Toronto.

'59 Barbara (Walker) Baker is described by Melinda Dozzi as a "faithful writer". She and husband Con also love to travel. She spent spring 2007 travelling in California and Las Vegas, and notes she gambled only a little! She hopes to attend the 50th anniversary of the Class of '59 at Homecoming 2009, and is encouraging Helen Takack to come along, too. Helen lives in Vancouver.

Ann Marie (Hargeaves) Christie attended Melinda Dozzi's 70th birthday party last August with her husband Ron and granddaughter Emma. Anne Marie lives in Toronto where she volunteers at Sick Children's Hospital. She and her husband Ron escape to a cottage on Lake Panache in Sudbury.

Melinda (Cassio) Dozzi lives in Sudbury and has been retired for five years. She has suffered hip problems over the

past four years, resulting in surgeries. While in University Hospital in London, Melinda received a visit and communion from a Brescia Sister. Melinda has done some travelling, mainly to Toronto and San Diego to see her children. She is planning to attend Homecoming '09 to celebrate her class's 50th anniversary and encourages all of her classmates to join her!

Geraldine (Giacinti) Dunn stays in touch by sharing annual Christmas letters and photos. Like many of today's families, Gerri's children have migrated away from home, living in Vancouver, Calgary and Michigan, which gives her and husband Chris another reason to travel from their home in Hamilton. They also enjoyed a Caribbean cruise in February. She is hoping to make the 50th reunion of her class at Homecoming 2009 and looks forward to seeing others from the Class of '59 there, too.

Helen Hobson is staying fit through golf and participation in an intensive fitness program and is busy redecorating. She and Gerri (Giacinti) Dunn get together often to reminisce about their shared school history, having attended both high school and Brescia together "in the good old days".

Catherine (Foulds) Leslie is retired and living in Calgary, where she is an active volunteer.

Margaret Motz continues to volunteer in the Kitchener area, while enjoying her extended family and summer cottage. As an avid traveller, she visited France last December and spent Christmas in Paris.

Maria (Dravecky) O'Brien is an active volunteer. Last summer, she enjoyed seeing Michelle (Gore) Moffat in Niagara-on-the-Lake and sends her regards to Brescia friends.

Mary (Kelly) Shaughnessy is living in Toronto, where she volunteers with the Travel AGO (Art Gallery of Ontario) group to plan excursions for gallery members and the general public.

Marion (Leon) Timmins is busy with her sons and their families. She helps her son at "Big Red" in Thorold. She spends winters in Florida and enjoys going to the casino in Niagara Falls.

'66 Tania (Kosteczko) Orr met with Brescia classmates before Christmas 2007 at Ben (Brophy) Millar's home in Oakville for lunch. Sylvia (Romanelli) Lennon, Rita (Berlusconi) Corsini, Pat (Stevenson) Cino, and Louise (Wheaton) Gelinis all enjoyed a wonderful lunch prepared by Ben. Now that all are retired, they plan to get together more frequently.



Dr. Marlene MacLeish, EdD, Morehouse School of Medicine, professor of medical education and senior education fellow of the National Space Biomedical Research Institute was inducted into the International Academy of Astronautics on March 25, 2008 in Paris, France. The honor was bestowed upon MacLeish in recognition of her contribution to the field of exploration education.

Monda Rosenberg celebrates 30 years as Food Editor at Chatelaine Magazine. The popular Canadian publication marked its 80th birthday in March 2008.

'73 Sylvia Ranson, who served as President of Brescia's Students' Council, graduated from the Secretarial Science Program. Her career as Professor of Office Administration at community colleges has taken her around the world. After teaching for more than nine years at St. Lawrence College, in Kingston, Ontario, she moved to the island of Bahrain and taught Office Administration to Arab women at the Gulf Polytechnic Institute (now the University of Bahrain) for three years. Upon her return, she taught for 10 years at Sir Sandford Fleming College in Peterborough, and then moved to the United Arab Emirates to take up a post as Instructor at the Higher Colleges of Technology where she spent seven years teaching Arab women office administration skills. While there, she was awarded the Chancellor's Award for Distinguished Teaching. Now recently back in Ontario, she is Professor of Office Administration at Conestoga College where she has been responsible for re-establishing an Office Administration Legal Assistant program.

Jan Sward is enjoying retirement from teaching. It will be two years as of this June and she feels blessed to have been able to do this at her age. Her life is full of new activities, which includes a new obsession—quilting! She is also very involved in her church community and her husband and she have just returned from a service/learning project trip to Nicaragua.

Mary Fox and her husband have moved to the Minden area into a new home. Both of them retired from teaching in 2006.

Gail Sweezie has been busy preparing for her daughter's wedding in May and continues to work in the food industry developing new formulas for fruit fillings and other products for Tim Horton's.

'84 K. Leanne Fisher Kuria is Deputy Director Purchasing for Sanofi Pasteur Limited in Toronto, ON.

'88 Sally (Jordan) Fairs obtained her Bachelor of Education in 1990 from the University of Manitoba. She was married to John Fairs in December 1993. Jack Ronald Jordan Fairs was born January

1997 and Andrew John Alan Fairs was born June 2001. Nellie "Might Machines" Lumpy Fairs, a German shorthaired pointer, arrived at the Fairs home in April 2006.

'93 Jennifer MacKenzie, B.Sc. H.Ec. '93 is pleased to announce the publication of her first cookbook. Co-authored with Byron Ayanoglu, the *Complete Curry Cookbook: 250 Recipes from Around the World* (Robert Rose 2007), was released in March.

'96 Karmen (Ferraro) Dowling, husband Sean and big sister Avery were thrilled to welcome Kaelie to their family on June 24, 2007.



'97 Dawn Shaw is currently living in Windsor, Ontario with her husband and three beautiful children: daughter Margaret, age six, and two sons Maxwell, age four, and Myles, 9 ½ months. When she is working she is part of the management team at La Vie En Rose. She hopes to attend teachers' college when her youngest is a little less dependent.

'08 Dr. Patricia Skidmore, who became Brescia's first Honorary Alumna in 2008, is officially retiring from Brescia on June 30. She writes, "I can imagine some frustration for returning alumnae who try to turn in overdue essays or return my books borrowed in 1976, 1992, etc., when they visit Brescia in the future and can't find me. If they know I am permanently poolside, they'll just keep the books... I may limit my reading to Danielle Steele anyway." Alumnae are invited to reach Dr. Skidmore by email at skidmore@uwo.ca.

MARRIAGES

'03 Andrea (Nichols) Davies married Brady in a very private ceremony on January 16, 2008 at the Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. They now reside in

Georgetown, Ontario where they own and operate The Cellar, a successful steak and seafood fine dining restaurant.

BIRTHS

'93 Carolyn Christo and her husband Jason welcomed their first child Jenna Catherine Blanchette (7lb 10oz) on March 3, 2007 in Toronto, Ontario.

'98 Jennifer (Hiuser) Clark and her husband are proud first time parents of a little girl Abigail Lynne, born on October 16, 2007.

'03 Shelby (Burstein) Firsten gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Leah Beth Firsten, on February 29, 2008.

'03 Jennifer Purdy '03 and husband Mathew celebrated the birth of their first son, Dylan Mathew Purdy on December 22, 2007. He was a healthy baby at 7lbs 8oz.

'00 Tracy (Ernest) Reid and husband Jeff are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first child! Elizabeth Catherine Reid was born on March 14, 2008 at 12:35 a.m. in Strathroy, Ontario. She weighed 7lbs 14oz and measured 21.5 inches. She looks just like mommy and is the apple of daddy's eye!

'92 Nicole Stewart is pleased to announce the birth of her daughter. Victoria Claire Stuart was born at 4:13 p.m. on November 30, 2007 and both baby and mom are doing great.

Rhea Johnson, Brescia's senior liaison officer, and her husband Scott welcomed their first child, daughter Alice Audrey Johnson, on March 13, 2008, weighing 7lbs 6oz.

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

'59 Michele (Gore) Moffett, Toronto, and her sister Carmen Waldegger, Ottawa, on the death of their mother Winnifred Gore on January 25, 2008.

'59 Maria (Dravecky) O'Brien of Fonthill, Ontario, who lost her husband, Jim.

UPCOMING EVENTS

IWIL Leadership Conference When opportunity knocks... are you ready?

Thursday, June 19, 2008
8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Brescia Auditorium

Alumnae Association Annual Gathering and Meeting

Saturday, June 21, 2008
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Take Back the Night

Thursday, September 18, 2008
6:45 p.m.
Peace Gardens

Doors Open London

Saturday, September 20, 2008
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Homecoming

Saturday, October 4 and
Sunday, October 5, 2008

IWIL lecture of The Sophia Series

Wednesday, October 15, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Brescia Auditorium

Dr. Patricia Skidmore Presents

at the Western Alumni Lecture Series
Tuesday, October 14, 2008
9:00 a.m.
University of Western Ontario,
main campus

Breakfast for Bursaries

Thursday, October 23, 2008
7:00 a.m.
Speaker to be announced

Installation of Brescia's 11th Principal

Saturday, November 1, 2008
St. Peter's Cathedral Basilica
Details to be announced

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