

BOLD



1919 A CENTURY OF WOMEN LEADING 2019

100

THE MAGAZINE BRESCIA ALUMNAE CHOOSE TO READ WINTER 2019

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
Brescia
Choose to Lead.

BOLD

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 **Brescia**
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LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD



In a sense, the concept of a centenary is artificial – who's to say that a span of 100 years is more significant than say, 58, 97, or 112 years?

But historians have traditionally made it a milestone – a point at which to look back and celebrate the history of an institution, and to look forward and envision the future.

We celebrate Brescia's past at a significant cultural moment – a time in which women are banding together to create a world that not only accepts female contributions but also celebrates them. In this context, we celebrate the fact that Brescia has sent more than 8,000 women into the world with all the benefits of a liberal arts education – critical yet open minded, tolerant, and respectful of all people. Those 8,000 women have also benefited from their

encounters with the Ursuline values of wisdom, justice, and compassion, and I believe that the combination of all three qualities lays the basis for a strong moral compass. They have gone forward with a clear sense of self, knowing that they have spent four years in a place built by women, for women, and designed to enable women to succeed.

We will celebrate our centenary in many ways throughout the year, but two key institutional events immediately come to mind. On January 27th, we will mark the feast day of St. Angela Merici, founder of the Ursuline order, the first ever religious order founded for the

purpose of educating women. Then in October, we will gather for our traditional Homecoming Celebration – but with a difference! Instead of inviting just the five-year classes, we will celebrate every year of Brescia's history, and every graduating class. What a party!

Homecoming will also be a time to look forward to Brescia's next centenary. As an historian, I'm more comfortable with the past than the future. Who can tell what the next 100 years will bring? But of one thing I am confident: in 2119, Brescia graduates will be serving and leading all over the world. And what could be better than that?

VIEW FROM THE HILL

Welcome to some of our newest bold alumnae who graduated at Fall Convocation on October 26th.



Marianne Simm, Vice-Principal Students, connecting with our St. Lucia alumnae while visiting the island in October.



Alumnae and students taking part in a group event as part of Brescia's Professional Mentoring Program.

Incoming students enjoying breakfast with alumna, Carol Christie '73, at our annual Foundress Day Breakfast on September 4th.

A few of our international students taking part in Thanksgiving activities on campus.



Alumnae, faculty, staff & students take the stage to share the spotlight following a performance of Love, Henri at Brescia - a Dramatic Presentation highlighting the wisdom and compassion of Henri Nouwen on October 25th.

Brescia welcomed over 250 students and teachers to campus to help celebrate International Day of the Girl on October 18th.

THANK YOU FOR COMING HOME

HOMECOMING - OCTOBER 20-21

Ileana Berthoty and Georgette Bridle from the Class of 1953 enjoying their time back on campus.

The Class of 1958 was well represented by Patricia Stobbs, Laura Cooper, Diane Warden, and Patricia Day Morris.



Vice-Principal and Academic Dean, Lauretta Frederking, Laure Eldik '07, Ruth Ellen Tisdale '10, and Darlene Williams ready to cheer on the Western Mustangs!

All smiles from the Class of 1973 as they enjoyed the Principal's Reception & Luncheon.

Mark your calendars for Homecoming 2019 October 19-20

A great turnout from the Class of 1968 who celebrated their 50th reunion at Homecoming.

Dr. Susan Mumm with alumnae award winners, Mallika Auplish '13 and Sara Francolini '83.



The Class of 1978 making the most of our selfie wall and photo props.

Alumnae taking part in "Eating for Your Genes", a faculty lecture by Dr. Janet Madill.

The way we were, Part Five

In 2019, Brescia University College will celebrate its Centenary. In the lead-up to this important milestone, BOLD Magazine has presented a series of articles about our history and the Ursuline tradition. We acknowledge with thanks the wonderful work of Professor Patricia Skidmore, whose two-volume history of Brescia has been the basis of these articles. Now that we are in the midst of celebrating our Centenary, the final installment explores some of the changes that have occurred during the 21st century.

A significant change took place in 1999, on the cusp of the new century. Since its inception, Brescia College had been governed by the Ursuline order. However, beginning in 1994, the Ursulines began to explore another model of governance. In 1999, governance was formally transferred over to a Council of Trustees. At the Ritual of Gratitude and Hope, which marked the official transition, Sister Joan Stafford addressed the five newly appointed Trustees: "On behalf of the Ursuline Sisters, I delegate to you the authority to govern Brescia College. I invite you to embark on this project in the same spirit and with the values that have brought Brescia College to this moment. I do this with great confidence in your good will, your individual gifts and talents, and your desire to work together in the best interests of Brescia College."

Coincident with the change in governance came the retirement of Sister Delores Kuntz, longtime Principal of Brescia College. Dr. Theresa Topic, who had served as

Dean since 1996, was appointed as the first lay Principal in 2000, and led with a sure hand and warm heart for the next eight years. In 2001, Brescia College was renamed Brescia University College.

The availability of infrastructure money from the Ontario government, coupled with the looming arrival of the "double cohort," (the result of phasing out Grade 13) led to a building boom on campus. A large new wing was added to St. James Building in time to welcome the large first-year class in September 2003. Three years later, the Beryl Ivey Library was opened and named for its generous benefactor, herself a graduate of Brescia in 1947.

The University also advanced academically, introducing its graduate programs in Foods and Nutrition in 2007. "It was a dynamic time, a forward-thinking time," says Sara Steers, who served Brescia as a senior volunteer between 2004 and 2012. "I loved being involved at a turning point, when we were taking forks in the road leading toward the future." When Dr. Topic decided to move on, the University hired a search firm for



Sara Steers at Brescia's Baccalaureate Ceremony in 2009

	1919	1923	1925	1936	1961
<i>Our Journey</i>	<i>Ursuline College is founded</i>	<i>First graduating class</i>	<i>College relocates to current location at 1285 Western Road</i>	<i>Home Economics Department begins</i>	<i>Mary Manor residence is added</i>



Dr. Colleen Hanycz, pictured left, alongside Nikita Miller '13, and Dr. Samantha Nutt at the Breakfast for Bursaries event in 2009.



the first time. Dr. Colleen Hanycz, a lawyer and law professor, was named Principal in July 2008, bringing new energy and ideas.

Brescia continued to grow and evolve. In 2009, a re-branding exercise resulted in the resonant tagline, “Brescia Bold: Choose to Lead,” and a memorable marketing campaign. “It was part of coming out from behind the curtain,” says Steers. “Brescia was doing a fantastic job for students, but it was an untold story.” Women in leadership became an important focus for the University during this period.

Nikita Miller, a mature student and single mother with a nine-month old baby, began her studies at Brescia in 2009. “I was young and very scared,” she says, “but at Brescia I was welcomed as a whole person.” Nikita was involved in many extra-curricular activities and was the valedictorian in her graduating year. After graduation, she worked with the Girls LEAD program and the Women’s Entrepreneurship Initiative, then went on to build a career in social services and education. “Brescia saw things in me that I hadn’t seen in myself,” she says. “It pushed me to see them too.” Nikita was one of many mature students who benefited from an Eleanore Donnelly Bursary, created through a series of Breakfast for Bursaries fundraising events held between 2002 and 2012. The events raised more than \$350,000.

In 2011, work began on a magnificent new residence and dining pavilion, which was opened in 2013. “The project was The Council of Trustees approach to financial sustainability in a time of constraint,” says Steers. “It was a bold move, but we knew what students wanted, and we built it.” In 2014, enrolment reached more than 1500.

Continued on next page

1963	1970	1976	1999	2000	2001
<i>Ursuline College renamed Brescia College and Mother St. James Memorial Arts Building opens</i>	<i>Marie Rosier Wing opens</i>	<i>Merici Wing is built</i>	<i>Council of Trustees establishes governance from Ursulines</i>	<i>Dr. Theresa Topic is installed as first lay Principal</i>	<i>Brescia College renamed Brescia University College</i>

I'd like to think we're beyond needing an all-women's university, but today we need more of everything that Brescia does – more dedication to the under-served and under-represented, and more dedication to teaching and guiding with compassion and caring. Those values are more important than ever.

Brescia's first Chancellor, the late Dr. Joan Francolini, was installed in 2013. In 2015, Madam Justice Eileen Gillese became the second Chancellor. When Dr. Hanycz left her role as Principal of Brescia to become President of LaSalle University, historian Dr. Susan Mumm and became Brescia's 12th Principal in July 2016.

That year, Brescia not only began offering an innovative new degree program in non-profit management but also unveiled a new strategic plan, entitled *Inspiring the Next Century of Women Leaders*. A major focus of the plan was internationalization of the University. In 2018, international students made up 14% of the University's student population.

As the University gears up to celebrate its centenary in 2019, the Ursuline legacy remains a bright beacon lighting the way forward. Says Jess McPherson, "I'd like to think we're beyond needing an all-women's university, but today we need more of everything that Brescia does – more dedication to the under-served and under-represented, and more dedication to teaching and guiding with compassion and caring. Those values are more important than ever." Jess studied French language and literature at Brescia, graduating in 2003 and remembers: "From day one it was obvious that the atmosphere at Brescia was unlike anywhere else. The obvious difference was the absolute dedication to the students." That dedication gave her confidence, she says, to show leadership in the classroom and in many extracurricular activities. Jess went on to complete an MD and now draws on the values of Brescia in her practice as a family doctor. "At Brescia it became clear to me that using kindness as a guiding principle for leadership gives it more strength and value."

Sara Steers agrees with Jess, adding simply: "A women's university is not a thing of the past: it's a thing of the future."



Jessica McPherson '03 with Mary Patricia Gray '46 and Dr. Theresa Topic at Brescia's annual awards ceremony

2006	2009	2013	2013	2016	2018
<i>Beryl Ivey Library opens</i>	<i>Brescia Bold: Choose to Lead branding was introduced</i>	<i>Dr. Joan Francolini installed as Brescia's first Chancellor</i>	<i>Clare Hall and Mercato open</i>	<i>Madam Justice Eileen Gillese installed as Brescia's second Chancellor</i>	<i>Ground breaking for new Academic Pavilion</i>



Cindy Hartman '96 with her student mentee, Jessica Fletcher

VOLUNTEER PROFILE

Cindy Hartman, P.H.Ec. gives back through mentoring

When Cindy Hartman finished high school in 1972, she went to work in the retail grocery industry. It wasn't until nearly two decades later that she began attending Brescia full-time. "It was something I really wanted," she says, "I was focused on excelling, but I also made some wonderful friends with the students and professors."

Cindy says Brescia's small size and the support of the faculty helped her succeed. Now she's paying it forward by acting as a mentor to students in the School of Food & Nutritional Sciences.

After graduating, Cindy started a decorating and organizing business, but soon realized she needed a regular full-time income. It was while visiting Brescia that she saw a job posting

for Summit Foods. She applied and was hired as a sales rep for Summit's healthcare customers. The company provides prepared and raw food products to hospitals, retirement homes, and long-term care homes across the province. Twenty years later, she is the health care account manager for Ontario. "Whether it's a customer or a vendor, I always like to be a resource," she says. "I welcome any questions and want to do anything I can to help people out."

Busy as she is at Summit, Cindy has made time to support her industry and its youngest members. She served with the London Home Economics Association for several years and recently completed a two-year term as President of the Ontario Home Economics Association (OHEA), of which she is now the Co-Chair.

Cindy is deeply committed to volunteering through Brescia's mentorship program, because she knows what a difference mentors can make. When she started work at Summit, the healthcare environment was new to her. Her manager and other mentors at the company helped her learn the ropes and succeed at her job. "Any time I can help a student, I feel it's my obligation to do so - it's so important to give back." She also attends research and career events at Brescia, has been a guest speaker, and hosts students for tours of the Summit warehouse.

One important lesson she shares with her mentees: the value of having a professional network. "I'm a big networker," she says. "When you're out meeting people, it's always an advantage. You never know where it's going to take you."

Growing up in Chongqing China, Grace Wu attended a Canadian international school and knew she would go to university in Canada. But it wasn't until she heard about the Take the Lead speaking contest that Brescia came into focus.

Succeeding Grace-fully

She wrote a speech about the Mosuo, a small ethnic group living in Yunnan and Sichuan provinces that is the only matriarchal society in China. She was selected as a finalist and traveled to Brescia to deliver the speech in person. Says Grace, "When I got there, I was instantly inspired by all the speakers and by Brescia's mission to build generations of women leaders. I knew it was something I wanted to be part of."

She certainly did that, getting involved in a wide variety of university and community activities and, in the process, becoming an inspiration and role model for others.

Poised to become part of the first graduating class in the Non-profit Management degree program, Grace received one of the inaugural BresciaLEAD Excellence Awards, made possible through Brescia's fundraising gala. She also worked with Brescia's bridging program for international students, mentored international students, served as a Student Ambassador, and organized the You Go Global Leaders event, featuring a keynote address by politician Olivia Chow. She worked as Brescia's Social Media Student to assist with social media platform translation in China, and as a Digital Marketing Assistant at the Schulich School of Medicine and

Dentistry. Along the way, she found time to volunteer with organizations such as Pillar Nonprofit Network, Museum London, the Cross-Cultural Learner Centre, and the London Youth Advisory Council.

In the summer of 2018, she was selected to participate in a unique experiential learning opportunity, the Francolini Leadership Program. She and another Brescia student spent four months working on RBC's Future Launch, a philanthropic program designed to address the "quiet crisis" in youth employment. The goals of the internship were to raise awareness among RBC employees in the London



Experiential Learning Takes Off at Brescia

Grace Wu's experience in the Francolini Leadership Program is an example of the power of experiential learning - the process of combining theoretical and conceptual classroom learning with practice-based experiences and critical reflection across multiple disciplines and settings.

Several Brescia professors have developed experiential learning opportunities for their students over the years. Now Dr. Tamara Thompson, Brescia's new Learning and Development Specialist, Experiential Education, is working to expand opportunities in every discipline. "Experiential learning can empower Brescia students to 'learn by doing' and develop practical and employment-related skills to create a more meaningful experience," she says. "It helps them to connect, transform, and enrich their knowledge and skills before they graduate, so they can apply the learning to their future careers."

Tamara notes that the benefits of experiential learning flow in both directions. "Hosting a student from Brescia can help increase an organization's capacity," she says. "Maybe there are projects or programs they want to work on but don't have the time or funding for - we can bring students in to help." She adds that students bring fresh perspectives and can help organizations raise awareness and build partnerships throughout the community.

To learn more about experiential learning or opportunities to host a Brescia student, contact Tamara at tamara.thompson@uwo.ca or 519-432-8353 ext. 28288.

area and plan a Future Launch event with at least 200 attendees. Both were achieved.

For Grace, the program was an opportunity to learn more about herself as a leader, and about career opportunities. "Before the placement, I thought I could only work at a not-for-profit organization," she says. "Now I realize that there are lots of social responsibility jobs in the for-profit world."

Grace admits that she didn't feel like a leader when she arrived at Brescia, but says she has learned that leadership can be developed.

"I think I am a good leader now because I have a balance of humanity and confidence. I'm forward thinking, and I do the best I can to show people I care."

Armed with her new skills and confidence, Grace wants to return to China to advocate for vulnerable populations. Eventually, she envisions a career in politics, an opportunity to create change on a large scale. Says Grace, "I believe with all my heart that the future of the world depends on bold leaders who insist on women's rights and social justice, every day."

Home sweet London home

**MANY BRESCIA
GRADUATES CHOOSE
TO STAY IN THE CITY TO
BUILD THEIR CAREERS**

Naila is not alone. Many Brescia graduates discover the charms and opportunities of London and choose to stay on after they graduate. Ashley Conyngham '04, Director Marketing and Communications with the London Economic Development Corporation, isn't surprised. "London is a great place to raise a family, with good schools and health care, and lots going on. And there are so many career opportunities." Ashley adds that people who find the close-knit Brescia community attractive may also feel more comfortable in a safe, affordable and welcoming mid-sized city.

After graduating, Naila completed a diploma program in public relations at Western and then returned to her hometown for an internship. But she discovered that "London felt more like home than Sarnia." She soon landed a contract position at 3M Canada as a copywriter. In April 2018, she accepted a full-time job at 3M as a Content Marketing Strategist. Today, she is studying project management at Western while working full-time.

"I feel very settled in London, mostly because of the people I met here through university," she says. In addition to students, she made close friends through her new hobby of rock climbing. And to seal the deal, London is where she met her fiancé, Mo, who chose Brescia and the picturesque campus to propose!

Vesti Powell '17, came a little further to attend Brescia: she hails from Negril, Jamaica. At Brescia she discovered a warm and welcoming community that supported her as she adjusted to a different culture, educational system, and climate. "Meeting really nice

people who are there to look after you and want the best for you was a great feeling," she says.

Vesti volunteered with several local organizations as a student. After Brescia, she completed a diploma program in non-profit management at Western. Now she's working at Children's Health Foundation, a major healthcare charity. "It's a wonderful organization that does amazing work," she says. "The opportunity was here in London, so I decided to see what the job had to offer." Vesti's sister is now studying at Western, another reason for her to stay in town.

Toronto-native Adriana Cimo '13, did her undergraduate training in Foods and Nutrition at Ryerson University. She chose Brescia for her Masters' degree because of the opportunity to be involved in research. She worked closely with Dr. Sharareh Hekmat, renowned for her groundbreaking work on probiotics. With her, Adriana explored the health effects of the herb ginseng.

After completing her program, Adriana was hired as a diabetes educator with the London Inter-Community Health Centre. "I stayed in London because it was my dream job," she says simply. In addition to working with clients one-on-one and doing community outreach, she is conducting clinical research into the diabetes education needs of people with mental health issues.

Living in London has helped Adriana discover a love of the great outdoors. "You don't have much involvement with nature in Toronto," she says. "Here, everyone hikes and camps because there are so many good places nearby." Her experiences in and around London have inspired her to hike in other parts of Canada, Europe and Thailand.

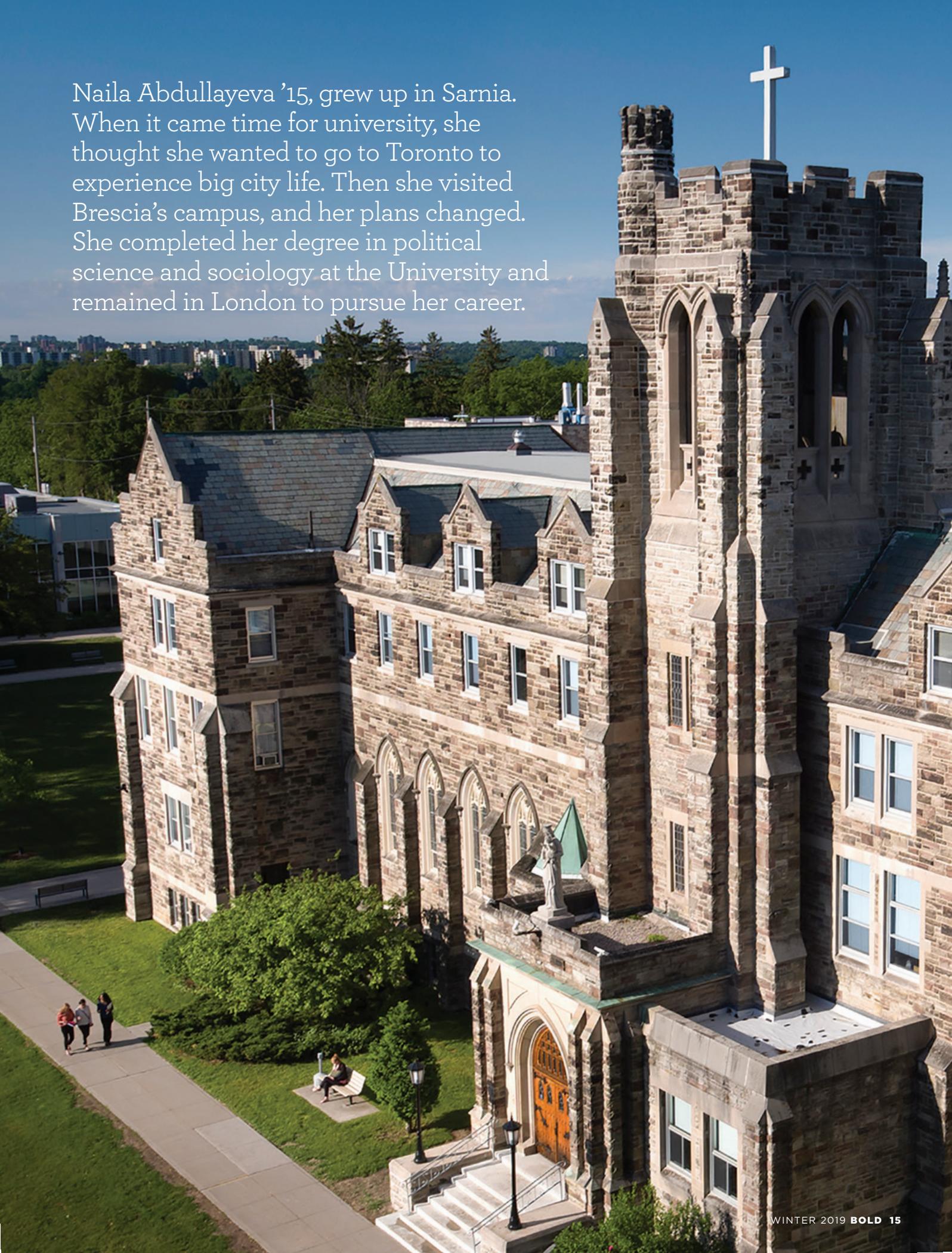
Leanne Varao's story is different: she grew up in London. In her first year at Brescia, she lived in residence to immerse herself in the environment. "I loved the community feeling at Brescia," she says. "I wasn't a number, I was able to build relationships with my professors, and they were there when I needed support. And it was very important to me that Brescia puts a focus on leadership and embraces diversity."

She started working at Nestlé Canada in London while still a student and took a permanent position when she graduated from Foods and Nutrition in 2005. Today she is a Senior Product Development Specialist. She works with a team of nine, five of whom graduated from Brescia, to develop new ice cream products.

In addition to providing great career opportunities, Leanne says the city has always been home to her. "I absolutely love London," she says. "It has a lot to offer. And you can find a balance between family life and having a rewarding career." Leanne and her husband are raising their two sons, five and eight, in the suburb of Byron, where she herself grew up.

All four women treasure their time at Brescia and their ongoing connection to the University. Says Naila, "It's important to stay connected to the place that made you who you are. Brescia really opened my eyes, and I want to continue showing my gratitude." Adriana agrees. "Brescia is part of my heritage. I welcome the opportunity to give back by supporting and inspiring students, perhaps helping to shape their careers and impact on the world."

Naila Abdullayeva '15, grew up in Sarnia. When it came time for university, she thought she wanted to go to Toronto to experience big city life. Then she visited Brescia's campus, and her plans changed. She completed her degree in political science and sociology at the University and remained in London to pursue her career.



It is an extraordinary story. Joe Pigott was busy building a reputation as a trustworthy builder when Pigott Construction was hired to build Brescia Hall. That magnificent “castle” is now known as Ursuline Hall. The project was completed in 1925.



Thanks to a generous donor, Ursuline Hall painting comes home

Joe had another side – he was an art collector with a remarkably good eye. The same year he finished Brescia Hall, he purchased a painting from a 20-something commercial artist named Alfred Joseph Casson, who was exhibiting at the Canadian National Exhibition. It was an important step for the young artist, as he later recalled in a letter to Joe’s widow, Yvonne. “Like all young couples, money was short, but the important thing was the fact that [the

painting] was bought by a prominent man. I was almost unknown at the time and the fact that the picture became part of the Pigott collection did wonders for me.”

Joe and Alfred stayed in touch and a few years later, Joe commissioned Alfred to paint Brescia Hall. Alfred, who became known as A.J. Casson, went on to fame as a member of the Group of Seven and was a leading contributor to the Group’s body of work.

The Brescia Hall painting hung in the Pigott Construction office until the company closed in the mid-90s. The painting found its way to Joe’s grandson, Bill, where it hung in his law office for over twenty years.

In the 1990s, the painting was loaned to Brescia and featured on the front page of an annual report. Bill says that’s when he began to think that it belonged at Brescia. “The family believes that Joe and Yvonne Pigott would enthusiastically agree that A.J.



L-R: Alison Vilaca, Sr. Theresa Mahoney '77, Bill and Carole Pigott, Dr. Laretta Frederking, and Jo-Anne Mancini with the donated Casson painting.

The family believes that Joe and Yvonne Pigott would enthusiastically agree that A.J. Casson's bold painting should go home to the building that Joe was honored to build nearly a century ago.

Casson's bold painting should go home to the building that Joe was honored to build nearly a century ago," he says. He adds that his grandmother Yvonne was "a force in the family" who strongly supported her husband's business endeavors. Bill believes that recognizing her through a gift at Brescia is appropriate.

The painting will be on exhibit during Brescia's centenary celebrations.



Over 50% of students at Brescia rely on some form of financial support.

Please make a donation today and make a difference in the lives of our students.

GIVE NOW

brescia.uwo.ca/giving

 **Brescia**
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Exploring the U.N. of the North

In 2012, Dr. Andrew Chater spent two months in Iqaluit. While there, he volunteered as a guitar teacher at a summer camp for kids 6 to 15. Ever since, he's been invited back to teach at the camp.



Andrew completed a BA in political science at Western and a master's at the University of Waterloo, returning to Western for his PhD. Inspired in part by his experiences in the north, he became interested in Arctic international relations. His PhD dissertation was a case study of the Arctic Council. The Council is a kind of United Nations of the North, composed of representatives from the eight nations with sovereignty over lands within the Arctic Circle. A major focus of its work is the impact of climate change.

Dr. Chater joined Brescia after completing his PhD in 2015 to teach political science, writing, and leadership. Recently he received a prestigious Canada Fulbright Research Chair grant, enabling him to spend five months at the University of Washington in Spring 2019.

The focus of his current research is the role of Indigenous people on the Arctic Council. The Arctic Council is the only international institution in which Indigenous people have a form of membership. Although Indigenous groups have the right to attend and participate in Council meetings and activities, they don't have a vote. Their participation is also limited by a lack of resources.

At the University of Washington, Dr. Chater will be completing a book on the topic. He will also conduct further interviews, deliver a lecture on his research, and teach one seminar class. "I'm interested in exploring what participation means for Indigenous people in this context," he says. "It's a big question for our times - what do participation, consent, and consultation mean and what should they look like? Studying the Arctic Council could help us understand how Indigenous participation could work in other institutions."

"I really cherish my time there," he says. "It's a different geography and a different way of life. I meet people from across Canada as well as the Inuit, and get exposed to interesting experiences and different perspectives."

Q. What brought you to Brescia?

A. I grew up in Lebanon and went to elementary and high school in Beirut. When I got married and moved to Canada, I had a dream to continue my education and get a degree. My husband always encouraged me to go to Brescia, but I thought that it would be impossible – I had three young children, nine, seven, and five years old. I said to myself, let's give it a try, and registered for only three full courses. Once I stepped on campus, I felt that I belonged! I completed a BA and a Masters in Sociology at Western.

Q. What did you like best about Brescia?

A. I was so surprised by the encouragement I received from my professors and the hugs the sisters gave me when they saw me distracted. There was always someone asking me how I was coping with my study workload. Their support made me stronger. The grants and awards I received helped me feel celebrated and were a great help to me and my family. Brescia enabled me to discover my true self and fostered my commitment to social justice and equality.

Q. What have you been doing since graduating?

A. I have worked with the City of London, holding several positions in community planning, research, evaluation, and policy support. I also had the chance to teach a family studies course at Brescia a couple of years ago.

Q. Why did you get involved with the Alumnae Association?

A. I loved the Brescia environment and the Ursuline tradition, and I wanted to give back to the community. I want to help the Alumnae Association achieve its goals of engaging our bold alumnae and creating lasting relationships among our members.

Introducing Laure Eldik '07, President, Brescia University College Alumnae Association



Q. Why is the Alumnae Association important to Brescia?

A. The Alumnae Association helps Brescia implement its values and its commitment to leadership and an enriching academic experience. The Association celebrates outstanding alumnae through the planning and execution of the annual Homecoming weekend as well as other events that bring alumnae and students together.

Q. What are your hopes for Brescia as it celebrates its first century and begins its second?

A. I hope that Brescia will continue to be acknowledged as a university that provides an excellent student experience, offers state-of-the-art facilities, fosters women's leadership, and honours the Ursuline values and tradition.

MILESTONES *Catching up with Alumnae*

PATRICIA DAY MORRIS '58 went on to complete a degree in social work at University of Toronto, later receiving another degree at Humber College and working for 20 years in the field of social work.

JANE MOODY '69

Condolences to Jane Moody who lost her husband of 48 years, Charles Moody, suddenly on August 17th, 2018.

DENISE TEW '69 loved the many careers she had, but retirement is the crowning glory. She is very busy swimming, gardening, and has awakened her artistic gifts through group lessons in acrylics. She is also enjoying time with her husband and travelling.

SR. BARBARA ZIMMER '73

has served for sixty years as an Ursuline of the Chatham Union, Diocese of London in Ontario and celebrated her 80th birthday in November.

CAROL CHRISTIE '73 is

busy as co-head coach of Western's Varsity Fencing Team with her husband, Brad Winder. As a member of the team herself while at Brescia, Carol has been involved as a coach since 1978. She and her husband run the Sport

Western Fencing Camps and have a community club, the Mustang Sword Club, which is open to all ages and is the off-campus training site for the Western team.

MARY ANN SMITH '75 has six wonderful grandchildren five years and under. She is still using her degree with work and life, and went to a very enjoyable 40th reunion for Brescia's class of '75. She spends three months in Phoenix during the winter.

LOUISA YUE-CHAN '77 is still working full time, balancing work with travel, family, and volunteer work. She just welcomed a second grandson to the fold and loves being a grandma. She recently returned from a glorious tour and cruise in Alaska – quite a different holiday from Morocco in the spring, which included camping in the Sahara! Her trips this year will likely include Hong Kong and Ecuador, perhaps a resort vacation as well.



KAREN Taelman '79, along with her mother, cruised the Caribbean on the Queen Mary II to celebrate Christmas, her 60th birthday, and New Year's Eve last year. This was quite an event for her mother as she had previously sailed as a girl on the original Queen Mary!

SUSAN UNDERWOOD '83

Congratulations to Susan Underwood who just retired after 31 years as a guidance counsellor.

CHERYL ORZEL '86 received her 30 years of service pin from the Ottawa Catholic School Board last spring and reunited for lunch with Brescia bestie and roommate **TRACEY DELINE '85!**



TESS DRABICK '86

Congratulations to Tess Drabick who retired from the Canadian Armed Forces on January 11th, 2018. For 26+ years, she served her country as a Roman Catholic Chaplain. She was the first female R.C. Chaplain in the Reserve Forces, was the first female R.C. Chaplain to go to war, and she was one of the very few sailors in the world to cross the Equator at the International Date Line. After living from coast-to-coast in Canada for the past 26 years, she returned last fall to her hometown of London, Ontario to retire.

LORI RYAN '90 is now enjoying semi-retirement after 21 years of working at Olympia Trust Company, the last 15 years spent in the position of Vice-President, Registered Plans & TFSA Division.

MARY O'BRIEN-KWAN '90

is living in Hong Kong with husband and two teenagers. They celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary this past year.

SHEILA FOSTER '90 married James Foster in 1999 and has two daughters, Katy (16) and Megan (14).

SILVANA MACLEAN '90

has gone on to earn her Chartered Professional Accountant and Certified Management Accountant designations. She also has earned a Masters of Health Science, specialized in Health Policy, Management and Evaluation from the University of Toronto, Community Medicine Program. She is currently conducting her doctoral degree in Education at Western University and works full time as a Professor at Fanshawe College while volunteering on the Board of Directors of the Thames Valley Health Team. She and her husband have been married for 23 years and are blessed with two daughters; one entering University and one entering high school this past fall. She helped plan a reunion this past July at Brescia for a group of Brescia alumnae that all met on campus back in 1987.



keep us updated!

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

MARLENE LOUGHEED '91 celebrated her 20th wedding anniversary with her husband, Greg, this past year. They are enjoying raising their children Evan, Zach, Eric and Jody, and she is working in long-term care in Owen Sound, Ontario.

KAREN WILSON '92 lives in Stoney Creek with her three children. She taught Family Studies and Science at the high school level for several years. She is still a teacher, but as a digital program consultant helping students and educators purposefully enhance learning through the use of technology.

KATHERINE FOSTER '92 was married in 1993 to Sebastien Foster. They have four children: Peter (21), Katharina (19), Christine (16), and Alexander (12) and are still living in Chatham, Ontario.

KAVITA FISCHER '92 is married to David and has four children. She left the nutrition field to attend teacher's college and currently works as a Grade eight teacher in Ajax, Ontario.

LISA HAAGSMA '92 & '07 recently moved with her husband, Mark, to Fort St. John, B.C. where she is currently teaching second grade. She is loving the new challenge and being closer to her daughter, Madeline.



OZELLE CASE '92 celebrated her 50th birthday on April 3rd, 2018 in Honolulu, Hawaii. She and her husband, Rodney, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on July 10th, 2018; they have two children.

LAILA VELOCCI '93 has been working with the Toronto District School Board (TCDSB) since 1995 as a teacher, before becoming Vice Principal and was then promoted to Principal of St. Mary Catholic Academy in September 2016. She feels very honoured to serve as an educator and leader in the TCDSB.

VALERIE VEITCH-LOVER '93 just celebrated her 25th wedding anniversary with her amazing hubby and they have three great kids too!

JUDITH KUSTER '94 and her husband, Thomas, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in October 2017. They have three wonderful children, Grace who is entering her first year of high school, Matthew who is in Grade four, and Miki who is in Grade two. Life couldn't be better for them!



DONNA ABEL '05 celebrated 13 years with the Canada Revenue Agency in June 2018. She was appointed current chair of the Edmonton Young Professionals Network in

April 2018 and was invited to sit on a CRA national strategic working group for the Innovation Pipeline pilot project in January 2018.

ANNA WENZNIK '08 met the love of her life in 2012 and was married in 2016 where a fellow alumna, **IZABELA BIELASKA-HORNBLOWER '09**, was her Maid of Honour. She currently resides in Hamilton, Ontario where she works for the Province of Ontario.



CLAIRE ROSS-CAMPBELL '09 obtained a full-time permanent teaching contract in 2010. She was married in 2014, welcomed a baby girl, Rosslyn, in 2016 and a baby boy, Carson, in 2018.



NADIA MAIOLINO '11 is currently finishing her PhD in Clinical Psychology at Western University. She married Jason Wells on August 11th, 2018; the wedding was held at Brescia. She is moving to Vancouver for a year while she completes her residency at Vancouver Coastal Health.

NICOLE PRIEUR '13 welcomed a daughter, Lillian Joan Margaret Prieur, in May 2017, married Thomas Prieur in January 2018 and is expecting her third child in March 2019.



SHAWNEE HAYWARD '14 obtained her first permanent full-time position on September 10th, 2018 as a Library Specialist at the Kawartha Lakes Public Library.

ALEXANDRA CATTON '16 completed a Master of Public Service at the University of Waterloo in June 2018 and is now working as a policy analyst with the Government of Canada.

ELIZABETH JACKSON '16 graduated with distinction in June 2018 with a Bachelor of Education at Western University's Faculty of Education; being awarded the Dean's Award in Excellence and the Faculty of Education Students' Council Leadership Award. During the two year program, she was President

MILESTONES

Catching up with Alumnae

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of the Education Students' Council. Soon after graduation, she travelled to Northern Canada to work with a summer camp geared towards literacy and spent seven weeks at a fly-in First Nations community. She was recently accepted into the Faculty of Education's Masters of Professional Education - Social Justice, Equity and Diversity stream and was officially hired as an occasional teacher for Thames Valley District School Board in September.



EMILY OPTHOF '17 went on to complete her dietetic internship at London Health Sciences in August 2018. She is now a Registered Dietitian and has joined a Family Health Team in Lambton County.



KATEY DAVIDSON '18 completed the MScFN program in June 2018, and started an online company called Taste of Nutrition that launched mid-July. She also obtained a position as a lecturer at Brescia

and began teaching Introduction to Foods this past September. Since starting Taste of Nutrition, she has worked with various magazine publications and has been featured on websites such as Yahoo, This is Insider, and Healthline.

TANNIS BOISVERT '18 started her first year at Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College in Toronto on August 20th, 2018.

Lives Remembered

Brescia was sad to learn of the passing of the following alumnae:

MARION TIMMINS '59

LYNNE BADDER '96

ELIESHA MCBRIDE '04

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