

# bulletin

SPRING / SUMMER 2007

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ALUMNAE BULLETIN



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## ALUMNAE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Brescia Alumnae,

My spring message originally began on a high note, but recent events changed this. Our community has lost an alumna whose practices in daily life exemplify those values integral to Brescia. Franca (Creati) Fortner '68 was a woman of courage and unwavering faith who even in her very difficult last days remained gracious. Franca meant the world to me and I will miss her more than I can tell you, but Franca will be missed by many, many alumnae around the world not to mention the others she touched over her 60 years.

Franca loved Brescia proudly serving over the years on every committee from Council President to her most recent contribution as Chair of the Awards Committee. She would most definitely not want this message to be all about her. And there is so much happening that I must make mention of a few of the highlights.

Baccalaureate: Another glorious day. On behalf of the Alumnae Council and over 4,000 members of the Alumnae Association, congratulations Class of 2007!

Alumnae Constitution and Bylaws: the final draft should be out the door soon.

Annual Gathering & General Meeting: June 23rd. Year-end reports, constitution, by-laws, future plans, a slate of officers with a side of strawberries.

More information about all of the above information, including Franca, can be found in this bulletin.

Before closing I want to answer a question I still hear. "What do I do to become a member of the Alumnae Association?" If you graduated from Brescia you are a member of Brescia's Alumnae Association for life. If you attended Brescia at anytime for one year but did not graduate, you are an associate and upon request,

are entitled to membership. If you wish to become more closely involved with the many alumnae programs, please talk to us about volunteering. There's so much you can do! Brescia is your University; the Alumnae Council is your representation at the College and your voice on campus. Your participation is not only welcome, it is vital.

We are very interested in hearing from you; please take a few minutes and send us a brief e-mail. If you have relocated in the past few years, let us know!

Warmest regards,

Mary Beth Sullivan '98  
Alumnae Council President





*Women's leadership is a topic of great interest recently in the media and in public and private conversations. There is increasing dissatisfaction with traditional hierarchical leadership that seems incapable of addressing today's issues effectively. Interest is growing in alternative models of leadership that emphasize collaboration and inclusiveness, and these models are predicated on the active participation of women in priority setting and decision making.*

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Brescia has been a pioneer in women's leadership since its founding in 1919, and it's good to see the rest of the world catching up! Studying at a women's university college founded and operated by a women's religious community, Brescia students over the years have had many examples of decisive and committed women to draw upon as role models.

The Ursuline sisters exemplified a style of leadership that springs from a clear identification of mission – the end toward which effort, energy and resources will be directed. The Brescia Ursulines were of course committed to providing post-secondary education for women students, in an environment that stressed the value of education not just for personal gain, but as preparation for lives focused on service to others and the building of community. The Ursulines were also forerunners of today's more inclusive models of leadership. They expected every student do her very best, and encouraged each one to set high goals for herself. This stance predicted today's new leadership paradigm that considers every individual to have leadership potential that can be nurtured and developed.

Brescia students enjoyed an environment very positive to women's leadership at a critical stage in their intellectual and personal growth. As alumnae, these women have moved into the public, corporate, and not-for-profit sectors in force and have had significant impact.

We at Brescia seek to build on this strong foundation with new initiatives to support women's leadership. The College's *Learn Live Lead* strategic plan has challenged us to form new partnerships and to enhance the programming available to build leadership potential among women.

One of the most exciting initiatives is IWIL— Brescia's new Institute for Women in Leadership. IWIL supports the development of authentic leaders who will choose to practice a sustainable, collective and socially responsible form of leadership. This new organization will sponsor a wide range of activities including leadership training for Brescia students, leadership workshops for alumnae and community members, summer camp for young girls with a focus on leadership, scholarships for outstanding young women who are already demonstrating their leadership skills, and activism on issues important to women. A planning group with representation from faculty, staff, students, alumnae and community partners is hard at work to plan how IWIL will evolve over the next few years.

You will hear more about IWIL in both the short and long term. IWIL will offer many opportunities for sharing wisdom, for learning, and for working together on new initiatives. We hope that many alumnae will bring their experience and their passion for change to IWIL endeavours. Brescia women can change the world.

Dr. Theresa Topic, Principal

# valedictorian speech—jaimie c. hemsworth

*We entered university uncertain of how we would fit in and whether we would be capable of handling the demand of university-level courses. We soon realized that while we were of diverse cultures, backgrounds, ages, traditions and beliefs, we all shared the common goal of being a successful student. We have been exposed to an atmosphere in which high achieving women are the rule, not the exception. We have certainly lived the Brescia slogan “women who can change the world”; our education has given us the courage, knowledge, skills and confidence to step into challenging leadership roles in a changing society.*

Brescia has enabled many of us to develop leadership skills and bring our unique talents and the Brescia perspective to clubs or associations at Western, in the community and globally. I have a deep appreciation for Brescia and its focus on empowering women and supporting their growth. Our professors know our names, our goals, our strengths, what motivates us, and they have a shared interest in our success. They demand nothing less than our best, which for us means the opportunity to be challenged as critical thinkers and to speak our ideas freely.

We are about to embark on a new journey. We will reach many more milestones and learn many new things. We will be off to new cities, new countries; we will meet new people and make new friends. But, always remember your time at Brescia. Remember the camaraderie, hard work and the immense support. Remember how amazing it feels to learn, discover, and to grow. Be proud of the knowledge you have gained and what you have accomplished at Brescia. We are all leaving as confident, well prepared and professional women. Your education and your memories are yours to keep forever.



*Top & Bottom Left: Jamie Hemsworth*

*Bottom Right: Dr. Theresa Topic, Jamie Hemsworth & Ann Hawkins*

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Human Ecology graduate Jaimie Hemsworth is just one example of the leaders who grow and develop while attending Brescia. The interactive approach to education at Brescia allowed Jaimie to participate in many research and academic activities, including “Western Heads East”, a grassroots project intended to decrease the transmission and progression of HIV/AIDS in Africa. In the summer of 2006, Jaimie spent three months in Mwanza, Tanzania working with African women producing and distributing probiotic yogurt, studying the nutritional impact on families consuming yogurt and also people living with HIV/AIDS. Her experience in Tanzania, and having the opportunity for hands-on work with her professors’ research at Brescia, had provided Jaimie with an opportunity for self-discovery and real-world knowledge. Jaimie has already made her mark in the world and is well on her way to becoming a leader of tomorrow.

# baccalaureate speech- ann hawkins '63

***Today is the beginning of a new chapter in your life. Each chapter requires a fresh vision, new plans and inner courage as you shift gears from yesterday's commitments as a student to tomorrow's possibilities as a graduate and Brescia alumna.***

Because of the intense turbulence of virtually everything in the 21st century, you will probably have many more chapters in your life story than the Brescia graduates of my era. Each of your chapters will probably be shorter than ours, but you will have more opportunities than we did to change your careers, where you choose to live, and adult roles.

The secret to a resilient life in our kind of world is knowing how to recycle yourself over and over, letting go of what is no longer you and shaping new chapters of your life, guided by your own emerging vision.

*Learn:*

Learning isn't just for kids anymore. We need to keep on top of interpersonal, technical and leadership skills. Today it is essential to be competent in: speaking, writing, listening, persuading, caring and managing conflict.

We need the determination and discipline to stay at the cutting edge of our chosen fields. This is why it is so important to "love what you do".

*Live:*

You may think that extolling the virtues of physical fitness is a strange topic for a baccalaureate address, but it is a topic that I am passionate about especially for women. The earlier in life that you establish sound habits in the basic skills of managing time and maintaining leisure activities, the more you will enjoy the long distance run of adult life.

In a culture that is so serious and goal oriented, physical activities provide us with genuine replenishment of the inner spirit. Run or swim not for a future reward, but for the experience of being in the moment.



*Lead:*

To explore the experience of women in leadership roles today, I informally interviewed eight women leaders in government, education, health care, human services, consulting and film and entertainment. I asked them what advice they would give to you, if they were in my shoes today.

Here's what they told me:

- Don't be afraid to take risks. Acknowledge your fear and move out of your comfort zone.
- It is important to connect with people in other fields and disciplines.
- Don't try to go it alone. Create a support organization just for you.
- Think big. Support powerful women who want what you want.
- It's all about being with people.
- You need a sense of humour and a sense of the absurd. Find an outlet to have fun.
- Family and career can be done, but be sure to get the support you need.
- Don't compare yourself to others. Look at where you were six months or a year ago.

Congratulations to the Class of 2007!

# get to know...



*Dr. John Mitchell is an assistant professor of psychology and this year's recipient of Brescia's Award for Excellence in Teaching.*

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## Q & A

1. How long have you taught at Brescia?  
The 2006–07 academic year was my fourth year at Brescia.
2. What was the last book you read?  
*Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures* by Vincent Lam.
3. Tim's or Starbucks?  
Starbucks or, even better, Hasbeans at the Covent Garden Market. Hasbeans makes the best latte that I have had in London.
4. Which would you miss more, your TV or car stereo?  
Definitely my car stereo. I watch very little TV, but I always have music playing.
5. What talent do you wish you had?  
To be able to sing. I love music and have played horns and piano, but when I sing people scream and run away – they won't even stay long enough to throw things.
6. Where do you go to think?  
I get my iPod and go for a walk. With music to suit my mood and no specific destination, a long walk presents a very good time to think.
7. What do you enjoy about working at Brescia?  
The strong sense of community that we have at Brescia. That is really quite rare, and a very special attribute of Brescia. My favourite aspect of being at Brescia is the opportunity to get to know and work with our students; to see their growth and development as people and as young scholars. Prior to Brescia, I taught classes as large as 500 students where you cannot learn students' names or get to know them. With Brescia's size and pedagogical approach, I have the opportunity to interact with students and colleagues as people, not just names on a list.
8. What is the biggest challenge about working at Brescia?  
A challenge in teaching is to make the material interesting and relevant for my students. This is especially true for Psychology 285 "Psychological Measurement and Statistics". When every student in the class is there because it is required and not out of interest, it is a challenge to show them why it is important and relevant to their personal and professional lives. Students do not go into psychology because they like math, and there are students who enter the stats course convinced that they cannot do it. It is a challenge to help students realize that they can achieve in that course if they make the effort. It is also very rewarding when

# dr. john mitchell

students discover that they can do it, and they finish the course with much more success than they had anticipated.

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

It is difficult to choose only one in each category. One of the worst and most disappointing movies that I ever saw was *Dune*. The book by Frank Herbert is excellent, but the movie was a disaster. From the many good movies that I have seen I will pick *A Beautiful Mind* as one of the best.

10. What is your biggest indulgence?

Junk food; I know I shouldn't eat it, but I love potato chips, nachos, salted peanuts, and similar snacks. If I have them around, I find it very hard to leave them alone.

11. Is there anything you won't eat?

Brussel sprouts; I do not believe that it is really an edible plant.

12. What do you consider your greatest accomplishment?

That my daughter, Cheryl, and son, Andrew, are happy, healthy, kind and talented children. I am a very proud father.

13. Which do you use more often, the telephone or email?

Definitely e-mail. Friends suspect that I have had a modem card surgically implanted and am now WiFi capable.

14. Why did you decide to become a psychology professor?

I was always interested in science. I also have a long-standing interest in questions of human nature, epistemology, and related areas. When I entered

university I discovered psychology and it seemed perfectly suited to satisfy my interest in science and the questions that I had about behaviour, mind, and human nature. I did some teaching as a senior graduate student because I needed the money, and I found it a demanding but rewarding experience. After I completed my doctoral studies I held several research positions. When I was only doing research I realized how much I had enjoyed teaching and I missed it. As a university professor, I can combine my interests in teaching and in research.

15. If you didn't become a professor, what career path might you have followed?

Although I would have starved, a writer. Growing up I wanted to be a scientist or a writer. As a university professor I get to do both, and teach, which makes this such a wonderfully rewarding profession.

16. What advice would you give your students who are graduating this year?

I would say, "follow your interests, work hard, be true to yourself, believe in yourself". That may sound trite, but I believe it is true. Although I have been accused of being an unabashed optimist, I really do believe that if you follow that approach, things will work out.

# women in politics: the road to leadership

*The Ursuline Sisters founded Brescia in 1919, 10 years before the British Privy Council decided that women were “persons” under Canadian law, eligible for appointment to the Senate. Since that time, the participation of women in politics has slowly risen; the percentage of federal Parliament seats held by women has held steady at 20% for the last few years.*

During Brescia’s recent Institute for Women in Leadership (IWIL) Talks, Political Science Professor Paul Barker suggested that several “rules” affect the participation of women in politics. He discussed the obstacles women face on the road to politics and how the rules are changing to diminish the “electoral glass ceiling”.

To further explore some of these rules and how they relate to the personal experiences of Brescia women involved in Canadian politics, alumnae Amanda Mayer and Lauren Starr, and current student Ruth Tisdale commented on the points raised by Dr. Barker.

## SOCIALIZATION

Our sense of self is established in part by our family, friends, religion and media. Traditionally, these sources have encouraged men to explore their political self or a career in politics more so than women, although this is seen to be changing. How have you been encouraged or discouraged to explore political roles?

AM: My parents, Rita and Peter Mayer, encouraged me to take on a political role. Their values and beliefs created the foundation for my eventual career path. They always encouraged me to aim high, but also to choose a field that I was passionate about and that would utilize my strengths. Politics just seemed like a natural fit. My political science professors, in particular Dr. Paul Barker of Brescia, were also instrumental in encouraging my entrance into politics. In fact, it was Dr. Barker’s Politics 020E class which sparked my interest in political science in the first place.



*Clockwise from top:  
Lauren Starr and  
Deb Matthews; Amanda  
Mayer; Ruth Tisdale.*

LS: My family and friends have always been very supportive; however, when it comes to running for office, my fiancé has asked me not to, but my dad thinks I should.

RT: My immediate family was very supportive and encouraging of my desire to run for office, as were my closest friends. Some acquaintances have questioned the appropriateness of my decision, especially considering the appropriateness of my decision, especially considering my full-time studies at Brescia, and my responsibilities as a wife and mother of five children, but I believe that it is not only possible to balance all of these responsibilities, but also sets a very positive example for my children.

## OCCUPATION

How has your career or educational choices led to a career in politics?

AM: Without a doubt, my decision to study political science led to my career in politics. During my final months at Western, I applied to the non-partisan Ontario Legislature Internship Program (OLIP), which provided the opportunity for university graduates to work for two Members of the Provincial Parliament for a 10-month period. To my delight, I was chosen as one of eight OLIP Interns. My participation in the program in September 2003 marked the beginning of my political career.

LS: I took two full years of politics courses at Western. A course with Professor Skidmore on Women in History motivated me to examine women in politics; I was

astonished that so few women are elected even now. I am very interested in the work that goes on behind the scenes, which is why I took a master's degree in Public Policy from McMaster. The internship that I am now completing teaches about provincial politics.

RT: I have not followed a conventional path. I was a "stay-at-home" mom until two years ago, and spent the past decade volunteering in schools and community organizations. I realized that there was a need for more women in politics and I felt that I had something more to offer my community. I chose my post secondary program based on what I believed would be most beneficial in my future career.

#### **POLITICAL PARTIES & REPRESENTING INTERESTS**

**Has your work with a specific political party or in politics in general allowed you to represent your own personal interests? Are there issues relating specifically to women that you feel are front and centre at this time?**

AM: Although my political career began in a non-partisan intern programme, like most people, I did have political leanings. However, I never allowed my political leanings to interfere with my intern work. Helping your MPP to recognize and to bring forth the interests of his or her constituents is of primary importance; everything else is secondary.

LS: My internship has shown me the true value of remaining non-partisan. As an intern we get to work for an opposition and government member of our choice. This experience has shown me that there are Members from each political party that I could support. I believe it is about the person who will best represent the riding. I think I am more afraid that I would get involved with a party and then not be able to express my ideas. I can understand the attraction of running as an independent.

RT: I am not involved with any specific political party, but I have worked closely with many of the major parties on numerous issues. My focus is on public education. I prefer a collaborative approach to situations and have remained non-partisan. I believe that many issues affecting women today are not much different from the past. There have been improvements, but much remains to be done.

#### **PERSONAL SACRIFICES**

**Have you had to make specific sacrifices for your political interests? If so, do you feel that your sacrifices differ from male counterparts in similar political roles?**

AM: Working at Queen's Park is not a 9 am–5 pm job; therefore, the biggest sacrifice for my political interests is leisure time. In addition to researching, writing, and coordinating schedules, there is a lot of "social" work which a political staffer has to perform. I don't think my sacrifice of leisure time differs from that of my male counterparts, but it is important to keep in mind that I am a political staffer and not an MPP.

LS: Sometimes I miss dinners at home, but that is largely a consequence of my 3 hour daily commute rather than my political involvement. I am continually blown away, however, by how hard the MPPs work. Some start as early as 7 am and their days often don't end until late in the evening. They then go to their ridings on Thursday nights and attend events and meetings all weekend.

RT: I have had to make personal sacrifices for my political interests. I am constantly balancing my political responsibilities with those of my family. I do not feel that the sacrifices I make differ from those of my male counterparts, but I do feel that as a wife and mother it is possible that I feel more strongly about those sacrifices.

#### **Amanda Mayer '03**

Queen's Park Parliamentary Assistant to  
Richard Patten, MPP

#### **Lauren Starr '04**

Scholar's Electives Honors BA in Politics and  
Communications. Ontario Legislature Internship  
Program 2006–07.

#### **Ruth Tisdale Class of 2010**

Candidate for a double major in Management and  
Organizational Studies and Community Development.  
Recently elected as Trustee with the Thames Valley  
District School Board.

# library by the numbers



*The first academic year of the new Beryl Ivey Library has come to a successful completion.*

Throughout the year, the library was a campus hot spot, with students meeting and working together on projects and presentations. The official close of the Library Expansion Campaign is June 21, 2007, with over \$2 million raised to complete the project, thanks to the generous support of alumnae, students, staff, faculty and community partners.

Here are some other numbers relating to the Beryl Ivey Library:

- 56,000 books
- 4,600 circulation activities per month
- 1,000 visitors per day
- 200 active serial subscriptions
- 46 computer stations
- 30% of exterior walls are glass
- 0 quiet signs during regular library hours (the library encourages a team work environment!)

Online donation is now available on Brescia's website through [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org).

## Get **REAL** Camp

REAL Me REAL Friends REAL Life

Brescia is inviting girls between the ages of 8 and 11 to "Get Real" this summer as they explore what it means to be a leader. In partnership with Sports Western, "Get Real" will use Brescia's scenic campus to deliver exciting programming focused on self-discovery, positive relationships, and healthy lifestyle choices. The week will be jam-packed with fun, including active games, outdoor activities (including swimming), crafts, skits, music, discussion circles, and much more. The girls will also have the opportunity to prepare a nutritious lunch each day, and the week will culminate in a celebratory barbeque that parents will be encouraged to attend.

DATE	TIME	AGES	FEES	CAMP CODE
July 16-20	8:30-4:30	8-9	\$175	0885
July 30- August 3	8:30-4:30	10-11	\$175	0886

Register by mail, by fax, or in person. Details available at [http://campusrec.uwo.ca/sport\\_western/registration.htm](http://campusrec.uwo.ca/sport_western/registration.htm). We can also register for you if you come by Brescia's Student Services Centre with your Visa, MasterCard or cheque ready.

Regardless of your registration method, please include details regarding special food concerns, allergies, and medical concerns.

**Brescia**  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

**IWIL** | The Institute  
for Women  
in Leadership

# homecoming 2007

*Mark September 29 and 30 on your calendar, because Homecoming 2007 will be here before you know it!*

Join us for a weekend of reuniting and reminiscing as the Class of '57 celebrates their Golden Anniversary and Class of '82 celebrates their Silver. All alumnae of graduating years ending in 2 or 7 will receive an invitation to attend homecoming, but ALL alumnae are welcome to attend. Registration information is available online at [www.brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/alumnae), by emailing [brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca) or calling 519.432.8353 ext. 28280.

## SCHEDULE OF HOMECOMING EVENTS

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

- 10:00 a.m. Homecoming Parade  
1:00 p.m. Homecoming Football Game  
Western vs. Windsor  
For tickets, contact Cori Muston at 519.661.2111 ext 80361. Tickets are \$20 each. Be sure to say you're with Brescia alumnae.
- 1:00 p.m. Brescia Tour  
2:20 p.m. Anniversary Tea (Rose Room)  
3:00 p.m. Women's Panel (Oak Room)  
4:30 p.m. Wine & Cheese (Beryl Ivey Library)  
8:00 p.m. All Classes Bash  
(Register through Western)

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2007

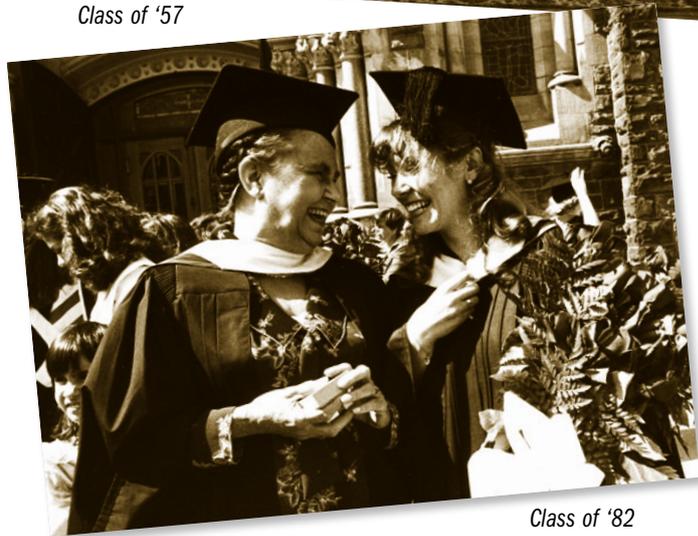
- 10:00 a.m. Mass  
11:00 a.m. Class Photos  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
2:00 p.m. Brescia Tour

### "Brescia Homecoming 2007" on Facebook

Join our group, post messages, share pictures and memories, and encourage other alumnae to attend Homecoming 2007!



Class of '57



Class of '82

## MOTHER-DAUGHTER AWARD

*Is your daughter a current Brescia student?  
Contact the Alumnae Relations Office at  
[brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca) or call  
519.432.8353 ext. 28280 to see if she  
qualifies for the Mother-Daughter award.*

# human ecology name change/ graduate program

*Brescia's Department of Human Ecology was officially renamed Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences as of February 7, 2007.*

This name change reflects the increasing specialization of the Department's faculty who have developed a strong research profile in nutrition issues, and the course preferences of the students in the program. Many graduates of the program go on to internships and Registered Dietitian status.

The Department was originally founded as a Department of Home Economics in 1936. Students studied nutrition and home management at Brescia and took science courses at Western. In 1998 the Department was renamed Department of Human Ecology, following a trend among many of the increasingly professionalized Home Economics Departments in Canada. The change to Department of



*Above: Dr. Alicia Garcia & Dr. Theresa Topic*

Food and Nutritional Sciences has a 96 per cent approval rating by students and faculty who were polled for their opinion. "This name change provides our students and graduates with stronger recognition for their work in obtaining their degree and allows them to compete successfully in the global job market," explains Dr. Garcia.

Brescia is one of only 15 universities in Canada that offers the program of Food and Nutrition, and offers one of three programs in Ontario leading to dietetic internships.

## dr. piché in the media

***Brescia's new strategic plan, 'Learn, Live, Lead', calls on members of Brescia's community to help raise the profile of the College. Professor Len Piché, Department of Food and Nutritional Sciences was recently recognized for his accomplishments in this area, having reached a milestone of over 200 local, national and international media interviews.***

Dr. Piché is contacted regularly as an expert in areas relating to Canada's Food Guide, food labelling, supplements, adult/childhood obesity, and screen viewing habits of children. Also, his expertise on Thanksgiving/Christmas turkey has become an annual tradition. He is consulted by print media, including local and national

newspapers and magazines such as *Chatelaine*, as well as radio, television and web based media outlets.

Dr. Piché has demonstrated a strong leadership role within Brescia's faculty and as a leading Canadian dietitian, while highlighting the College's unique identity, community and programs. Congratulations, Dr. Piché for teaching beyond the classroom by sharing your expertise with the public and other health professionals, while continuing to raise awareness about Brescia and demonstrating the excellence in teaching the College has to offer.

To view some of Dr. Piché's work online, visit:

[www.baffin.com/pdfs/NorthPoleDiet.pdf](http://www.baffin.com/pdfs/NorthPoleDiet.pdf)

[www.mssociety.ca/atlantic/pdf/MS%20Atlantic%20Fall%202006.pdf](http://www.mssociety.ca/atlantic/pdf/MS%20Atlantic%20Fall%202006.pdf)

[www.cbc.ca/news/viewpoint/vp\\_rogers/20050202.html](http://www.cbc.ca/news/viewpoint/vp_rogers/20050202.html)

# principal search committee

*A Principal Search Committee, chaired by Norman Pizzale, has begun the process of selecting a new Principal for Brescia to succeed Dr. Theresa Topic in July 2008. Dr. Topic's term ends June 2008 and she has chosen not to renew.*

During her time as Principal of Brescia, Dr. Topic has been a tremendous leader. Her positive impact on the Brescia community is demonstrated through an increase in student enrolment, the successful completion of the Beryl Ivey Library expansion, and the recent launch of a new strategic plan "Learn, Live, Lead".

Dr. Theresa Topic is the 11th Principal of Brescia University College, and the first lay Principal. She was appointed Academic Dean at Brescia in 1996, served as Acting Principal in the 1999-2000 academic year and was appointed as Principal beginning July 1, 2000. Prior to her employment at Brescia, Dr. Topic was a director of the Anthropology Graduate Program at Trent University in Peterborough.

Brescia has retained Laverne Smith & Associates Inc. as consultant to assist in this search and the Committee, consisting of student, alumnae, faculty, staff, Council of Trustee, and Ursuline representatives, intends to provide an opportunity to hear the views of individuals and groups as it undertakes this important endeavour. You are invited to participate in a questionnaire and share your opinions. For more information, visit Brescia's website at [www.brescia.uwo.ca/about/principal\\_search](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/about/principal_search).

## A LESSON IN LATIN

*Brescia is the only post-secondary institution in Canada that refers to all graduates of the College as alumnae (pronounced alum-nay), instead of alumni. As Canada's only university-level College for women, the term alumnae reflects Brescia's female graduates, as opposed to the neutral term, alumni, which can either refer to a group of male graduates, or a group consisting of both male and female graduates. When referring to one graduate, the term alumna signifies a female and alumnus signifies a male.*



## FRAME YOUR SUCCESS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHANNON McDOWELL '07,  
WINNER OF A BRESCIA DEGREE FRAME.

Degree Frames are available for purchase by contacting  
[brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca) or calling 519.432.8353 ext. 28280

# milestones

- '57 Nora (Hanley) Newton continues to lead a full and busy life. Along with curling three times weekly, bridge, theatre series, ballet and volunteering as a lector at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Toronto, again this year she helped organize World Day of Prayer, March 2, 2007, sponsored by all churches in the Yonge/St. Clair area. She also volunteers weekly at a breakfast club for inner-city children at St. Paul's Basilica and has lined up students to help with this program from the parish school in her area of Toronto. As an organizer of excursions (06/07) for the Western Lecture Series in Toronto, she arranged with her neighbour, architect Jack Diamond, for a guided tour of the new opera house. Along with Mary Kay (Brown) Kelly, Nora is organizing the reunion for the Class of 1957 at Brescia in September 2007.
- '58 Laura Cooper keeps busy in Toronto with theatre outings, film festivals, lecture series, a bible study group and local politics. As well, she is an advocate for the homeless. When time permits, Laura travels and has signed up for the Western trip to Russia.
- '59 Sr. Mary Margaret Ferris was awarded the "Stewards in Catholic Education Award" by the London District Catholic School Board at the start of Education Week, April 30. Her service as teacher, high school principal, and professor at St. Peter's Seminary were cited, as was her work with troubled youth.
- '68 Cathryn (Cornelius) Oldewening writes, "My husband Rudy retired last year, but I continue to keep my job as I enjoy it and the people I meet and work with. My time is very flexible, which has allowed us to travel a fair bit. We've recently travelled to Italy, Greece, Turkey and Egypt. As well, we spent a month in Bucerias, Mexico this winter. It was very relaxing and restful! We enjoy spending time with our three grandsons, aged 7, 7½ and 9 years old. We are very much looking forward to warmer weather when we can spend time in our garden."
- '73 Helen J. Bugno writes, "Together with my husband and youngest son, Daniel, I have moved to Jakarta, Indonesia. We are all flourishing in this warm, tropical climate and enjoying every single moment. The people, geography, history, and culture make it a truly special experience. Last Christmas we were blessed with visits from Tara, our daughter, from Montreal where she is in third-year law school at McGill, and David, our son, who now works as a drilling engineer for Chevron Canada. Selamat tinggal!"
- '73 Sandra (Bell) Doyle writes, "In October 2007 Len and I will celebrate 30 years of marriage. Len will also retire in September 2007 after 34 years with The Beer Store and reaching the milestone of 60. Big celebrations planned. Our five children are all doing well working in the Smiths Falls, Kingston and Ottawa area—close to home for regular visits. No marriages or grandchildren yet."
- '73 Barbara Zimmer will celebrate her Golden Jubilee—50 years as an Ursuline Religious of the Chatham Union in June 2008.
- '77 Yvonne Van Braeckel-Dufault received two prestigious provincial level honours from OTF/OTIP (Provincial Teaching Award) and CPF Ontario (**W.R. Gillivary Award**. Canadian Parents for French, Ontario Chapter) in October 2006.



"If I had not picked up French part-way through term one at Brescia College, I would not be where I am today"

# milestones

- '81 Wilma de Rond was named the Director of Education for the London District Catholic School Board, and is the first woman to achieve this post. Also, Wilma currently sits on Brescia's Council of Trustees
- '90 Beth Gould Crotty has been in private practice in Richmond Hill, Ontario, for 15 years. She had two recipes published in the new (2007) cookbook by Dietitians of Canada, called *Simply Great Food*. She and her husband of eight years have two children. Beth loves her role as mother.
- '92 Lisa Kuiper will graduate from Brescia again Spring 2007 with a new degree; Honours Double Major in English and Family Studies. She will then head to the University of the Sunshine Coast, located just north of Brisbane, Australia, in June to attend teachers college. Her daughter, Madeline, as well as the family cat, Ed, will be joining her on this new adventure and they are planning on spending the next year after Australia in Japan where she will gain some experience teaching before returning to London, ON where she plans to teach high school.
- '93 Andrea Eady recently moved back to Ontario to be with family after living in Kelowna, BC for over 12 years. She is still working with individuals with disabilities and loves her profession. She returns out West in September to open her own agency, with a partner, providing support for people with developmental, physical and mental health disabilities.
- '93 Laila Velocci was appointed Vice-Principal of Chaminade College School with the Toronto Catholic School Board in March 2006. She is responsible for 840 male students from grades 9–12. This role provides numerous challenges as she helps prepare students for their post-secondary destinations.
- '94 After graduating from Brescia, Laurie (Moseley-Williams) Prentice attended Sheridan and received a diploma in Sign Language Interpreting. She was married in 1997 to Brad Prentice and they have three children (Ethan 1999, Aidan 2001, Rylie Elizabeth 2003). Currently, Laurie is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom.
- '99 Christine (Ashby) Gilbank was married in June 2002. She became an elementary school teacher with the Toronto Catholic District School Board that same year. Her daughter Emily Lynn was born on July 29, 2003, and son James William arrived on September 16, 2005. Currently, Christine is staying at home with her children.
- '00 Wendy Lopez writes, "I'm glad to say May 2007 was my one year anniversary for buying my first home, solo! My biggest challenge so far has been shovelling, but it's been worth it."
- '00 Tanya Pulley writes, "Earlier this year, I was offered a Sales Representative position with 3M in Halifax. I made the decision to move back home in March 2007. It was hard to say goodbye to all my dear friends in London but I am ready for a new beginning and this new challenge. It is great to be home with family, friends and the ocean. Please keep in touch."
- '01 Amanda C. Elliott has accepted a new Montessori teaching position in Kleinburg. She and her husband, Josh Grant, have moved back to Ontario after spending four years in Alexandria, VA. They will celebrate their third anniversary on August 15, 2007, and have bought their first home in the Heart Lake community in Brampton, Ontario. They are happy to be back in Canada and enjoying being homeowners.
- '01 Nicole P. Ewing recently founded a law firm in Ottawa.
- '05 Holly Borrows is working on her Masters of Education at The Gold Coast Campus at Griffith University in Australia, graduating in November 2007. She was hired by the Thames Valley District School Board and will be returning to the school board when she returns to Canada.

# milestones

'05 Jenna Flannigan is in her third year of law school at the University of Victoria Faculty of Law. This summer she will be studying international intellectual property law at Oxford in England, followed by travelling. After completing her degree, she will begin work as a student at the law firm Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP in Toronto.

'07 Laure Eldik was accepted in the Masters graduate program in sociology at The University of Western Ontario and will begin the program in September 2007.

## MARRIAGES

'77 Rebecca (Havens) Allison remarried in December 2006 to Paul Dalby and now has a stepdaughter, Susan.

'97 Renée (Acker) Stagno married Diego Graziano Stagno in Welland, Ontario on February 22, 2006.

'99 Beth (Dinell) Vardy was married on May 13, 2006, to Rod Vardy. They live in Forest, Ontario and Beth is currently an Assistant Manager with Enterprise Rent-a-Car in Sarnia.

'00 Melanie Caldwell was married to Nathan Clark on November 15, 2006, in Riviera Maya, Mexico. The couple was joined in celebration by 25 of their friends and family. They reside in London, ON where Melanie works in Graduate Affairs at The University of Western Ontario and Nathan is completing a one-year program in Building Trade Technology.



'02 Jennifer Perkons is engaged to be married to Sean W. MacLure on July 7, 2007, at Emerald Hills Golf and Country Club.

'03 Danijela (Prskalo) Gveric writes, "November 18, 2006, was one of the happiest days of my life! After nearly seven years of dating, Tony and I finally tied the knot. We had an absolutely perfect day filled with special traditions and a great party. After the wedding we honeymooned in St. Lucia for two weeks—it was a great trip! Once we returned we moved into our new home together and life has been great ever since."

'06 Jennifer (Thomas) Kristensen writes, "On July 15, 2006, Bob and I were married in London, Ontario at the Highland Country Club. We had many friends and family there to witness the exchanging of the vows. To celebrate, we went on a cruise to the Bahamas for a long awaited vacation. It was spectacular and hot!"

Leslee Lefteruk, Brescia's Development Officer was married to Randy Harris on April 19, 2007, in the Dominican Republic.



## BIRTHS

'86 Congratulations to Nancy Smibert on the birth of her son, Jeremy. Nancy is a receptionist at Brescia.

'91 Stacey Greaves-Walcott was married on August 8, 2001. She welcomed her first daughter, Maya Walcott, on November 3, 2003, and her second daughter, Anya Walcott, on September 12, 2006.

# milestones

- '94 Sarah (Hansen) Fontenot writes, "On May 15, 2006, we welcomed our daughter Peyton Elisabeth into the world. She is a baby sister to Moira (2½) and Jeffrey (d. 2001). Peyton was born with several problems including a Dandy Walker Malformation, congenital cataracts, microphthalmia, hip dysplasia, and moderate sensorineural hearing loss. She has since developed glaucoma. Peyton has developed other abnormalities with her brain since her birth. We are very fortunate to live in Houston, TX where there is a very large medical center where Peyton has received excellent care. We know no other families with children with such problems. If anyone does have experience with such issues, we would appreciate hearing from you. Please email [rsfontenot@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rsfontenot@sbcglobal.net). We have a website you may go to in order to view the latest updates on Peyton's condition [www.caringbridge.org/visit/peytonfontenot](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/peytonfontenot)"
- '96 Congratulations to Tammy Marche on the birth of her son Owen Peter Marche Bastarache who arrived on October 11, 2006, in Thompson, MB.
- '96 Lee-Anne Ridley and Shawn Pollock were married in Toronto on June 14, 2003. They welcomed their first child, son Kieran Ridley Pollock, to the world on March 6, 2006. The family recently moved to London, where Lee-Anne is working for IBM.
- '99 Christine (Chernak) Revai and her husband Geza are proud to announce a new addition to their family. Alexis Maggie-Anne was born on August 16, 2006, weighing 8 lbs 9 oz. She is a happy and healthy girl who is growing fast. Christine is a teacher with the Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB and is currently on maternity leave.

If you have a favourite memory of your time at Brescia, please send it to [jjones62@uwo.ca](mailto:jjones62@uwo.ca) and it may be included in the next issue of the Bulletin.

Abigail Elizabeth Jean was born on December 2, 2006, at St. Joseph's in London, weighing 5 lbs, 6 ozs, to proud parents Melissa and Adam Jean. Melissa is currently on maternity leave from her position with Brescia's Department of Social Sciences, Management and Organizational Studies.



## DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to the family and friends of:

- '41 Mary Lucia Wintermeyer Quigley who died in her home in London, Ontario, surrounded by her children, on Friday December 1, 2006.
- '49 Madeleine (Pensa) Hart who passed away in her home, surrounded by the love of family and friends, on December 19, 2006, in her 79th year. Her passion and dedication to Brescia and The Circle will be greatly missed.
- '49 Claire (Malette) Ludowe who passed away in Arizona on January 3, 2007. Especially to her husband, George.
- '50 Marilyn (Gignac) Harvey who passed away on April 10, 2007, after a two year battle with breast cancer. She is survived by her husband, Guy, children Paul and Michelle, and five grandchildren.
- '51 Rosemary Schiller on the loss of her husband Dr. Honoré Schiller (Meds '53). Rosemary resides in Windsor and has 11 children and 19 grandchildren.

# milestones

- '53 Joan Gordon Sherwood who died on December 9, 2006, in Dayton, Ohio, surrounded by daughter Allison, and sons John and Greg. Her husband died six years previously.
- '54 Eleanor (Jeffery) Vesey who passed away on August 1, 2006.
- '57 Margaret Murray Nicolson on the death of her husband, Jerry, in Stratford, Ontario, May 2007.
- '68 Franca (Creati) Fortner, who passed away peacefully at her residence on May 7, 2007. Especially to her husband Alan, and children, Adrian, Nicholas and Anne Marie. Franca was a longtime dedicated volunteer with Brescia's Alumnae Association and also the 2006 recipient of the Carmelle Murphy Alumnae Award of Distinction.



- '72 Paulette M. Tune, whose husband passed away May 03.
- '77 Rebecca (Havens) Allison, whose mother, Eileen Havens, passed away on Feb. 9, 2007, after a short bout with cancer.
- '99 Christine (Ashby) Gilbank on the loss of Christine's sister, Mary-Lynne, to brain cancer in May 2006.
- '05 Loe Garavito-Bruhn on the loss of her infant son Angel.

Sister Anne McCarthy who died in Chatham in January 2007. She taught at Brescia from 1943 to 1946 and from 1949 to 1966 in the Home Economics Department. She was also in charge of the residence students.

Sister Catherine Mary Strong who died in Chatham in her 92nd year. Sister Catherine Mary lived at Brescia for many years and worked in the library up to 2002.

Dr. Lisa Jakubowski on the loss of her father, Stefan Jakubowski, on Friday May 4, 2007.

Constance (Dunn) Voyce who passed away January 5, 2007.

**MASS IS OFFERED IN BRESCIA'S CHAPEL ON THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH FOR LIVING AND DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

## ALUMNAE IN BUSINESS

*If you currently own your own business and are looking for ways to reach Brescia alumnae, contact the Alumnae Relations office at [brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca) about promoting your company on Brescia's website under the upcoming section "Alumnae in Business".*

# upcoming events

## STRATFORD FESTIVAL

**Oklahoma! Thursday, August 16, 2007, 2:00 pm**

Cost: \$95 (includes transportation & box lunch)

## TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH

**Thursday, September 20, 2007, 6:45 pm**

**Peace Park**

## DOORS OPEN LONDON

**Saturday, September 22, 2007 & Sunday, September 23, 2007**

**10:00 am–4:00 pm**

## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday, September 25, 2007, 5:00 pm**

**Brescia Auditorium**

## HOMECOMING

**Saturday, September 29, 2007 & Sunday, September 30, 2007**

## SIXTH ANNUAL BREAKFAST FOR BURSARIES

**Thursday, October 18, 2007, 7:00–9:00 am**

**London Convention Centre**

Tickets are \$65. To order or for more information please call 519.858.5005 or email [brescia.foundation@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.foundation@uwo.ca).

## THE CIRCLE WOMEN'S CENTRE MORE THAN JUST A BOOK SALE

**Saturday, November 24, 2007, 10:00 am–3:00 pm**

**Brescia Auditorium**

*All alumnae and friends are welcome to attend these events.  
Please contact Jennifer Jones for more details at 519.432.8353 ext. 28280 or email [brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca](mailto:brescia.alumnae@uwo.ca).*



## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BULLETIN SPRING/SUMMER 2007

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on our website: [www.brescia.uwo.ca](http://www.brescia.uwo.ca)

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## BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ALUMNAE COUNCIL

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