With yet another summer having ended, and another school year already in full swing, I have taken some time to reflect on the events of the past year. What I see is both future change and strength in our past foundations. Since the adoption of our bold new brand, and the subsequent launch of the Living Leadership strategic plan, Brescia has certainly increased its presence as a leading educational institution of the present and for the future. This is reflected in the significant increase in student enrolment numbers this year, which brings us closer to reaching our ambitious growth target – a 20% increase by 2015. To accommodate our planned and realized enrolment increase, we are building an exciting new residence and dining pavilion to be ready for occupancy in September 2013. We will break ground this year and will watch eagerly as our residence complex takes shape in the coming year and a half.

Paired with growth has been our abiding goal to provide a compassionate and student-centred educational experience. One manifestation of the caring approach first fostered by the Ursuline sisters was the Race Relations Award we received from the city of London. Presented to Brescia by Mayor Joe Fontana, the award recognizes the initiatives being undertaken to increase individual and group awareness of biases and prejudice. While many of Brescia’s students make valuable contributions to our world regularly, one student in particular – Leenat Jilani – represented Brescia on a global stage this summer. Taking part in a trade mission in Malaysia as part of Global Vision's Junior Team Canada, Leenat embodied leadership and all that Brescia stands for. Potential for student leadership was also evident in the many participants in our third annual Take the Lead public speaking competition. Seeing and listening to the inspiring messages these young women offered is always a reminder to me of what it means for women to be bold and empowered leaders, and solidifies my confidence in the young students at Brescia today. I am pleased to see contest winner Sarah Van Dusen on our campus this year, and look forward to observing her leadership capabilities grow during her time at Brescia.

While changes abound at Brescia, these changes are built on a bedrock of enduring values and traditions. This summer a new tradition was added to an old ceremony – in addition to our Baccalaureate ceremony, we also held our first-ever Magisterial ceremony for post-graduates. This combined ceremony was held on June 12th in the beautiful St. Peter’s Basilica. We kicked off the new academic year with Foundress Day, to both welcome new and returning students and pay tribute to those who founded our Brescia in 1919, beautifully combining the old and the new. We are, at all times, building for the future and honoring our roots.

Dr. Colleen Hanycz,
Principal, Brescia University College
In August, Brescia political science student Leenat Jilani was selected as one of 21 Canadian youth ambassadors for Global Vision’s Junior Team Canada. Sponsored by Brescia and the Canadian government, Leenat promoted Canada and Brescia while networking with government officials and business representatives at a trade and development mission in Malaysia and Indonesia. Utilizing her leadership skills gained during her time at Brescia, Leenat promoted Brescia to prominent scholars, teachers, and Ministers of Education. She toured secondary schools and universities, speaking to youth about pursuing an education in the west and particularly at Brescia. Leenat believes that Brescia, as Canada’s only all women’s university, has a vital role to play in the global marketplace by providing an outstanding quality of education, on a human scale. Leenat recognizes Brescia’s ability to establish itself as an institution that leads the way in nurturing female leaders who will take their place in the workplace both nationally and internationally. By attending the mission Leenat strengthens Brescia’s ties with Malaysia and Indonesia.

Grade 12 student “Takes the Lead” and a one-year scholarship

On April 9, 2011 Grade 12 student Sarah Van Dusen was awarded a one-year academic scholarship to Brescia as the winner of the third Take the Lead high school public speaking contest hosted at Brescia annually. Sarah’s poignant and personal five-minute speech paid homage to two female leaders – a developmentally delayed classmate who pushes boundaries and encourages others to do the same, and a Nobel Peace Prize recipient. It was Sarah’s conviction, coupled with her poise, which mesmerized the judges.

Dr. Colleen Hanyecz, Principal of Brescia, spoke warmly of Sarah’s speech. “When I handed her the trophy, I saw tears welling in her eyes. It was at that point I knew that ‘women and leadership’ wasn’t just a topic that she could speak about for five minutes. It was actually an ideology that she wholeheartedly embraced. I am so happy that she is on campus this year.”
At a meeting of the Brescia Council of Trustees on March 31, 2011 financing approval was secured to break ground in 2012 for a residence that will open its doors in September 2013. Initial plans were revealed to community members and guests at Brescia’s Town Hall community meeting in May and an update was provided at a second Town Hall on Oct. 12.

The new low-rise complex will accommodate 300 students in a series of units, each containing a small number of beds with en suite bathrooms and common areas. The units will create an interior courtyard behind Ursuline Hall, where Brescia’s existing residence is located. Co-ordinator of Brescia’s Council of Trustees, Maria Knowles, says of this new project, “This is good news for Brescia. We are on a growth target and are so pleased to be able to begin work on this new complex.”

The building of a new residence was identified as a key objective in Brescia’s five-year strategic plan. As a gesture of endorsement and support, Brescia’s Student Council has donated $40,000 towards the new residence.

Award-winning author Emma Donoghue speaks at Brescia

Emma Donoghue, the award-winning author of *Slammerkin, Hood*, and the newly released and highly acclaimed novel *Room*, visited Brescia on May 19, 2011. Presented by The Circle Women’s Centre as part of the Sophia Series lecture, Emma’s talk included various views on the theme of motherhood as experienced in her life and revealed throughout her works. In 2010, *Room* became an instant bestseller, winning numerous awards and receiving international praise, including being shortlisted for the prestigious Man Booker Prize. As a prominent writer who never shies away from themes of female empowerment in her works, she was a natural choice for The Circle – a centre for women’s spirituality and activism – to invite for this Sophia Series lecture.
Faculty Research and Scholarly Activity Highlights
July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011
Prepared by the Office of the Academic Dean

Arts and Humanities


Food and Nutritional Sciences


Social Sciences


Sociology and Family Studies


Conference Presentations
Arts and Humanities
Dr. Dominick Grace (English) – Grace, G. (2011). The last Canadian and the Canadian apocalypse. Presented at Mythcon 41, Dallas TX.


Food and Nutritional Sciences


Social Science

Sociology and Family Studies


Student awards and accolades
- Double Major Psychology and Sociology graduate Kathleen Larion won the Brescia Council of Trustees Gold Medal for highest standing in an Honors Program;
- Nadia Maiolino, completing an Honors Specialization in Psychology, earned the Merici Award in Arts and Social Science for the highest standing in an Honors Program in Arts and Social Science;
- The Sister Felicitas Award recognized English graduate Lyndsay Schouten for achieving the highest standing in a third- or fourth-year program;
- Lisa Mannik won the Foods and Nutrition Award for graduating with the highest standing in the BSc Foods and Nutrition program in 2011;
- The 2011 Valedictorian distinction was awarded to Natalie Symons;
- The Magisterial speaker for 2011 was Laura Vandervet.
The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the financial position summary as at April 30, 2011 and the summary of revenue, expenditures, and changes in net assets for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Brescia University College for the year ended April 30, 2011. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated June 28, 2011.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles, and the auditor's report dated June 28, 2011 should be read in conjunction with these summary financial statements. The summary financial statements in this document are intended to provide a reader with a broad overview of Brescia University College's financial performance for the year ended April 30, 2011, and should not be considered a complete substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Brescia University College.

Management's responsibility for the summary financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described below.

Auditor’s responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were designed in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 180, “Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.”

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Chartered Accountants
London, Ontario
June 28, 2011
At an annual Community Meeting held in June, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) Board Chair, Peter Johnson, announced the appointment of Brescia University College’s Principal, Dr. Colleen Hanych, to the 22-member LHSC Board of Directors. Colleen and two additional Board members joined the LHSC Board of Directors following an extensive seven-step selection process that ensured each nominee’s skill set would be an asset and resource to the Corporation.

“We are excited to have these new Board members join us at such an important time in our history,” said Peter. “Their combined experience and business acumen will help guide LHSC over the next few years. Their commitment to the mission and vision of LHSC will continue to position our hospital as a leader in our community, dedicated to safe and quality patient care.”

Brescia Principal appointed to the London Health Sciences Centre Board

On June 12, 2011 at St. Peter’s Basilica, Brescia held its 89th Baccalaureate ceremony and first-ever Magisterial service, which celebrated students who had earned post-graduate MSc degrees. Laura Vandervet, a graduate of the Foods and Nutritional Sciences Masters program, was Brescia’s first-ever Magisterial speaker. She ended her Magisterial speech on an inspirational note, stating, “We leave here today bound by our shared experiences – accepting the fact that in order to see change in the world we must be leaders.” 2011 Valedictorian Natalie Symons addressed the challenges that graduates face in today’s world, but offered words of encouragement for the future. The good news to Natalie is that “we leave Brescia privileged with the power and potential to make changes so that one day we too may see our own children walk across a stage such as this one.” Dr. John Mitchell, Academic Dean, also announced the Honor Society Members on this day.

On June 13 students, parents, and friends attended an Alumnae Luncheon and outdoor Awards Ceremony. Brescia’s graduates and graduands processed as a group to Convocation held at Western’s Alumni Hall. The procession was led by bagpiper Eileen Robertson, followed by Brescia’s Registrar, Marianne Simm, the Director of Campus Ministry, Catherinanne George, plus the 105 graduating students. All walked down Brescia Lane, cheered on by proud parents, faculty and staff members, and friends.

Brescia celebrates graduates and graduands in a two-day celebration

Brescia witnessed phenomenal increases in student numbers this year. Full-time student numbers showed a 10.7 % growth this year over last.

This increase in acceptance rates aligns with Brescia’s strategic plan, Living Leadership, which highlights an overarching goal to recruit 1,200 full-time students by 2015. With this increase in student enrolment numbers Brescia is well on its way to reaching this recruitment goal and continuing to expand its vibrant, student-centred environment.

Brescia acceptance rates increase due to student-centred approach

Registrar Marianne Simm believes that Brescia’s recruitment approach is unique. “Brescia faculty and staff spend a great deal of time engaging in two-way communication with prospective students. We actively listen and respond to students’ questions and we’re very adamant about building relationships. We use a student-centred approach to recruitment and make students feel like a part of the Brescia community before they even attend their first class.”
Brescia receives City of London’s Race Relations Recognition award

On Monday March 21, 2011 London’s City Council and Mayor Joe Fontana presented Brescia with the Race Relations Recognition Award in honour of the dedication that Brescia has given to create an inclusive environment both on campus and abroad. Awarded to businesses in five categories, Brescia was the recipient in the 2011 Education and Training category. The winner of each category is recognized for heightening awareness for positive race relations in London and encouraging ongoing city-wide activities that promote/advance London as a welcoming city.

In addition to the Girls LEAD camp in Barbados and the pro-biotic yoghurt initiative in Africa, at the heart of Brescia’s internal attention to race relations and diversity is the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI), administered by Brescia’s International Program Co-ordinator, Christina Lord.

Dr. Leslie Janes receives Excellence in Teaching award

At Convocation on June 13, Dr. Leslie Janes, Professor of Psychology and Brescia University College’s Associate Dean, Student Affairs, was awarded the 2011 Award for Excellence in Teaching. It is Leslie’s balance of high standards and compassion, along with her ability to make each member of the class feel welcome and valued, that has set her teaching style apart from others. An upper-year student said of her, “I have yet to meet a teacher who is as skilled, caring, and compassionate.

Foundress Day

Faculty, staff, and a number of Ursuline sisters gathered to welcome the Class of 2015 as well as returning students at Brescia’s very first Foundress Day Ceremony on September 7, 2011. Sister Theresa Mahoney delivered the keynote address, enriching all assembled with stories of Brescia’s rich history. A mixer followed with great food, a popular photo booth, and music by the quartet “It’s a String Thing” featuring fourth-year student Stephanie Varriano, her sister, and two friends.

Brescia students enjoy the mixer and the Polaroid shots taken after the formal ceremony.