

WESLEY TIMES

COLLEGIATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

September 2025 Newsletter





As the fall semester begins, our campus is buzzing with excitement. Students are returning to their studies, reconnecting with friends, and setting goals for the year ahead. For many, this time of year represents a fresh start filled with hope and possibility. For some students, unexpected challenges can create financial hardships that impact their ability to focus on learning and succeed in school.

The [Collegiate Emergency Fund](#) was created to provide timely, short-term relief for students facing these kinds of urgent situations. Whether it's covering the cost of basic necessities, school supplies, transportation, or other essentials, this fund ensures that no student has to put their education on hold during difficult times.

As we embark on another school year, we invite you to join us in supporting this vital resource. Even a small contribution can make a meaningful difference in a student's life, giving them the stability they need to focus on their education and their future. Together, we can ensure that every student has the support they need to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

To make a gift, please visit [The University of Winnipeg Foundation](#). You can also reach us at 204-786-9995, or send us an e-mail at

developmentuwf@uwinnipeg.ca. Thank you for being part of a caring community that lifts our students up.

Message From The Chair



Hello, Collegiate Alumni! Another exciting school year at the Collegiate has begun. I've spent the last few weeks filming a movie at Portage Place, and it's brought me a lot of comfort to be working so close to the Collegiate. Walking along Portage Avenue every day like I did when I was a student has brought back so many great memories, and my time in Portage Place has me constantly remembering my trips there during lunch and after school.

First of all, I must congratulate Osaed Khan on becoming Dean of the Collegiate. Osaed has been an incredible voice for the Collegiate, and the students and alumni are

extremely lucky to have him continue in this role. I am really looking forward to working with Dean Khan on Alumni Association activities during this school year.

As I'm sure you heard through our emails, the Association recently held its Annual General Meeting. Quinn Cove did an outstanding job filling in as Chair while I was on set, and I feel it's important to recognize her commitment to the Association, and how she represents everything the Collegiate is about so well. She has stepped in at several events since joining the board, and we are extremely lucky to have her on our team, and I am very grateful she is our Vice Chair!

If you were unable to attend the AGM, the Financial Statements and 2024 AGM Minutes are available on our website. We are also here to answer any questions

you have at any time – or, hear any ideas for engagement opportunities and events! You can reach us at collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca.

Quinn and I were both re-elected for another two-year term. For me, this will be my last term, as our by-laws state a director's maximum term is three terms, which is where I am now. We also welcomed Sarah Harris (Class of 2013) to the board as a brand-new director! Sarah's connection to the RWB community, as well as the engineering community will be a great asset to the Association.

Finally, I would like to thank Devyansh Sharma for his time on the Association board as he did not run for re-election. Dev was a fundamental part of establishing the Collegiate Alumni Association, becoming involved at the very beginning, and without his contributions, the Association wouldn't be where it is today. But don't worry – this isn't the last we'll be seeing of Dev! More on that to come.

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy, and safe school year. Stay tuned for information regarding our Seasonal Reception happening again this December. It's also now my favourite time of year – Jets season! *Go Jets Go!*

Alumni Spotlight: Hunter Loewen (2013)



From Pointe Shoes to Physiatry: The Remarkable Journey of Collegiate Alumna Dr. Hunter Loewen (2013)

Few journeys are as gracefully nonlinear as that of Dr. Hunter Loewen. A former ballet dancer turned engineer who now works as a physician specializing in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Hunter exemplifies what is possible when talent meets opportunity—and when an institution like the Collegiate works to create space for students to explore their interests.

Originally from Winnipeg, Hunter joined the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB)'s Professional Division at just 11 years old. When it came time to enter high school, she was immediately drawn to the Collegiate, knowing that the school would honor her rigorous dance schedule without compromising her academic potential.

“Truly, I have nothing but fond memories,” Hunter reflects. “There was such a strong partnership between RWB and the Collegiate. We didn’t have to choose between being dancers and being students, we were allowed and encouraged to be both.”

Hunter remembers the early challenges of belonging to the “ballet group”, but she quickly found a sense of community and support at Wesley Hall. She credits much of her newfound sense of belonging at the time to the faculty who made it their mission to support her on this unique path.

“Dean Bend was so kind and accommodating, he made sure we could achieve all our academic goals while pursuing dance. Something that is incredibly rare.” says Hunter.

At the Collegiate Hunter discovered not only her strengths in the world of STEM but also her love for writing, an interest that might have gone unexplored without guidance from her teachers.

“Mrs. Talbot really took me under her wing and nurtured my passion for writing, while Mr. Welham taught me how to think differently and approach problems in new ways. Every teacher I had truly cared about my growth as a young scholar. The Collegiate made me feel like I didn’t have to choose between disciplines. That experience gave me confidence later in life to make bold changes.”

After graduating from both the RWB and Collegiate in 2013, Hunter stood at a crossroads. “It’s hard to picture your life ten years down the road when you’re a teenager. The more I spoke with friends and family, the more I realized the sacrifices of a ballet career might not align with the life I wanted.” says Hunter.

Encouraged by her friends and equipped with the academic skills she built at the Collegiate, Hunter applied to the Biosystems Engineering program at the University of Manitoba, where she focused on biomedical applications. A pivotal moment came during her undergraduate summer internship at the Harkness Center for Dance Injuries at New York University. As part of the placement, Hunter was able to shadow orthopedic physicians working with dancers.

“This experience opened my eyes to the healing power of medicine. Those patient interactions were deeply rewarding, and I realized I could serve the dance community in a whole new way as a physician.” says Hunter

Today, Hunter is completing her residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Calgary. Her work focuses on addressing the rehabilitation needs of patients with complex neurologic conditions such as stroke, spinal cord injury, acquired brain injury, and cerebral palsy, as well as those of patients with sports-related and other musculoskeletal injuries.

“Physiatry is about one’s quality of life. I ask myself: how can we make someone’s daily life easier or more fulfilling? That question guides everything I do.” says Hunter. “I am especially passionate about building bridges between medicine and the dance community. My goal is to help physicians better understand dancers, not just their injuries, but their identities too. We can’t just tell dancers “don’t do that”, we need to meet them where they are, understand their passion, and work together to find solutions that honor their commitment.”

To this end, Hunter’s research focuses primarily on emerging rehabilitation technologies for children with cerebral palsy, such as robotic walkers. “This kind of work brings everything full circle for me. I’m using my engineering background, my dance experience, and my medical training to serve people in the most meaningful way I can.” says Hunter.

“The Collegiate shaped me. Every teacher took time to understand my goals and helped me believe I could leap—literally and figuratively—into something new. They made me feel like I had the tools to take bold steps.

Now as a physician and researcher, with goals of expanding the space for dance medicine in Calgary and beyond, Hunter continues to inspire with her story of reinvention—reminding us that the best journeys are often the ones we don’t plan in advance.

“If you’re afraid to make a change, go for it. Big decisions are rarely easy but stay open to the signs life is sending you. Sometimes the world is gently (or not so gently) nudging you toward your next chapter. Trust that you’re more prepared than you think.”

Giving Back: Bryce & Nicki Douglas



Bryce Douglas: A Legacy of Leadership and Philanthropy Rooted at The Collegiate

A distinguished alumnus of The University of Winnipeg Collegiate, Bryce Douglas graduated from Wesley Hall in 1963. During his formative years, Douglas was deeply influenced by Dean Lorne Tomlinson, whose mentorship helped guide him

through this pivotal period into a young adult. “Lorne Tomlinson had a very impactful influence on my life while I was at The Collegiate, and in the years following my graduation.” With Dean Tomlinson’s support, Bryce began his career at Dominion Securities where he would work for the next 39 years, rising through the ranks until his retirement in 2002 as Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of RBC Dominion Securities.

A Winnipeg native, Mr. Douglas is widely recognized as a global pioneer in finance and one of Canada’s leading philanthropic figures. While his impact can be felt in cities across the country, his enduring passion and support for The Collegiate speaks volumes about his commitment to giving back to the institution that helped shape his aspirations.

For nearly two decades, Douglas and his wife Nicki have been dedicated supporters of The Collegiate. In 2009, the couple established the *Douglas Family Bursary*, dedicated to supporting students who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend the Collegiate. The bursary places special emphasis on providing a “second chance,” a cause especially meaningful to Bryce. To date, the *Douglas Family Bursary* has awarded more than \$148,000 to over 48 students, enabling them to pursue and complete their academic journey at The Collegiate. Beyond this, the couple has contributed to initiatives such as the Collegiate Capital Campaign and the Duff Roblin Award, bringing their total lifetime giving over eighteen years to more than \$257,000.

The University of Winnipeg Foundation President and CEO Javier Schwersensky said “When I meet with Mr. Douglas, he always stresses the importance of providing a second chance to individuals who may be willing to work hard to change their life trajectories for the better. I truly admire his passion and commitment to those who are often overlooked or written off by the community”.

Beyond scholarships, the Douglas family has played a key role in enhancing the school's infrastructure. They were major contributors to the 2015 capital campaign that resulted in the creation of Leatherdale Hall, a much-needed expansion adjacent to historic Wesley Hall. This development significantly improved Convocation Hall and helped in the revival of [Tony’s Canteen](#), a beloved gathering space for generations of Collegiate students. Acting Dean of The Collegiate Osaed Khan said “Bryce Douglas’s extraordinary generosity has opened

doors for countless students at The Collegiate, empowering them to pursue their dreams with confidence and purpose. His unwavering commitment is a shining example of how alumni can shape the future of our community.”

The Douglas family's philanthropy extends far beyond The Collegiate. In 2015, Bryce and Nicki made a landmark \$2 million gift to establish a new research chair in business at the Asper School of Business aimed at “investing in tomorrow’s business leaders” ([UM Today](#)). Their visionary support reflects a deep belief in academic innovation and leadership development.

Their community spirit is equally evident in Kenora, Ontario, where their family has summered for over a century. The Douglas’ donated \$500,000 to [the Lake of the Woods District Hospital](#), reinforcing their commitment to healthcare and the well-being of their cherished lake community. As Mr. Douglas stated, “We are proud to be part of a project that will benefit so many people and leave a legacy in the place we love.”

In their hometown of Toronto, the Douglas family has supported numerous organizations, with a particular focus on the University Health Network. Their contributions include several significant gifts, most notably the funding of an endowed Chair in Orthopedic Surgery.

The Douglas family's cultural contributions are equally important in their identity as philanthropists, having donated a major collection of works by acclaimed Canadian artist Walter J. Phillips to The Muse – Lake of the Woods Museum, which lead to the creation of the [Douglas Family Art Centre](#). This gift-in-kind, which comprised over 64 prints and watercolours, forms the core of the museum’s gallery and represents the Douglas’ deep appreciation of Canadian art and national beauty. As Nicki Douglas said, it was only fitting for the collection “to live down here” at Lake of the Woods, ensuring its preservation for future generations.

From finance and education to healthcare and the arts, Bryce and Nicki Douglas exemplify the values of leadership, vision, and giving—and at the heart of this legacy is a steadfast connection to The Collegiate, where it all began.

Faculty Spotlight: Dean Osaed Khan



The University of Winnipeg Collegiate (UWC) is pleased to announce that Osaed Khan has been appointed as Dean of the UWC. With a rich background in teaching and leadership, both at home and abroad, Khan brings a fresh vision and a deep passion for education to this important role.

Khan's journey to becoming Dean began in a small Mennonite town in Southern Manitoba. As the son of an agricultural representative, Khan was shaped by his father's dedication to the livelihood of their friends and the importance he placed on supporting one's community.

Initially, Khan believed his career path would see him working in medicine or law enforcement—but after spending his summers as an undergraduate teaching classes to children at the university's Mini U summer camp during the completion of his Bachelor of Science degree at the University of Manitoba, he came to realize that teaching suited him best. Inspired by the excitement and curiosity of his young campers, Khan shifted his path towards education, later completing a post-baccalaureate degree in Education to launch his teaching career.

Khan began teaching at Churchill High School, where he spent six years honing his craft. During that time, a mentor encouraged him to seek out new teaching environments to help spur his growth as a professional. Following this advice, Khan began teaching summer courses at UWC while continuing to work at Churchill during the school year. In 2009, he joined UWC full-time as a math and physics instructor. Remembering his first days on campus, Khan felt drawn to the school's unique energy and close-knit community, saying that, "The Collegiate felt special right away. The small class sizes and the connection between faculty and students create an incredible environment for learning."

In 2013, Khan and his family moved to Qatar, where he taught at the Qatar Canadian School. This experience exposed him to a diverse range of teaching styles and cultural perspectives. While working abroad, he was inspired to complete a Master's degree in Education through the University of Calgary. "Teaching abroad broadens your perspective," Khan explains. "It challenges you to think differently and gives you valuable experiences you can bring home."

Khan returned to UWC in 2014, continuing to teach mathematics and physics. In 2018, he felt the desire to gain experience at another private school and moved to Vancouver to join St. George's School, a prestigious all-boys private school, where he taught for two years. In September 2020, Khan returned once again to UWC, this time teaching solely mathematics and meeting an exceptional young physics instructor, Cam, who would later become his Associate Dean.

Reflecting on his career path, Khan says, "UWC has always felt like home to me. Even when I ventured elsewhere, I was always drawn back here by the incredible students and faculty who make this community so special."

When Khan was appointed Acting Dean, he recognized Cam's talent and leadership potential. "When I became Acting Dean, I needed someone second-in-command quickly, and so I appointed Cam. He wasn't my first pick initially, but it quickly became clear that he was the right choice. Taking him out of the classroom felt like pulling LeBron James off the court to make him an assistant coach—it hurt a bit, but it was the best move for the school." Cam has continued to teach one math course, coach soccer, run tutoring sessions, and lead school spirit events like ski trips and international tours while excelling in his leadership role.

As Dean, Khan's philosophy centers on fostering a love of learning. He hopes to shift the focus away from the fixation on grades and numbers, encouraging students to take risks, explore new ideas, and embrace the process of learning. "Education isn't just about the final results," he says. "It's about the journey. I want students to try new things, make mistakes, and grow from the experience."

Looking ahead, Khan envisions enhancing UWC's athletic programs by elevating current teams to a new competitive level or even developing specialized academies. He remains cautious about committing to specific new programs but is excited to see growth in athletics, the arts, and international enrollment while maintaining the school's hallmark small class sizes and exceptional faculty.

At the heart of Khan's vision is a belief that relationships are the cornerstone of education. "Students may forget the quadratic formula," he says with a smile, "but they'll never forget the teachers who inspired them. Those connections are what truly last."

Known for his humor and warmth, Khan enjoys connecting with students both inside and outside the classroom. One of his favorite traditions is the annual Fall Outing, where faculty and students come together for outdoor games and activities, including a spirited tug-of-war match which the faculty usually win.

As he begins this new chapter, Khan is excited to lead UWC into a future that honors its rich history while embracing innovation and growth. "Every day, we make choices," says Khan. "Our intentions matter, but it is our actions that leave a lasting impact. At UWC, my goal is to create a culture where those actions inspire positive change and help shape the leaders of tomorrow."

With his experience, passion, and deep connection to the school, Dean Osaed Khan is poised to guide UWC into an exciting and promising future, one built on excellence, community, and a shared love of learning.



Since joining in 2018 as a physics and mathematics teacher, I've been fortunate to be involved in nearly every part of Collegiate life—teaching, coaching, mentoring, and supporting students at countless events. I'm a proud two-time University of Winnipeg graduate, completing my Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Physics in 2014 and my Bachelor of Education in 2017. My teaching has always been rooted in curiosity and creativity, encouraging students to think deeply and explore their passions.

Beyond the classroom, I've had the privilege of wearing many hats. I've coached our Collegiate soccer program, worked with countless different student clubs and innovative science projects, and helped organize school-wide events. One of the highlights of my time at UWC has been leading our international trips. So far, more than 100 students have traveled abroad with UWC, and the program continues to grow each year—giving students opportunities to see the world, connect with new cultures, and build lifelong memories. When the school community gathers to celebrate, you'll often find me on stage with colleagues in our *unofficial* faculty band.

As Associate Dean, I look forward to building on this foundation. I'm eager to take on a greater leadership role, fostering innovation in both academics and student life, and ensuring we continue to create opportunities that prepare our students for the world ahead. I'm also committed to making our administrative processes more efficient, so that we can focus more of our time and energy on supporting students and building community. My goal is to help UWC continue to move forward while preserving the close-knit, dynamic community that makes UWC so special.

Alumni News

Ashish Modha (1987), co-founder and CEO of Mondetta Clothing Inc. is preparing to open [its first storefront](#) on the corner of Carlton Street and Graham Avenue in True North Square's *Modern Ambition*, which will sell clothing from its luxury brand.

Callen Maude (2013), is the maker-in-residence for the summer at [Winnipeg Public Library](#), and will be leading open-studio and workshop opportunities until

October. Maude facilitates art workshops year-round. For booking information, workshop examples, head to her website at; callenmaude.com

Emily Kroft (2014) spoke at the United Nations at the preparatory meeting for the 2026 UN Water Conference in New York City. She highlighted the need for inclusion of youth at the conference, including travel support and invitations for youth to speak at side events.

Nadya Pankiw (2015), a multimedia producer at the Winnipeg Free Press was invited to speak at students at Red River College Polytechnic. Nadya was also the recipient of the [International News Media Association 30 Under 30 Award recipient](#) in the Newsroom Leadership category.

Yasaman Mohaddes (2015) graduated with her Doctor of Law from the University of Calgary, and recently she was called to the Alberta Bar. For the past year, Yasaman has been an articling student at [Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP](#).

Prabhnor Singh (2022) won the 2025 University of Manitoba Students' Union elections. He will now serve as [UMSU President](#). The UMSU President oversees overall operations, acts as the spokesperson on all student issues, and represents the 27,000 UMSU members to the University of Manitoba administration, as well as to provincial and federal governments.

Upcoming Events & Announcements



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
Collegiate

The University of Winnipeg Collegiate

Class of 2005' 20-year Reunion

Event Details:

Date: Saturday, November 29, 2025

Where: King + Bannatyne

Time: 8p.m - 10 p.m

RSVP at 204-988-7509,

Or, [RSVP HERE](#)



Wednesday, December 3rd
5:30 p.m – 7:30 p.m
4th floor Wesley Hall
(Faculty Club)

Collegiate Alumni Association
Seasonal Reception

*The formal invitation will be sent out soon.
Please join us for an evening of comradery, community
with former classmates and faculty & staff!
We look forward to welcoming you!*

Trics & Tic Yearbook 2005

Do you recognize yourself or someone you know in these photographs? We would love to hear from you! Please update your Alumni profile or if you would like to be featured in our next newsletter please let us know at collegiate@uwinnipeg.ca.

Fall



Peek-a-boo Daleep



The teachers cookin' up a storm



A scenic walk through the park



Outing



On September 23rd, the Collegiate students loaded onto four buses anticipating where they would be headed for the day. On the buses, students chatted with each other to pass the time until they reached their destination. This year's fall outing was held at Crescent Park, and the games began immediately. Many joined in to Ultimate Frisbee, football and soccer. Some even decided to participate in a Gnome hunt. Whether they saw any has yet to be decided. Several students decided to just sit down and relax while waiting for lunch to be served. The best part would have to be the cookies that have been a tradition in the past. Later in the afternoon, it began to drizzle, but that didn't spoil the mood. Many students stuck it out, and it was a good start to the beginning of our 2004-2005 year.



Halloween

