

BOLD

CHAMPIONING DIVERSITY IN LEADERSHIP

Brescia's new Centre

FRESH START

Brescia charts an exciting course in a post-pandemic world

REMEMBERING A BOLD AND CARING WOMAN

A new award honours the life of alumna, Suzanne Anderson

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Brescia University College BOLD Summer 2022

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News items and letters to the editor are welcome. Send by post to: Editor, BOLD or email brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca

The alumnae magazine is published once annually. Please submit your milestones for the Summer 2023 edition by May 1st, 2023 to brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca

We reserve the right to edit some submissions for length.



It's really happening — this September you are invited to Homecoming at Brescia IN PERSON!

There are lots of great reasons to come home to Brescia, but the best one is that it feels good to be on our beautiful campus and in the embrace of our welcoming community again. During the pandemic, we did a good job of pivoting to an engaging online experience, but there's nothing like being here and reconnecting with your fellow alumnae.

The activities planned this year include a Women's Leadership Panel, the President's Luncheon, Ursuline Convocation and a chocolate tasting with alumna and owner of Rheo Thompson Candies, Kristene Steed '93. Check out more details on the back cover.

During Homecoming, we will also be unveiling a plaque to celebrate a special campaign gift from past and present Alumnae Association Board members.

The gift will be recognized by naming a meeting room on the second floor of the Academic Pavilion. The space will be used to hold Board meetings and will also be available to students, faculty and staff. In addition to current Board members, we also reached out to past Board members to contribute to this group gift. We hope future Board members will continue to contribute, ensuring that the room can be updated as needed.



Heather Hurst and Chris Patrick '97.

This is the first time the Board has come together to support a financial initiative at Brescia. We see it as our opportunity to leave a permanent legacy and at the same time, connect with current students. As they pass by or use the room, we hope they'll see the plaque and be reminded that the Brescia experience doesn't end with graduation.

By the way, if you haven't had a chance to tour the Academic Pavilion, you're in for a treat — it's an extraordinary building that brings past and present together beautifully. Don't worry — there are still lots of other spaces to be named in the Pavilion, so if you'd like to contribute, please let us know!

But of course, financial contributions aren't the only way to stay connected with Brescia. Being part of alumnae and university activities, events and committees can be deeply rewarding and an opportunity to feel part of something bigger than yourself. If you want to reconnect with your classmates, while also nurturing your unique personal and professional gifts, Brescia will soon be offering micro-credentials, innovative short courses ideal for upgrading skills or learning new ones.

What was great about your university experience at Brescia, whenever that was, is still great today. Brescia is as vibrant as it has ever been and welcomes all alumnae to be part of our present and future.

VIEW FROM THE HILL

Brescia welcomed The Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould to speak about *Leading with Truth* at Brescia's fifth annual Dr. Colleen Hanycz Leadership Lecture. While on campus, she had the opportunity to meet with members of the Students' Council.



Emily Campbell '13 & '16 and retired Food Lab instructor, Lucy Mahood, led a cooking class in the Brescia food labs as part of our 2021 Virtual Homecoming programming.



On November 29th, Dr. Frederking, along with Catherinanne George '91, Brescia's Director of Campus Ministry, had the opportunity to visit the Ursuline Leadership Circle at Villa Angela in Chatham to engage in a strategic planning consultation discussion.



President Frederking had the opportunity to host a dinner in Ottawa on October 25th. Guests in attendance included (seated left to right) Joan Wyatt '72, Andra Taylor '12, Jenn Giurgevich '09 & '11, Dalia Wood '15, Linda O'Connor, Heather Hurst, Nancy Richards '79 and Muriel Rowe '08.



April 8th was the last day of classes for the Class of 2022 and they celebrated at the Alumnae Welcome Reception. Alumna, Cassandra Caranci '15, provided a special address, focusing on finding your passions and what inspires each of us to achieve greatness.



On May 30th, Brescia was thrilled to welcome over 100 guests to share the vision for the new Centre for Leadership. Attendees heard from Kyle McDonald, Melissa Vandermeer '08 and Maria Daniella Quinones Rodriguez '19 as part of a fireside chat on leadership. Additionally, President Frederking and the Centre's Distinguished Chair, Dr. Marlene Janzen Le Ber, spoke about the Centre's invigorating approach to leadership development.

VIEW FROM THE HILL

Following the pandemic, a joyous return to an in-person graduation celebration at Brescia's 98th Annual Baccalaureate & Magisterial Ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica.

President Laretta Frederking, Chancellor Maude Barlow, and the 2022 Dr. Joan Francolini Distinguished Speaker, Ann Gordon '78.



Class of 2022 Grad Speaker, Mikayla Castagna, alongside Dr. Heather Kirk '07.

Master of Science in Food & Nutrition graduates prior to Western Convocation; Tarryn Macleod, Megan Rossini, Sarah Shpurko, Natalie Topp, Anna DeLange, Colleen Eve, Megan Versteegh, Victoria Friscioni, Claire Sutherland, Sarah Tiessen, Tia Tucci and Lauren Muncey.

Class of 2022

Leading with wisdom, justice and compassion. Four Class of '22 grads reflect on their experiences at Brescia and their plans to make a better world.



SARAH SEQUEIRA, BSc,
Food Science and Technology
From: Mississauga, ON

What did you enjoy most about your Brescia experience?
Getting involved around campus. When I began my journey at Brescia, I knew nobody. It was daunting at first, but there were a multitude of options to get involved and make friends.

What is the most important lesson you learned at Brescia?
It's okay to not know what you're doing! There's no clear-cut path you have to follow on this journey, so create your own. At the end of the day, the journey matters more than the destination.

What are your plans?
Master's degree in Food Safety and Quality Assurance at the University of Guelph.

What positive change do you hope to make in the world?
I hope to learn more about issues like food insecurity and malnutrition and how global policies impact these health crises. Ultimately, I want to use my knowledge to address the challenges humankind faces through the food system and work toward developing innovation solutions.



JEANIQUE WILSON, BMOS,
Accounting and Psychology
From: St. Lucia, WI

What did you enjoy most about your Brescia experience?
The small class sizes and small campus. I was a shy person coming in and the small campus made it easier for me to get involved and take on leadership roles. The smaller classes enabled me to connect with my professors and classmates.

What is the most important lesson you learned at Brescia?
A professor once told me that the only person I should be in competition with is myself. I've learned to focus on me and work as hard as I can toward my personal goals.

What are your plans?
Joining a downtown London accounting firm and working toward my Chartered Professional Accountant designation.

What positive change do you hope to make in the world?
As I become more established in my career, I want to open doors for other women of colour and give them the opportunities they deserve. I also plan to give back to Brescia by creating a bursary for Caribbean students. The support I received from Brescia helped me immensely and I want to pay it forward.



GEORGIA VOLLAND, BA,
French for Teaching
From: Belle River, ON

What did you enjoy most about your Brescia experience?
The sense of community. There's always someone to talk to if you have a question and even if they don't have the answer, they know exactly who to direct you to. That makes for a very calming environment. Staff, faculty, students — there's always somebody there for you.

What is the most important lesson you learned at Brescia?
Adaptability! All of us graduating this year had only half a "normal" university experience, but we learned to let go of that idea and finish our degrees online. You never know what's going to happen, but it's all in how you take it. I decided to keep going and get my education, no matter how I had to do it!

What are your plans?
Attending Western Faculty of Education in the primary/junior French as a second language program.

What positive change do you hope to make in the world?
I want to take all my experiences and learnings and apply them in my classroom. There's a lot of negativity in the world today, and I'm a fairly open-minded and accepting person. I hope I can transfer that to my students.



JENNA ANKA, BA,
Family Studies and Nutrition
From: London, ON

What did you enjoy most about your Brescia experience?
I loved the small community. You know everyone, there are familiar faces every day and you have a relationship with everyone. Brescia just feels like home.

What is the most important lesson you learned at Brescia?
Just as Brescia always says, be bold and confident! Don't second guess yourself, go for it and hope for the best outcome.

What are your plans?
Attending the nursing program at Fanshawe College.

What positive change do you hope to make in the world?
I want to be positive around the people that surround me, especially when someone is having a bad day. I'll encourage them to understand mistakes happen along the way, but that's just redirection that gets you to your end goal. Staying positive keeps you up and ready to conquer the day!

Championing Diversity in Leadership

Brescia's new Centre

As Distinguished Chair of the recently announced Centre for Leadership at Brescia University College, Professor Marlene Janzen Le Ber is committed to developing a diversity of women to become effective leaders. Beyond that, she looks forward to helping organizations build their capacity for leadership while also understanding, elucidating and tackling the barriers to leadership roles based on race, gender and other social identities.

She uses a classic New Yorker cartoon in some of her presentations to encapsulate a central truth in today's world. It depicts a talk show set where two men are in conversation. The suave, self-assured interviewee is saying, "Actually, Lou, I think it was more than just my being in the right place at the right time. I think it was my being the right race, the right religion, the right sex, the right socioeconomic group, having the right accent and the right clothes, going to the right schools..."

Dr. Janzen Le Ber is steadfast in her objective to catalyze change in our systems by dismantling existing power structures, so new practices — free of unconscious bias, stereotypes and other causes of discrimination in leadership — can be embedded.

If anyone can do it, it's Dr. Janzen Le Ber. "Marlene has a deep passion for the mobilization and inclusion of women in leadership in every industry and public sphere," says Brescia President, Laretta Frederking. "Under her leadership the new Centre will thrive."

A highly regarded healthcare leader, Dr. Janzen Le Ber held senior positions with London Health Sciences Centre and Lawson Health Research Institute for more than two decades. She is the former Chair of the School of Leadership & Social Change at Brescia and a highly respected researcher focused on issues of social injustice and inequity that create barriers to leadership.

Dr. Janzen Le Ber says in creating the Centre, Brescia is responding to a global crisis in leadership. As early as 2015, the World Economic Forum recognized ineffective leadership as one of three top issues facing the world. Since then, political divisions have deepened, corporate scandals and climate change has approached catastrophe. "For the very survival of our world, we need more diversity in leadership," she says. "Solutions to society's most pressing problems require leaders with a diversity of knowledge, experiences and approaches."

Erin Rankin Nash '84, Chair of the University's LEAD WITH US Campaign, agrees the need is urgent. "There's a vacuum in leadership," she says. "Look at some of the people who are leaders in the world — they have few skills and they lead by coercion and bullying, dividing people rather than bringing them together."

Dr. Janzen Le Ber says the Centre's approach to leadership is deeply rooted in Brescia's Ursuline identity and history. "Our founders, the Ursulines, weren't cloistered," she says. "They lived and worked in the community. Even when they were forced to be 'behind the wall,' they invited the community in!"

The Ursulines continue to practice what is now called collective leadership, with Sisters holding rotating positions as part of a Leadership Circle. Every person is seen as bearing their own unique capacity toward making a difference and toward change in the world through contemplation and action. "Above all, the Ursuline tradition is about welcoming all people, while being open, hospitable and engaged in the world," says Le Ber. "Everything about the Ursuline teachings and their ways of embodying leadership are still relevant today — maybe even more relevant than ever." She adds Brescia was founded as a women's university and welcomed international students long before the current trend. "We are poised to further our action on issues of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization."

Critical to the Centre's approach to leadership is the concept of character. While leaders must have certain competencies to enact effective leadership, they must also be humble, courageous, honest, driven, compassionate and committed to justice, says Dr. Janzen Le Ber. "When making decisions, information will always be imperfect, so what you decide has a lot to do with your character. Who you are as a leader is as important as your abilities and actions."

The Centre will have three pillars: research, leader and leadership development programming and advocacy. The program research will be community-based (priorities of what will be studied is determined by community partners) and collaborative (that is together with community partners).

Continued...



Dr. Marlene Janzen Le Ber with a group of Brescia students.

Dr. Janzen Le Ber has already applied for a major grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council. The projects will focus on barriers to diversity in leadership. It will bring together private and non-profit sector partners, including Brescia, Canada Life, RBC, GOVERN for IMPACT, PPI, Goodwill Industries and We Bridge Community Services to complete research projects focused on issues around Black youth, Indigenous employees, ageism and ableism.

Brescia already has strong offerings for students interested in learning about leadership. The Centre will expand the options, adding a Scholar's Elective program, additional summer experiences building on the current Francolini Leadership Experience, and IGNITE, a weekly leadership-focused activity for the entire community. Also under discussion are pre-Brescia programs for high school students, including a new summer leader-in-training program.

The Centre will also reach out to the broader community, with potential activities such as individual organizational development programs, a lecture series, a summer leadership institute, a mentoring program, and a film festival.

A key component of community programming is the introduction of micro-credentials — short, intense, skills-focused courses offered synchronously online. Funded through a generous gift from Canada Life, Brescia's first micro-credentials focus on diversity in leadership.

Dr. Janzen Le Ber is working with Uplift, a program of YWCA Hamilton designed to give women and non-binary people the opportunity to re-skill or upskill in advanced manufacturing, data science, or project management. Three micro-credentials, "Navigating gender inequities in the workplace," "Leading change without resistance," and "Developing psychological safety," are under way, and more are in the planning stages. By the fall, Brescia will offer a certificate in diversity in leadership, combining a selection of five micro-credentials. "Women in an organization can take these courses and excel," says Rankin Nash. "Their employers will see what they can do and ensure they are advancing in the company."

In May, Brescia officially launched a targeted campaign to raise \$750,000 in support of the new Centre. It featured a "fireside chat" with three women entrepreneurs at different stages of leadership and was attended by over 125 community members, enthusiastic to learn about the future of leadership at Brescia.

Brescia's goals for the Centre are certainly bold. Research and programming will strengthen individual leader character and competencies, build leadership capacity in organizations and provide a wide variety of opportunities to explore gender, intersectionality, diversity and leadership. "Our mission," says Dr. Janzen Le Ber, "is nothing less than dismantling traditional power structures and championing leadership that moves societies towards a more just and equitable future."

Welcoming Indigenous Students and Perspectives

Sean Hoogterp, Brescia's Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator

Imagine this. You are an Indigenous teenager who grew up in the warm embrace of your community. Your parents didn't have the opportunity to attend post-secondary education, but you're determined to. When you arrive on campus, everything is unfamiliar. You feel overwhelmed, surrounded by the predominant culture. Then you meet Sean Hoogterp and suddenly everything feels more possible. "Indigenous students need someone who has been where they are and has navigated post-secondary education," he says. "If I can't help them directly, I can connect them to people who can."

Hoogterp is the Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator for Brescia, a position that is shared with Huron and King's University Colleges. His role is to create a welcoming environment for Indigenous people, help decolonize and indigenize the curriculum and build stronger relationships between the campuses and Indigenous communities.

Hoogterp grew up and attended high school in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but he spent his summers in his mother's community of Walpole Island. His grandmother and great uncle were Residential School survivors. "We knew about it, but it wasn't until later that we realized what it was really like," he says. "The last ten years have brought out the horrors of those experiences and the impact of intergenerational trauma on our communities."

Inspired and supported by an aunt who was studying at the University of Arizona, Hoogterp completed a degree in Communications with a minor in American Indian Studies. After working at the university in admissions, he returned to Canada in 2002. It was at a time when Ontario universities were establishing Indigenous advisor positions. He worked at Brock University, Western and Lambton College before taking on his new position within the Western-affiliate community in February 2022.

In addition to working with students on campus, Hoogterp will go out to Indigenous communities and local high schools with Indigenous populations to help demystify the university admission process. He is also working with faculty to determine how best to deliver an Indigenous perspective within the curriculum.



"The perspectives of Western science and Indigenous knowledge are very different," he says. "For example, the Lakota people knew it was time to prepare for the buffalo hunt when the milkweed bloomed — that's not science, but it is knowledge based on observation and correlation."

Hoogterp is delighted Brescia has embedded its commitment to inclusion in the new strategic plan and he points out Lisette Ochoa, Special Advisor to the President on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, has now added "Decolonization" to her title. This year, Brescia was the site of the special Indigenous graduation ceremony held every April for all Western grads. "All of this shows Brescia is opening its doors to welcome in the Indigenous community," he says.

Western's Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President for Indigenous Initiatives, Christy Bressette '95, herself a Brescia graduate, is delighted Hoogterp is now working with the three schools. "Sean is passionate about supporting Indigenous students and building advocacy and allyship with all people," she says. "The work we do is daunting, given the challenges faced in our communities. Sean is optimistic and enthusiastic about what the future holds and that kind of hope is catching!"

Hoogterp is now focused on planning activities for the fall term, including workshops, guest speakers, events and an Indigenous component during orientation week. He hopes his work will have an impact on non-Indigenous students and faculty too. "I want them to understand we are still healing from the trauma of Residential Schools. I also want them to know individual Indigenous students don't have all the answers to questions about that experience."



LEAD WITH US Campaign Cabinet members at the Centre for Leadership event on May 30th (left to right) Linda O'Connor, Marjie Macoun '11, Dr. Marlene Janzen Le Ber, Erin Rankin Nash '84, Jodi Simpson, Susan Allison, Arlene McComish, Cathy Hiscott, Dr. Lauretta Frederking, Penny Rintoul '87, Karen Fryday-Field, Heather Hurst.

Fresh Start

Brescia charts an exciting course in a post-pandemic world

“Everyone is excited about what’s ahead for Brescia.” That’s Kimberly Darling, Chair of Brescia’s Board of Trustees, reflecting on the new strategic plan, approved in April. The Board and many other members of the Brescia community participated in a process that began in September 2021 and culminated in a bold and ambitious roadmap to the future (see sidebar page 13).

President Laretta Frederking says it was “a wonderful way for me to learn about everyone’s aspirations for Brescia.” For Melissa Jean, the university’s Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives & Growth, the plan reflects a new post-pandemic mood. “It feels like we’re moving away from a reactionary, ‘survival’ mode,” she says. “There’s fresh energy and optimism in the community, so the time is right to be thinking about Brescia’s future.”

The process began with the Board creating a strategic focus including six strategic directions and updated mission, vision and values. Then Brescia students, staff, faculty, alumnae and partners provided input and ideas through an extensive consultation. “We believed this homegrown approach would be vibrant and authentic,” says Frederking. “When I see what we’ve achieved, I wouldn’t have it any other way.”

Jean added the process provided an opportunity for people throughout the Brescia community to learn more about other areas of the university. “People left discussions with a better sense of what’s happening across campus to support the mission,” she says. “It was an opportunity to reignite peoples’ energy for the mission and find new ways to connect with one another.”

Frederking is pleased the plan commits Brescia to flexibility in student learning. “We need to increase access for women to receive a university education,” she noted. “Whether it’s micro-credentialling, flexible scheduling or articulation agreements with Fanshawe, access is critical to our future.” Wrap-around support is an important part of this commitment. “We know when students feel a sense of belonging, they learn better,” she says. “We have a responsibility to ensure that happens.”

Darling adds Brescia has already proven its ability to innovate. “With COVID-19, Brescia went from in-class to online learning over a weekend,” she says. “If we can do that, we are well poised to be creative in the future, offering education for women at a time and place that works for them to ensure their success.” She is also pleased the plan has a focus on financial sustainability. “If you don’t have that, you can’t do anything else.”



Current Brescia students taking advantage of an outdoor space for a group meeting.

Fahimeh Abdollahi, President of the Brescia University College Students’ Council, finds the plan’s commitment to women’s leadership inspiring. “Every day, I deal with students who are passionate about helping others and are very interested in women’s leadership,” she says. “This will uplift them and give them the support they need.” She is also thrilled the strategic plan emphasizes social justice, EDID (equity, diversity, inclusion and decolonization), and intersectionality.

Jean is excited the plan commits Brescia to serving new student populations through flexible and accessible programming. She looks forward to building collaborations with diverse partners and welcomes support for employees to “do their best work and have their best experience.”

The plan calls for Brescia to reach out to broader communities. “We’re here because of taxpayers,” Frederking noted. “We serve the city, the province, the country and, as Canada’s women’s university, the world. We are eager to partner with any organization that can benefit from our expertise.”

“Stewards” have been identified for each strategic direction in the plan, to serve as leads in implementation. They will collaborate with colleagues across the campus. Frederking promised, “There are no silos.” She and Jean will help oversee the entire process and ensure progress is reported effectively.

What will Brescia look like five years from now? “I am certain it will be different, while holding firm to the principles that have guided it for more than 100 years,” says Frederking. “Our students, faculty and staff will be more diverse, and our programs more flexible and accessible. We will have more strategic partnerships. We will do what we do with excellence, recognizing we can’t do everything.” Adds Jean. “We will be a campus where students and employees feel a true sense of belonging, safety and community.” Abdollahi, who will graduate from Brescia at the end of the first year of the plan, is excited about that vision. “As I was listening to it all unfold, all I could think was, ‘I wish I would be there to see all the changes!’”

The strategic plan includes six new strategic directions which guided the creation of a total of 10 goals and 19 outcomes.

Strategic Direction 1:

Brescia provides flexibility and innovation for student learning in and out of the classroom

Strategic Direction 2:

Brescia becomes the university of choice for students focused on women’s leadership

Strategic Direction 3:

Brescia participates in knowledge making and social change

Strategic Direction 4:

Brescia ensures broader communities are engaged and contribute to its unique benefits and strengths

Strategic Direction 5:

Brescia strengthens its financial stability

Strategic Direction 6:

Brescia cultivates an environment of openness and curiosity around trends in higher education that will support the long-term success of Brescia

To read the full strategic plan, visit the link in the QR code





Suzanne at Brescia, alongside some of her fellow classmates. Left to right: Suzanne Anderson '18 & '20, Stephanie Wong '20, Stephanie Braga '20, Dr. Colleen O'Connor '00, Dr. Brenda Hartman, Kristy Clement '20, Katherine Venneri '20, Kristina Dunkley '20, Ivy Lu '20.

Remembering a Bold and Caring Woman

A new award honours the life of alumna, Suzanne Anderson '18 and '20

Suzanne Grace Anderson was intelligent, empathetic, adventurous, humble, courageous, compassionate and giving. She was a good listener, a great teacher, an ally to Indigenous people and a woman who was always ready to hear and help others. Anderson died after a short illness in December 2021. Now, her remarkable life will be part of Brescia forever, through a scholarship in her honour.

Suzanne met her husband, Colin Field, in 1985 when they were students at the University of Guelph. Anderson, a committed environmentalist, organized a recycling club at their residence: she and Field collected recyclables and trucked them to a local depot. Love bloomed.

After completing a degree in Environmental Toxicology, she trained as a teacher at Western's Althouse College. She and Field (newlyweds) then spent three years working at the Canadian International School of Singapore. Back in Canada, Anderson focused on enhancing literacy and providing education to vulnerable adults, including new Canadians and women who had experienced interpersonal violence. They welcomed two sons, Saul and Arie, into their family.

Anderson had always been fascinated by nutrition and began studying at Brescia when her youngest son went off to university. She was delighted to discover that some of her Brescia classmates had been in her son's kindergarten class!

An excellent student, she was offered a lucrative award for top academic achievement in her year. She turned it down because she felt it would mean more in the career of one of the younger students.

One day, Professor Janet Madill watched Anderson giving a class presentation. "She just seemed so passionate about learning and life," says Madill. "At the end of the presentation, I asked if she'd thought about doing a master's degree. I told her that if she was accepted into the program, I'd take her on as a student."

Under Madill's supervision, Anderson completed a qualitative study of transplant recipients' attitudes toward two kinds of lifestyle counselling. "The patients absolutely loved her," says Madill. "She was very kind and she listened to what they were saying. She had that lovely inquisitive research mind you want all your students to have."

Anderson also built warm and supportive relationships with her fellow students and colleagues. After her death, classmate Nan Guo wrote, "Learning with Suzanne was always enjoyable. Her intelligence and humour turned discussions into inspiring conversations. Her kindness, her humbleness, the power of her calmness, her caring for others and her obligation to fairness can't be described with words." Another classmate, Stephanie Wong, commented on the "immense amount of kindness and generosity in her heart," adding, "She was a wonderful person, great friend and has truly left a mark in all our hearts."

Just as she had pursued her passion, Anderson encouraged Field to follow his. "Dreams have no expiry date," she told him. Taking a sabbatical from his job, he enrolled in an intensive filmmaking program at Fanshawe College in the fall of 2021. Anderson herself was planning on combining her expertise as a Dietitian with her experience as a teacher to create learning resources to support Dietetic interns. She also wanted to start a not-for-profit community to help widowers learn to cook nutritious meals for themselves in a supportive environment. The two had also hoped to make educational and documentary films together.

Anderson's family set up an award in her name and invited contributions through a Facebook post. "She just loved Brescia so much," Field says. "It was a very important part of her life. We wanted to do something in her memory that would reflect her values." In the end, more than 80 people contributed, creating a fund of nearly \$40,000.



Suzanne Anderson with her family (left to right: Saul Field, Arie Field, Colin Field and Suzanne Field) on a trip to England in 2017.

The family chose to focus the award on Indigenous students attending Brescia who demonstrate academic promise, leadership and community service. When there is more than one eligible candidate, preference will be given to a student studying Foods and Nutrition. "Suzanne always felt an appreciation for First Nations People and communities" Field says. Anderson studied Ojibwe at Western and, as a portion of her Dietetic Internship, requested to serve on the Six Nations reserve in Southern Ontario.

"Suzanne contributed to society and cared so much about everyone," says Madill. "She was passionate about helping those who needed a little extra boost to achieve their goals. She was giving and caring, a truly lovely person. My life is greatly enriched by knowing and working with her."

Perhaps Anderson's spirit is best captured by a quotation she loved, attributed to Angela Merici, founder of the Ursulines: "Be like a piazza — open, gracious, hospitable and engaged in the world."

LEAD WITH US
THE CAMPAIGN FOR
BRESCHIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Thoughtful gift planning enables you to provide a much greater gift than you ever imagined.

We are here to help you get started

Brescia University College
Advancement Office
supportbrescia@uwo.ca

“ We trust Brescia to use the funds generated by our estate for the future sustainability of higher education. We hope some students will have their own international experiences, do good in the world and continue our legacy. ”

- Ann '78 & Cam Gordon

Driven to Help

Professor Jamie Seabrook's research changes lives

“I can run advanced statistical analyses, and that's a useful contribution, but what I'm most passionate about is helping people.”

That's Professor Jamie Seabrook, talking about what motivates his remarkably productive research program and animates his teaching and administrative roles, and even his commitment to martial arts. A sociologist and epidemiologist who has been part of Brescia since 2014, he received the Award for Excellence in Research in 2019 and was a nominee for the Children's Health Research Institute (CHRI) Scientist of the Year Award for 2020 and 2021.

Seabrook's parents did not attend post-secondary education, but they inspired him to work hard and never accept failure. When his older brother graduated from Western, Seabrook was convinced he should give it a try too. During the first year, he fell in love with the study of sociology. “I really like how the discipline helps us understand how the world works and how factors like education, income, gender and race shape what happens every day.”

After completing a Master's in Sociology (with a specialization in Social Demography), Seabrook worked at London Health Sciences Centre as a biostatistician for the Department of Pediatrics and CHRI, consulting with medical researchers. Apprehensive at first, he soon became adept in the role. “When you get questions five days a week, eight hours a day, you learn what people need to know about statistics, and you get very good at it!”

That experience informs Seabrook's approach to helping students work with stats: every class includes two hours of lecture and one hour of hands-on practice analyzing and interpreting data using statistical software.

While working full-time, Seabrook completed a PhD supervised by Professor Bill Avison, a long-time mentor. His dissertation was part of a longitudinal study of single- and two-parent families. It showed that the children raised in stable single-mother families had comparable educational, occupational and income attainment to children who grew up in stable two-parent families.

“My area of expertise is specific, but when I get people from say, pediatrics, geography, or health sciences involved, it enables me to take advantage of the expertise of others and enhance the quality of the research and its policy implications.”

Seabrook says his research productivity is partly due to two mentors: Avison and Dr. Kathy Speechley, his former supervisor at LHSC. Both provided him with models for excellent research, strong methodological and statistical skills, and they inspired him with their passion for discovering new knowledge. Says Seabrook, “The way I see it, you come to work with an empty page and you get to fill it with new information!”

That new information flows into three streams. Seabrook explores how social conditions, such as socioeconomic status, education, race and gender result in differences in health status. He is also interested in the factors during pregnancy that may determine short- and longer-term health of babies. Another stream of research looks at substance use and abuse in teens.

A 2018 paper, completed with a student at Brescia, showed cannabis use during pregnancy increased the odds of having a low birthweight baby threefold, even when adjusted for cigarette smoking, education, mental health, income and other factors. The work was recognized as the Lawson Health Research Institute medical discovery of the year.

More recently, Seabrook has collaborated on studies assessing the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on children in pediatric intensive care units and their families. Other recent topics have included geospatial analyses of vape retailer accessibility, the association between residential greenness and youth substance use, adequacy of statistical reporting in dietetics research and risk factors associated with adolescent pregnancy.

It was Paula Dworatzek '88, who first told Seabrook about a tenure track position at Brescia in 2013. Although he loved his job at LHSC, the role was an opportunity to help Brescia enhance its research program. The University has proven a wonderful environment for his work because the small size fosters collaboration, while access to one of Canada's largest research universities and London research community creates additional opportunities.

“If there's a way I can help the University, I thought this would be a great opportunity. It's a lot of work but I've got such a great group of faculty members and staff that it makes things easier.”

“I'm a strong believer in collaboration,” he says. “My area of expertise is specific, but when I get people from say, pediatrics, geography, or health sciences involved, it enables me to take advantage of the expertise of others and enhance the quality of the research and its policy implications.”

Although he never imagined becoming Chair of the School of Food and Nutritional Sciences, he is very happy to have taken on this challenging position. “If there's a way I can help the University, I thought this would be a great opportunity. It's a lot of work but I've got such a great group of faculty members and staff that it makes things easier.”

Despite the demands of the position, Seabrook continues to be an active researcher and looks forward to the upcoming academic year, when campus life will hopefully return to a pre-pandemic setting; with many exciting opportunities for students and faculty to engage with one another in further academic discovery.



Dr. Seabrook.

Ursuline Hall On Your Christmas Tree!



Celebrating a legacy, supporting experiential education

Ursuline Hall is not only an iconic building at Brescia, but throughout the entire Western campus. Even students who have never taken a course at Brescia are aware of its grand presence on a rise overlooking our educational community. Nearly one hundred years old, it has long symbolized the legacy of Brescia's Ursuline foundresses.

Now the elegant limestone building will be memorialized as a pewter Christmas tree ornament, part of a fundraising project by the Rotary Club of London South. By a happy accident, some of the money raised will help support a project involving Brescia students.

Lorna Fratschko graduated from Brescia in 1988 and joined Rotary in 1992. "I couldn't imagine my life without Brescia, or without Rotary," she says. "There's a lot of synergy between the Ursuline value of service to community and the Rotary creed of 'service above self.'"

Fratschko served as president of her Rotary club in 2017 and 2018. During her tenure, a member who had been involved in a similar project in Kingston, suggested that the club launch a Christmas ornament project. Fratschko agreed.

The first year featured the famous London landmark Kingsmill's Department Store. Over time, the ornaments have depicted other buildings, from the student pub The Ceeps, to London Life and the Grand Theatre. The heavy pewter ornaments are handmade in Nova Scotia and are available to purchase online.

When the project went online in 2020, Fratschko says sales "went through the roof," and the project became a major fundraiser for the club. The club uses funds raised through the sale of the ornaments to support a variety of community projects. One grant went to "Type Diabeat-it." Mystery Furtado founded the organization to work within the Black community to help prevent diabetes, a disease for which people of colour are at higher risk.

As it happens, students from Professor Ellen Lakusiak's Community Nutrition course at Brescia worked with Furtado on several projects this year. One group developed a resource to recommend which vegetables should be grown in the greenhouse based on cultural preferences and how they should be prepared and served.

Other student groups worked on additional projects with Type Diabeat-it and The Grove, an agri-business hub located at the Western Fair District.

Lakusiak was thrilled with her students' work. "It's great to have projects happening in the community," she says. "The students showed the program planning skills they developed during the course. They also learned that when you collaborate with a partner, it's not about telling them what they should do: it's about listening to them." She adds, "The students were just amazing." They always inspire me with their energy and great ideas."

Fratschko is delighted Rotary and Brescia are connected through the greenhouse project and looks forward to seeing her alma mater featured on the 2022 ornament. "It will be a reminder of the history of Brescia, which was founded more than 100 years ago by the Ursuline sisters — yet, still remains Canada's only women's university."

To learn more about the Heritage Ornament Collection or to purchase your own Ursuline Hall ornament, visit the Rotary Club of London South's ornament website: www.rotaryornaments.com



Brescia's historic Ursuline Hall.

MILESTONES *Catching up with Alumnae*

keep us updated!

Send your photographs and milestones to brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca and keep your fellow alumnae up to date

MICHELE COUTURE MCINTYRE '54 is pleased to announce that her daughter, Lucy Lynn McIntyre, was appointed to the Order of Canada as a member. Lynn spent two years in undergraduate studies at Western 1974-1976.

MARGARET E. LEE '71 retired from careers in elementary teaching and agriculture in 2015 and moved to Tillsonburg. Margaret has 4 children and 13 grandchildren and is so proud of all that they have accomplished. Margaret lost her husband, Pat, suddenly to heart failure in January of this year, at the age of 72. She is starting a new chapter of her life and is interested in hearing from her classmates from the early '70s.

LOUISA YUE-CHAN '77 retired from VON Canada at the end of January 2022. She worked there for almost 14 years in various capacities, the latest being an operations coach for management in London. She is now looking forward to resuming travel, starting hopefully with an African safari in August!

CATHERINE KEENAN '83 retired after 33 years of teaching and mentoring students in the Co-operative Education Program at St. Joseph's College School. She loved her job and feels grateful to have had the opportunity of working with so many students and amazing colleagues over the years.

CHERYL L. ORZEL '86 retired from the Ottawa Catholic School Board on June 25th, 2021. Cheryl started her teaching career 34 years ago, after graduating from Brescia and Althouse in 1987. Cheryl met her husband, Mark, while studying at Althouse, and he will be retiring with her.

DEANNA WHITE '96 married King's Alumni Scott White BA '96 in September 1996. They welcomed their first daughter, Mackenzie, in 1999, who is now a King's Alumna BA '21 and is a Waterloo MA '22. Their other daughter, Delaney, was born in 2002 and is now pursuing BScN Nursing at University of Windsor. Deanna had an incredible 23-year career at TD Bank in London and is now President and Chief Consultant of Deanna White Consulting Inc. in IT Portfolio and Project Management.

REBECCA BRADY '00 married her best friend, Tomas Volanek, on July 25th, 2020. They overcame the obstacles and challenges with getting married during the COVID-19 pandemic and shared a beautiful day with their close family and friends. Tom and Becky have had a busy year beginning their life together in Peterborough, Ontario and look forward to the journey ahead.



LIN YUAN-SU '08 & '10, her husband Hai Su and their son, Alex Zi Jie Su, welcomed the newest addition to their family — a baby girl Mary-Lin Zi Yan Su, on April 24th. She is healthy and vibrant and looks just like her brother.



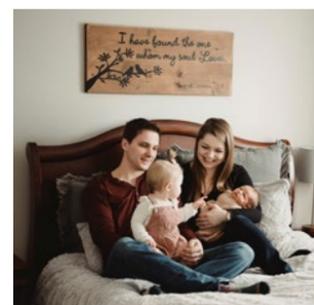
MELISSA VANDERMEER '08 recently sold her special events company, Party Girls Company, to open a flower shop and subscription business, Fleurs Fraiche. She operates online at www.fleursfraiche.com and is excited to have recently opened two store locations in London and Port Stanley.



KIRAN K. ENNS '13 married Neil Enns on July 24th, 2021. Since then, they have purchased land in Bothwell, Ontario where they will be starting a homestead and running her business, Food Venture Program, full-time.



NICOLE J. MERKEL '16 and her husband welcomed baby #2, Maximilian Jeffrey, on January 27th. Big sister Isabella is in love with her new best friend.



JULIANA M. PROVENZANO '16 went on to complete Teachers College at Lakehead University and secured a full-time contract with the York Region District School Board. Currently teaching French at the Elementary School level, she hopes to transition into Secondary School, continuing to advance her career and experience new challenges. Along with her full-time teaching position, Juliana runs a tutoring company

called *The French Experience*, providing both students and adults with rich and exciting cultural learning. She encourages fellow alumnae to visit her Instagram profile to learn more about what she does @TheFrenchExperience.



EMILY C. KIRK '17 married Kevin Luyten, on October 23rd, 2021. They met when she was in 2nd year at Brescia. They now live in Sarnia where she recently got a full-time permanent teaching position with the Lambton Kent District School Board teaching French Immersion Kindergarten.



LAUREN BEATTIE '19 has had a busy couple of years, getting married, purchasing a house and adding a second dog to the family! She is now in her second year of Master's of Arts in Counselling Psychology at Yorkville University.



MADDISON MEHRING '19 is currently completing her Master of Public Health (MPH) through the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

at Western University. She accepted a practicum position in Thunder Bay, Ontario and absolutely loves the city! Upon graduation, she hopes to return to her hometown, find a job in her field and plant her roots there. She is very thankful for her time at Brescia that she feels got her to where she is today!



Continued...



CLASS OF 2022

Welcome to your Alumnae Association.



brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae



brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca

MILESTONES *Catching up with Alumnae*

RACHEL OGILVIE '19 and Brandon Barker celebrated their beautiful wedding on October 2nd, 2021. Joining them on their special day included proud Brescia alumnae, **Emily Morphy '18, Elisa Fitzpatrick '19, Emily West '18 and Morgan Mattern '20.**



RACHEL WONG '20 started a new journey at Pathways Employment Help Centre and feels it's been wonderful so far.

LAUREN E. KEY '21 has been named the 2021 Volunteer of the Year by The Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services (SACJS). Beginning in January of 2021, she held a placement with SACJS in the final year of her undergraduate degree. She continues to volunteer with the organization, supporting a program designed for survivors of human trafficking. She is very grateful and wants to

thank Aura, Caroline and Dr. Jakubowski for supporting her and for all the other individuals who voted for her to receive this award.



KATHARINE MCCORMACK '21 went to Regina, Saskatchewan on August 30th, 2021 to train at the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Training

Academy "Depot Division" for 6 months. After a physically, mentally and emotionally challenging adventure, she graduated on March 7th, 2022, earning a badge and officially becoming a Constable! She is currently posted and serving in Langley, British Columbia.



Lives Remembered

Brescia mourns the passing of the following cherished alumnae:

MARY LEASK '46
MAUREEN RANAGHAN '50
ILEANA BERTHOTY '53
JANE SERAPHIM '54

RUTH GILBERT '61
ANNE MARIE RADKO '69
JUNE LECLAIR '73
MARY ANN KENRICK '75

MARIAN PRIAMO '80
SUZANNE ANDERSON '18 & '20



Join the Tradition

Order your Brescia alumnae ring and boldly wear this symbol of achievement, friendship and history now and forever.



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LEAD WITH US

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
BRESCHIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

We invite you
TO JOIN US ON THIS JOURNEY
TO REACH OUR GOAL TO INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN LEADERS

Thanks to your generous support, we have surpassed 50% of our \$10-million LEAD WITH US Campaign.

GIVE NOW
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The impact is more than the dollar amount, it is the confidence shown in Brescia to provide a university experience that challenges students to lead with wisdom, justice and compassion.

Learn more about the impact of the LEAD WITH US Campaign:



Save The Date **HOMECOMING 2022** **September 23-25**

We are excited to welcome alumnae back to campus for an in-person event this year. We will also be offering some virtual programming for those who are unable to join us on campus.

Visit our website for more details:
brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae/events