Celebrating the secret to my holiday success

My father died a year ago - today. Now, don't worry. This is not a eulogy. The secret I want to share today is one about love and family. It's something I learned from my father, a man who had a long and eventful life. He taught me that love is a deeply personal and private matter, something that should be cherished and protected.

You may be asking about your most treasured Christmas present. Well, that thing you remember, the day it all fell apart? For me, it wasn't a physical gift I opened on Christmas morning. It was a secret. A secret I cannot reveal, but a gift I received from my father through his actions.

He was always there, guiding me, supporting me, and never making a fuss. He taught me to cherish the small moments, to cherish the memories, to cherish the secrets. And that's why I'm sharing this secret with you today.

"When we were young, my brothers and sisters what they knew about it. Had they done it before Christmas?

For the next few years, we would complete the same mission. He pulled over, reached into his jacket and pulled out an envelope. "Who lives around here?" I continued with the questions, all the while watching my dad hurriedly fumble and prying through the unopened manila to the discarded street. He was looking for something."

"No one that I know of, a couple houses up the street. You see it? Take a look."

"You went to knock on the door and give it to them?"

"Yes, yes I did."

"What kind of a gift were you looking for?"

"I was looking for something to give to all of the students, well, to everyone."

"You didn't open it?"

"I didn't open the letter."

"You never opened a letter before Christmas?"

"I opened one once before Christmas."

"What was the letter about?"

"It was a letter saying that the students were going to be in the parade."

"Make sure to look at the letter."

With those words, he quietly stepped on the snow-covered lawn. And to this day, the secret remains with my family, a gift that my father gave to us."

As I reflect on my father, I am reminded of the simple pleasures in life, the moments that we cherish and hold close. And I am grateful for the lessons he taught me, lessons that I will carry with me for the rest of my life."

...
DAVID BENTLEY
The Scholar

English and Writing Studies professor David Bentley’s career at Western has spanned nearly four decades. His ideas on the power of the arts, more broadly, and on poetry, more specifically, are both historical and contemporary in nature. Bentley’s distinguished career as a researcher in the arts was recognized in April with a Killam Prize presented by the Canadian Council of the Arts. He was among only five Canadian researchers, who received $100,000 each in recognition of their exceptional career achievements. Bentley, the Carl F. Klinck Professor of Canadian Literature, became only the fifth Killam Prize winner at Western, and the most recent winner since Economics professor John Whalley won in 2012. In November, Bentley also delivered the second address in the President’s Lecture Series.

EMMA DONOGHUE
The Writer

It was a big year for Emma Donoghue, DLitt’13, whose screenplay for the movie Room, based on her novel of the same name, received a nomination this month. The movie, directed by Lenny Abrahamson, premiered at the Telluride Film Festival on Sept. 4. Since then, it has received the People’s Choice Award at the Toronto International Film Festival. Widely recognized for her works of fiction, Donoghue’s work is known for its depth of historical and psychological research. She has written, and continues to write, works of fiction, drama and literary history and is well known for international bestsellers Room (2010) and Slammerkin (2000). Her works have been translated into more than 40 languages and Donoghue has earned her living as a writer since the age of 23.

CLLAIRE HALSTEAD
The Historian

Claire Halstead, who recently defended her PhD thesis in History, compiled a comprehensive database of British child evacuees during the Second World War. The database is the first of its kind and garnered much media attention, connecting her with evacuees and host families in the region. Roughly two million children, hospital patients, as well as 100,000 teachers, were just three years old. By the war’s end, the population of Greater London dropped from 8.7 million to 6.7 million. For many of the evacuees, there are no records, no stories, no narratives to help identify the evacuee. Halstead’s research has unearthed rather, untold, thousands of evacuees and their stories.
TANYA HARRISON AND KAYLE HANSEN

The Explorers

Tanya Harrison, a planetary scientist and PhD candidate in Western’s Centre for Planetary Science and Space Exploration, recently wrote an op-ed piece for The Daily Mail outlining why Earthlings continue to be fascinated by Mars. Earlier this year, Harrison, along with a student who is a part of Mars 2020, worked with Luis Tomásarena, an adjunct Science professor using HiRISE (High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment), a 700-megapixel camera to capture as many as 150 photos per day. HiRISE was used in Canada and Harrison had two of his photo suggestions approved, almost unheard of for an undergraduate student, as some experienced researchers had been denied.

THE SYRIAN RESPONSE

The Syrian conflict is raging, an estimated quarter of a million people killed in the last five years, eight million people displaced within the country, and four million turned into international refugees. The situation has sparked a mass immigration crisis across the Middle East and Europe. Refugees are finding solace in London, Ont., with Western stepping up to do its part this fall.

University Registrar Glen Tigert, left, established the Syrian Refugee Student Awards to cover tuition and living costs for up to 10 Syrian students admitted to Western as early as January. Fr. Michael Bechard, Director of Campus Ministry at King’s University College, middle, took the lead in Syrian refugee sponsorship by bringing a family to live on King’s campus in September, recently securing them employment and permanent housing. He has also raised significant funds to help other refugees from Rwanda, Iraq and Afghanistan.Led by Victoria Esses, Director of the Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations, the Refugee Sponsorship Fund, established by the Faculty of Social Science, in partnership with the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre, continues to raise funds for a G5 Private Sponsorship Application for a Syrian refugee family to settle in London. The initial goal of $30,000 to sponsor one family of five was surpassed in November.

STEPHANIE CICCARELLI

The Voice

Stephanie Ciccarelli, BMusA’06, Chief Marketing Officer and co-founder of Voices.com, continues to be an engaged member of the Western and London communities, as her success continues to echo in the start-up world. This past year, Voices.com was accepted as part of a group of innovative technology companies by a Canadian Technology Accelerator, CTA@NYC, in Manhattan, New York. In the spring, Voices.com sent a team to the Big Apple to access key resources to accelerate the company’s growth. It was one of five Canadian brands selected to participate. Voices.com employs more than 70 Londoners and is the most popular website to find professional voice-over talent.

MINA GERGES

The Web Celeb

Earlier this year, Mina Gerges, a third-year Media and Public Interest student, garnered Internet fame for his recreations of iconic images of female celebrities, including Nicki Minaj and Beyoncé, among others, on his Instagram account. This fall, Western Film students Jayne Clarke, Sam McGuinness, Travis Pulchinski, Brad Capstick and Angela Clemente took home the Best Short Documentary award at the Montreal Film Festival for “Posted,” a snapshot film of Gerges as an Instagram celebrity.
PRESIDENTIAL LEAVE CONTROVERSY

If lessons are learned, and opportunities seized, the biggest story of 2015 may shape how this university operates in 2016 – and beyond.

In March, Western figures showed the university president was paid nearly $1 million in 2014 as a result of invoking a clause about paid leave in his contract. That number sparked almost immediate outrage from the campus community, and culminated in the university Senate conducting an unprecedented pair of non-confidence votes on the leadership of both President Amit Chakma and Board of Governors Chair Chirag Shah on April 17.

Both men survived that vote. However, the echoes of that moment resonated throughout the year.

Rarely, if ever, has this university engaged so widely and deeply in a conversation about how it operates.

Perhaps most importantly, the campuswide controversy triggered soul searching among university governance, with no fewer than four separate task forces struck to examine everything from Senate and Board processes and practices to research funding and university budget models.

We will debate – and perhaps even act upon – those findings in the New Year.

WESTERN CONCUSSION STUDY GROUP

The Researchers

A $100,000 donation from the National Hockey League Players’ Association (NHLPA) in August served as the foundation of a $3.125-million fund to enable a team of Western researchers develop new ways to treat concussions and arrest the short- and long-term consequences of the injury. With researchers across campus, and around the city, the Western Concussion Study Group includes Greg Dekaban, Director of Molecular Medicine at Robarts Research Institute; Jeff Holmes, Health Sciences professor; Doug Fraser, Children’s Health Research Institute; Lisa Fischer, Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic; Tim Doherty, Chair, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation; Robert Bartha, Medical Biophysics professor; and Arthur Brown, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry professor and Robarts investigator. Their work has led to the development of a program focused on three key areas: immunomodulation (treatment of injury-induced inflammation); neuro-restoration (maximizing the regenerative capacity of nerves after injury has occurred); and prevention of concussion-related dementia.

SHELLEY AMBROSE

The Innovator

In 2006, Shelley Ambrose, BA’83 (English), arrived at a Walrus in crisis. Today, under Ambrose’s leadership, the Walrus Foundation and co-publisher of The Walrus magazine, the organization has become an industry leader in creating “content-fueled conversations.” The Walrus magazine is available in print, tablet and phone, Walrus TV features original documentaries based on the magazine’s stories, and more. Among the Smithsonion Channel; and the Walrus Talks speakers on various topics in 11 different cities, in March, she brought Walrus Talks to Western with The Walrus Talks Creativity event, in part to promote The Alice Munro Chair in Creativity. Ambrose also sits on the Advisory Council of Western’s School for Advanced Studies in the Arts & Humanities (SASAH).

JANA Luker

The Connection

For Jana Luker, coming to Western as the first Associate Vice-President (Student Experience), a role she took up June 1, waskem (if you tell her it would appear the fit just to write that) for her. She'd always wanted to work for her. She'd agreed. In all her previous jobs she has continually been involved in student life. She came to Western by way of MGH University, where she sits on the University’s Student Services for Students. Since 2007, she held a number of student-focused leadership positions across Canada, including the University of Guelph, University of Toronto and Saint Mary’s University in Nova Scotia. Luker has already spearheaded important initiatives surrounding mental health and the prevention of sexual violence at Western. In this new role, Luker also assumed responsibility for the Sports and Recreation Services Portfolio, which previously resided in the Faculty of Health Sciences.
DERRICK EMSLEY AND KALEN EMSLEY

The Entrepreneurs

For the Emsley brothers, money does grow on trees. But their business model is about much more than that. Derrick Emsley, HBA'12, and Kalen Emsley, HBA'11, along with business partner David Luba, founded tentree, an apparel brand that plants — just as its name would indicate — ten trees for every item purchased. The company took off roughly three years ago, even garnering support from CBC's Dragons' Den along the way. Today the brand's products are available in more than 350 retail locations across Canada and is headed south for the first time this year, to more than 100 stores in the United States. Tentree has partnered with numerous environmental groups and non-governmental organizations in developing countries — including Madagascar, Cambodia and Senegal — planting some five million trees along the way.

RICHLAND McLANE

The Investigator

Western Faculty of Law professor Richard McLaren was one of three World Anti-Doping Agency's independent commissioners who authored a scathing report accusing many of Russia's top track and field athletes of participating in a systematic doping program. Along with the athletes, the report, released in November, said coaches, trainers, doctors and even the Russian government were part of the widespread cheating scandal. McLaren has extensive experience as a commercial lawyer and commercial arbitrator and mediator. A long-standing member of International Court of Arbitration for Sport, the world supreme court of sports disputes, McLaren joined former U.S. Sen. George J. Mitchell in the Major League Baseball inquiry into the use of steroids, which culminated in the famed Mitchell Report in 2007. McLaren also led the investigation of the Canadian Olympic Committee's alleged cover-ups by CIS Track & Field following the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000.

DANIELLE MARTIN

The Advocate

Dr. Danielle Martin, a Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry graduate (MD’03), co-authored a study on financing pharmacare, showing universal drug coverage could reduce total spending on drugs in Canada by $7.3 billion. The study was part of another step in the spotlight for Martin, an emerging leader in the debate over the future of Canada’s health-care system.

KELLY CAMPBELL

The Goaltender

Led by a 38-save performance from Mustangs goalie Kelly Campbell, Western earned its first-ever CIS championship title with a 5-0 win over McGill University in March. Western became only the third OUA team to hoist the Golden Path trophy, and the first in 10 years since Laurier accomplished the feat in 2005. Campbell stole the show by recording back-to-back shutouts and earning tournament MVP honours after only allowing one goal on 94 shots over three games. “There’s no way to describe this feeling,” Campbell said. “We’ve worked so hard as a team over the past year and we’ve had the best teammates. We’ve had so much fun and to get this win against McGill is incredible.”

With the majority of the Mustangs returning for the season, many of the players look forward to defending their title. The Mustangs are 9-4 heading into January.
LEWIS KENT
The Mile Man
You won’t read about Lewis Kent’s world record in any official university recruiting materials. But that fact doesn’t detract from his global superstar status. Earlier this month, the fourth-year Kinesiology student set the current world record for the fastest ‘Beer Mile’ at 4:47 at the FloTrack Beer Mile World Championships in Texas. Awarded since the 1980s, the Beer Mile takes place on a standard 400-metre (or quarter-mile) track. Participants drink a beer, run a quarter mile, and then repeat the process three more times. A Mustangs cross-country and track-and-field varsity athlete, Kent has traveled to compete in Beer Miles in Texas and San Francisco, and has faced a whirlwind of media appearances after his world record, including with Global TV, ESPN, TMZ, TSN, Sports Illustrated and an appearance on Ellen. Kent also recently signed a shoe deal with U.S.-based Brooks Sports, Inc.

JOSEPH ROTMAN
AND JACK COWIN
The Chancellors
This year, Western saw an unexpected changing of the guard in the Chancellor’s chair. Following a successful career as an oil trader, merchant banker and investor, Joseph Rotman, BA’57, LLD’09, was named Western’s 21st chancellor in 2012. He passed away in January of this year at the age of 80, leaving a legacy in business, philanthropy and his love for Western.

In August, businessman and philanthropist Jack Cowin brought his international perspective to Western as the university’s 22nd Chancellor. As a 26-year-old, Cowin moved to Australia with his family to establish a business with the support of loans from 30 Canadians. He took the fast food industry by storm, beginning with Kentucky Fried Chicken, then his own burger chain, Hungry Jack, and next with Domino’s Pizza. The business expanded into food processing and now exports to 29 countries and employs 16,000 staff throughout Australia. He is a strong supporter of Western’s efforts to increase international student enrolment. Cowin and his wife Sharon, BA’64, established the Jack and Sharon Cowin Scholars Award, a partnership between Australia’s Bond University and Western that facilitates academic exchanges between the two universities.

DAN WELLS
The Publisher
Consider it the little press that could. Dan Wells, who graduated from Western with an MA in History in 1997, founded Biblioasis one year later, an independent bookstore and publisher in Windsor’s Walkerville District. Biblioasis had two titles on the 2015 Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlist – Arvida by Samuel Archibald and Martin John by Anakana Schofield. A third title – Confidence by Russell Smith – was included on the longlist and was nominated for the Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize last month. “I’ve been very lucky. I had a lot of energy and enthusiasm, but I was able to work with a generation of important and experienced literary people who helped shape how the press developed. The bookstore was very quickly self-sustaining. The publishing side is more fragile. One of the hardest things about publishing is maintaining a certain level of care in a world that doesn’t care,” Wells said.

Western News  |  December 17, 2015
Brescia names Queen’s Mumma as its new Principal

SUSAN MUMMA has been appointed the 10th Principal of Brescia University College, effective July 2016, the Brescia Board of Trustees announced last week. Mumma, currently Dean of Social Sciences at Queen’s University, will take the helm July 1 or as soon as is practical, whichever comes first. She replaces Colleen Hanycz, who left to become president of Brescia University College as it continues to grow in size and stature as Canada’s only women’s university.”

Mumma’s appointment is the first under the leadership of Brescia’s new President, Pauline Prest. In December 2014, Prest took office as president of Brescia tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Innovative Materials. She is also the Faculty of Engineering Full-Time Academic Appointments at Western University. Applications are available through Western-Centring Studies.

Please visit www.uwo.ca/Registrar for the complete statement of academic requirements.

All positions are subject to budgetary approval. Applicants should have first-hand written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply.

Review of applications will begin on Jan. 30. We thank all applicants for their interest. Only those selected for interviews will be contacted.

Apply to Graduate

For more information and to apply, visit www.uwo.ca/Registrar. Applications deadline is May 31, 2016.

Jan. 15: First term students may register for a second-term full course, or a half course, or a second-term full course. Jan. 12: Classes resume. Jan. 4: Last day to withdraw from one group from each section, were chosen to present to the business community and a panel of BCG executives.

First Place from Section 6 (Team 51) – First Place from Section 6 (Team 51) – open to teams of four. The first place team will be awarded $2000. The runners-up will receive $1000. The BCG executives will select the winners of the BCG representative judges.

The Wrong Size Bra?

Are You Wearing the Wrong Size Bra? Bra.

BRAS!

BRA BAR!

Fitting Day

Fitting Day for undergarments will be held on Wednesdays and Fridays from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Student Development Services Office. For more information, please call 519-641-0248.

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It's an early spring in early winter on campus as a warm spell covering most of Ontario this month has allowed faculty, staff and students, like third-year Kinesiology student Michaela Khan, to ride their bikes to work or to study for exams. Temperatures will drop to the freezing mark over the next couple of days, but another warm up is expected to swing in next week, bringing above normal temperatures, even flirting with double digits.