

WESLEY TIMES

COLLEGIATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

January 2025 Newsletter



Hello, 2025! Students are back at Wesley Hall, and the school is buzzing after what I hope was a relaxing winter break. Things are certainly kicking into gear with the Alumni Association! This edition of the Wesley Times will tell you everything we've been up to.

In early December, we invited Alumni and current students to attend our annual Seasonal Reception. You'll find some pictures from the event in this edition of the Wesley Times. As many of you know, this year's reception was held in the University Club on the 4th floor of Wesley Hall. This was the first time the space has hosted our reception. It was more intimate, had many different spaces to explore, and opened the doors to a part of the school that is usually closed to students. The feedback we've received has been very positive.

It was also our most successful Seasonal Reception yet, nearly doubling the number of alumni in attendance from the previous year. The Association is extremely appreciative of the planning committee, including Quinn Cove, Stacey Katz, Ayla Embury-Hyatt, Eliana

Yonas Gebreselassie, and Patricia Nosal. If you have any feedback to share, please feel free to reach out to collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca. Even if you didn't attend the event, we'd love to hear what kinds of events you'd like to see from the Association in the future.

The Board is working on many new initiatives for 2025. We are in the early stages of developing a logo for the Association and increasing our social media presence. In addition, hundreds of postcards have been printed, and will be mailed out to alumni not currently in our database in the spring. The Association is also working on a sponsorship for this year's Safe Grad for the Class of 2025, and conversations are being had about hosting reunions for specific years. More on that soon!

I can't forget to mention our new website! The Alumni Association can be found at www.collegiate.uwinnipeg.ca/alumni/. Here, you'll be able to access all our documents, minutes, previous editions of the Wesley Times, and familiarize yourself with the board. Take a look!

I'm so looking forward to connecting with both alumni and future alumni this year. I hope the new year has gotten off to a great start for you, and 2025 is full of milestones, successes, and achievements for all Collegiate Alumni.

Dear Collegiate Alumni,

As we embrace the new year, I'm pleased to share the latest from The Collegiate—a place that continues to thrive, inspire, and evolve while staying true to its rich traditions. It has been an eventful few months filled with celebrations, meaningful discussions, and exciting plans for the future.

One of the highlights of this past season was the Collegiate Alumni Seasonal Reception in December. It was nothing short of magical—seeing alumni from across generations reconnect, sharing fond memories, and reflecting on the profound impact The Collegiate has had on their lives. What made the evening even more special was the presence of some of our current Grade 12 students, who had the opportunity to engage with our alumni and witness



firsthand the strength of our Collegiate family. Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this gathering a truly unforgettable experience.

The academic year has been progressing wonderfully, and I want to take a moment to recognize the dedication of our faculty and staff. Our Academic Awards Night in November was a resounding success, honoring the hard work and achievements of our students. From inspiring speeches to a remarkable musical performance by our student choir, the evening was a testament to the academic excellence and community spirit that defines The Collegiate. A heartfelt thank you to all faculty and staff who played a role in making this event so meaningful.

In January, we wrapped up our third and final Faculty Meet, and I am immensely grateful for the incredible team we have at The Collegiate. Professional development remains a priority for us, and we were privileged to host Dr. Jan De Fehr, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Winnipeg, who led insightful discussions on mental health promotion. Her unique approach encouraged us to think beyond traditional frameworks, fostering a deeper understanding of student well-being in today's evolving landscape.

Yesterday, we held our Collegiate Open House where we welcomed over 110 families to experience firsthand what makes The Collegiate such a special place. This event is always a fantastic opportunity to showcase our exceptional faculty, dedicated students, and the dynamic learning environment we offer. If you know prospective students or families who may be interested in joining The Collegiate, please encourage them to contact us for a personal tour of the school—we would love to share our story with them.

As always, I invite you to stay connected with us. Whether you want to visit Wesley Hall for a tour, reconnect with a former teacher, or simply keep up with the latest news, we are always happy to welcome you back. Our Junior Collegiate Engagement Officer, Patricia Nosal (2014), is always available to help facilitate alumni connections and can be reached at pa.nosal@uwinnipeg.ca.

On behalf of the Collegiate Administration, Faculty, and Staff, thank you for being an integral part of our community. Your continued support and involvement ensure that the legacy of The Collegiate lives on in every student who walks through our doors.

I look forward to seeing many of you at future events and hearing about the incredible ways you continue to make a difference in the world.

Osaed Khan, Acting Dean, The Collegiate

Prestigious Rhodes Scholarship - Amy Mann (2021)



Budding scientist, environmentalist, and Collegiate alumni Amy Mann can now add Rhodes scholar to her fast-growing resumé. A member of the Class of 2021, Amy has been studying Mathematics and Statistics for the last 4 years at the University of Toronto—where she was recently awarded this prestigious scholarship.

Established in 1903, The Rhodes Scholarship is the world's oldest and most renowned graduate fellowship. Based at the historic Oxford University, the Rhodes Scholarship recognizes exceptional students who demonstrate academic excellence, leadership, character, and a deep commitment to

addressing global challenges. For her efforts, Amy will become part of a privileged few Canadians studying at the institution on a full-ride scholarship, with her tuition and living costs covered by an award valued at over \$100,000.

Amy is passionate about the intersection of public health and climate change, conducting research that pulls from an array of different fields, including mathematics, public health, physics, and geography. She is currently working on developing climate-driven host-vector models of malaria transmission in Cameroon, aiming to improve intervention strategies by incorporating the social and environmental factors that influence disease transmission.

Amy's academic achievements are complemented by her dedication to community engagement and sustainability. As co-founder of the student community garden at Victoria College, she routinely demonstrates her commitment to environmental action and the morale of her fellow students. She also served as the sustainability commissioner on the [Victoria University Students' Administrative Council](#) during this time, and is an active volunteer at the Common Table in Toronto, a drop-in program supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty.

As President of the University of Toronto Mathematics Union, Amy has taken an interdisciplinary approach to using quantitative analysis to tackle pressing global issues. Her co-authored paper, "Not Cool: On the Loss of Cold Weather in the Canadian Arctic," published in the scientific journal *Atmosphere-Ocean*, reflects her dedication to addressing the impact of climate change.

At Oxford, Amy plans to continue her research in mathematical biology, focusing on applying mathematical models to address complex issues like public health and climate

change. “I want to keep studying math and seeing how we can apply it to these big problems—like considering social factors of disease transmission to improve intervention strategies.” says Amy.

As she prepares for her next chapter at Oxford, Amy leaves behind a legacy of academic excellence and leadership at both the Collegiate and University of Toronto. On behalf of the Collegiate community, we wish her all the best during her time at Oxford.

Conversations With Alumni: Adam Pollock (2005)



Throughout the academic year, The Collegiate hosts *Conversations with Alumni*, a distinguished speaker series that welcomes Collegiate alumni from diverse fields to share their post-secondary and professional experiences with current students. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for students to learn, ask questions, and gain insight into various career paths—perhaps even sparking inspiration for their own futures.

In November, we had the pleasure of welcoming Adam Pollock back to The Collegiate. As the newly appointed Treasurer of The Collegiate Alumni Association, Adam is a tremendous asset to the team.

A graduate of The Collegiate's Class of 2005, Adam went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and a Juris Doctor from the University of Manitoba. During his studies, he received awards for highest standing in Human Rights Law and Children & the Law and served as an Editor for the *Canadian Journal of Human Rights*. He was called to the Manitoba Bar in 2015.

Adam's legal career includes experience at two prominent Western Canadian law firms before joining Duboff Edwards Schachter Law Corporation as a Partner in 2021. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Adam is dedicated to mentorship and community service. He volunteers as a mentor for the Manitoba Bar Association, serves as an instructor for MBA Law Day in high schools, and has a longstanding history of volunteer work with the Canadian Cancer Society.

We are incredibly proud to count Adam among our alumni, and it is inspiring to see his ongoing engagement with The Collegiate community.

Pictured reconnecting with his former faculty members: Gerry Narynski, Adam Pollock and Kelly Livesly.

Website Update

We recently updated our [website](#) to provide you with easy access to [The Collegiate Alumni Association Board of Directors](#), [The Wesley Times](#) archives, [Collegiate Alumni Association documents](#), and records of [past alumni events](#). Additionally, you can [update your personal information](#) to ensure we stay connected.



HIGH SCHOOL AT UNIVERSITY

The Collegiate

Thanks to our small class sizes, caring instructors, and compact campus layout, you will make real and meaningful connections. We encourage individuality within an environment that fosters a true sense of belonging.



Alumni Association

Welcome to the Collegiate Alumni Association! Your diploma or at least one year of attendance at The Collegiate gives you automatic lifelong membership to the Association.

[Learn More >](#)



Update Your Profile

Not on the newsletter email list? Update your alumni record, so you can receive all the latest Collegiate news.

[Learn More >](#)



Alumni Events

Join us at one of our special events for alumni.

[Learn More >](#)



Alumni Association Documents



Wesley Times



Alumni News

Celebrating Faculty: Christine M'Lot



For those who attended The Collegiate years ago, the 4th floor of Wesley Hall might have been dormitories for students, and for those who came a little later, it would have been home to the Faculty Club and faculty offices. However, for those who graduated more recently, the 4th Floor of Wesley Hall is now the location of The Collegiate Model School, which opened in September of 2008. This initiative was part of the University of Winnipeg's Community Learning Mandate, one of many innovative programs launched by the University to break down barriers that prevent equity-deserving youth from accessing higher education.

The Collegiate Model School offers a unique educational opportunity to youth from backgrounds that are underrepresented in post-secondary education. These students demonstrate potential but face challenges that hinder their success in mainstream education. Most students enter the Grade 9-12 program through referrals from inner-city

schools, social agencies, and community organizations. Over 95% of the students are First Nation, Métis, or new Canadians, all of whom face significant barriers to reaching their full potential.

The Model School is part of the rigorous academic framework that The Collegiate provides as a university preparatory school. This distinctive setting fosters a dynamic learning environment, offering creative, wrap-around supports with the extensive resources and services of a large university to give equity-deserving youth the opportunity to achieve academic excellence.

In addition to the exceptional program, the school benefits from an equally impressive faculty. Christine M'Lot joined The Collegiate Model School in 2017. She recently completed her Master's in Education from Queen's University, is a published author of a textbook and teacher's guide, and has recently been appointed associate publisher at Portage & Main Press.

"I'm learning all aspects of the business, which is completely new to me," Christine explained. "Getting insight into a million-dollar company is a huge step for me. Still, I'm very passionate about it, and it aligns perfectly with my interests. Their mandate is to publish educational materials—whether textbooks for teachers or books for children—and I bring that educational perspective into the business."

A proud member of Swan Lake First Nation in Manitoba, Christine has always been deeply motivated by her passion for education. After high school, she pursued her Bachelor of Education in Manitoba and secured her first teaching job in Winnipeg. However, her ambitions extended beyond just teaching one classroom. Christine has dedicated herself to helping both non-Indigenous and Indigenous students and educators better understand Indigenous knowledge and culture. Through consulting, she has worked to inspire Indigenous students and educators to reconnect with their heritage. One of her significant projects was the Red Rising Education initiative, a curriculum development effort on Treaty One territory that brought together elders, knowledge keepers, Indigenous teachers, and community members to share their perspectives on Indigenous education.

"One goal of the Red Rising Education project was to support both non-Indigenous and Indigenous educators in bringing Indigenous content into their learning spaces," she said. "Many were afraid of getting something wrong, so this resource was meant to guide them in a right and respectful way."

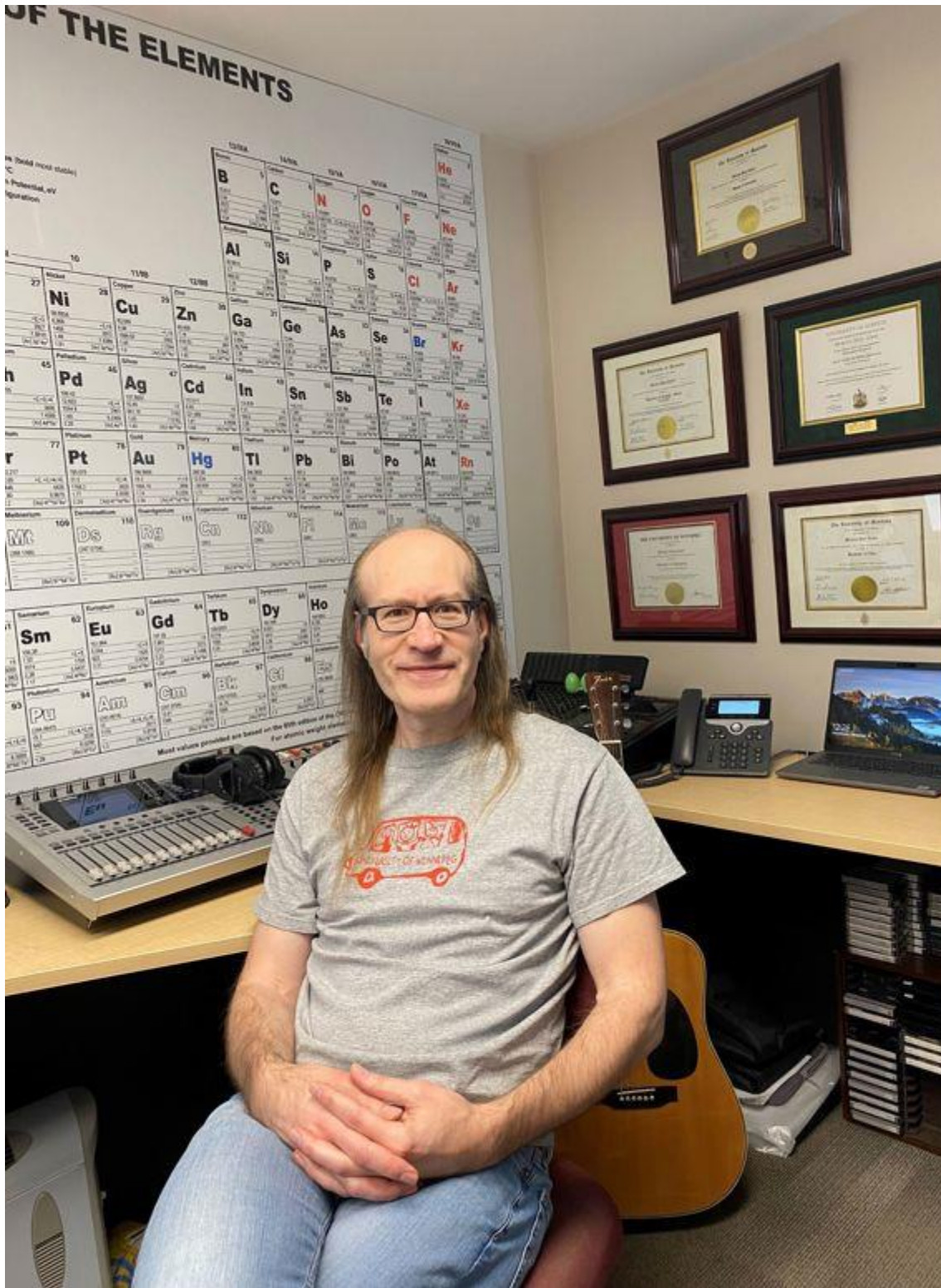
This experience inspired Christine to pursue graduate studies in World Indigenous Studies in Education at Queen's University, a program that focuses on global Indigenous studies and education, rather than just Indigenous cultures in Canada.

Christine completed her master's degree in 2023 and published a thesis examining the use of virtual and augmented reality, along with other digital spaces, in Indigenous

education. “The goal of my research was to record the unique benefits and challenges that various types of educational technology have on youth engagement and to inform an analysis of the potential use of augmented and virtual reality technology in education settings, particularly those working with Indigenous youth or advancing Indigenous education,” she explained.

One might assume that Christine’s schedule is already quite full, yet she also works as a consultant for organizations like the Manitoba Institute of Trade and Technology and the Manitoba Teachers’ Society. Additionally, Christine has contributed her curriculum expertise to "Your Voice is Power," an internationally recognized project that integrates hip hop, coding, and social justice. We are proud to have Christine as part of our faculty at The Collegiate, and we eagerly look forward to the incredible work she will continue to do.

[Giving Back](#)



Dr. Michael Lukie's journey from bar band musician to Instructor at The Collegiate to an Associate Professor of Education at the University of Winnipeg is as unique as it is inspiring. A donor since 2005, Lukie sought to create a new award in the spring of 2024—one that would provide for the next generation of talented young scientists and academics that he had seen so many of during his teaching career at The Collegiate. With this goal in mind, Lukie worked with the University of Winnipeg Foundation to establish The Dr. Michael Paul Lukie Prize, designed to recognize The Collegiate student with the highest combined marks in grade 12 Physics and Pre-Calculus Mathematics. The prize is a representation of both Lukie's passion for academic excellence and his commitment to The Collegiate as a member of its internal community.

A Winnipeg local, Lukie spent his early years playing music in blues, rock'n'roll, and Elvis bar bands before diving into academia. After beginning his studies at the University of Manitoba, he initially planned to graduate as an electrical engineer. Looking back, Lukie jokingly reflects that "I could do the math no problem, but otherwise I was hopeless with electrical wiring." Electing to shift gears as an undergrad, Lukie soon discovered his passion for applied mathematics, a degree he completed over the course of 11 years while balancing his love for music. Along the way, he developed a deep interest and appreciation for the Classics and his fascination with Greek and Roman art and archaeology guided much of his interest during this period. By the time he was ready to graduate, although only needing 120 credit hours for his science degree, Lukie had amassed 240 credit hours to put towards his Bachelor of Arts in Classical Studies and Anthropology.

Given his interest in a wide range of subjects, Lukie notes that it came as no surprise to him and his family when he finally settled into his teaching career. Starting as a teaching assistant in calculus labs at the University of Manitoba, Lukie quickly found he felt most at home leading lectures at the front of the classroom.

"After earning my Bachelor of Education after-degree at the University of Winnipeg in 2002, I began teaching at Springfield Collegiate in Oak Bank and later at River East Collegiate. During the summers between those postings was where my relationship with The Collegiate started. I began teaching physics summer school classes for The Collegiate in June and July and by 2004 I was offered a full-time teaching position at the school."

"The Collegiate isn't like most regular schools," Dr. Lukie explains. "Faculty often stay for many years because they're invested in their students. The smaller class sizes, academic autonomy, and professional environment make it a place where everyone can strive for excellence with the confidence they will succeed. Collegiate students also take responsibility for and approach their learning in the same way that university students do, a fact that attests to the high quality of the academic culture at The Collegiate."

Lukie's career at The Collegiate lasted from 2004 to 2013. After taking a brief hiatus to complete his Ph.D. at the University of Alberta, he returned for a final year of teaching in 2015-2016 before transitioning to his current role at the University of Winnipeg. In his current position, Lukie teaches physics, science, and mathematics curriculum and instruction courses to pre-service teachers while drawing on his Collegiate teaching experience to inspire future educators.

Today, Dr. Lukie's dedication to education extends beyond the classroom through his generous support of a new prize that bears his name. "The Collegiate has always held a soft spot for me", shares Lukie, "The reason I'm here today is because Dean Rob Bend took a risk and hired me, even though I looked like a hippie. I just wanted to give something back to the school, I loved teaching there, I made some real quality friends with my colleagues. Also, my grandfather Walter Kolodzinski graduated from The Collegiate 90 years ago in 1935 when it was United College. This prize reflects my passion for celebrating academic excellence and inspiring generations of future students who come to this very special and unique institution. Receiving an award makes students feel good about their triumphs, and I feel that it's important to celebrate students who put the effort in."

The Dr. Michael Paul Lukie Prize recently passed its review by the University Senate and will begin supporting students in the Spring of 2025.

Alumni News

Ben Sparrow (1993) is the CEO of Sparrow Hotels, just acquired a new property in Portage La Prairie called Microtel Inn and Suites. In addition to their many other thriving business ventures (Norwood Hotel, Inn at the Forks, Smith Restaurant, Riverstone Spa, Mere Hotel, and the Wyndham Garden Winnipeg).

Dr. Rachel Toles (1995) recently returned to Winnipeg to host an event at the Burton Cummings Theatre titled [The Psychology of Serial Killers](#). Dr. Toles is a licensed clinical and forensic psychologist. She specializes in psychological fitness-for-duty evaluations, as well as court evaluations that include psychological and neuropsychological testing.

Nigel Webber (2008) was listed on [Ace Burpee's Top 100 most fascinating Manitobans for 2024](#) because he authored "*Gritty City: An Oral History of Winnipeg Hip-Hop Music 1980-2005*." Gritty City is the first book to tackle the history of Winnipeg hip-hop, featuring over 100 voices of Winnipeg rappers, producers, DJs, promoters, and community members, Gritty City is a one-of-a-kind chronicle of an important but until now unknown chapter in Canadian music history.

Kellie Verwey (2014) tragically passed away in a car accident on January 14th. She was only 28 years old and was planning a wedding, expanding her thriving business and

tirelessly serving the community of Portage La Prairie. Our deepest condolences go out to her friends and family.

Sidney Leggett (2017) presented at the [First Nations Data Sovereignty and First Nation Research Conference: Our Data, Our Truths, Our Voice](#). Her presentation was titled 'Reclaiming Manitoba First Nations Data: our Journey towards Data Sovereignty, in our own Voice'.

Michel Lavoie (2019) was cast as the Nutcracker Prince in the 2024 Royal Winnipeg Ballet for the Nutcracker.

Julianna Generoux (2020) was cast as Clara in the 2024 Royal Winnipeg Ballet for the Nutcracker.

Events & Announcements

On December 4th, 2024, we held our Collegiate Alumni Association Seasonal Reception. A special thank you to our planning committee who made this event possible! Pictured below: Eliana Yonas Gebreselassie, Ayla Embury-Hyatt, Quinn Cove, Bob Stuebing, Patricia Nosal, Stacey Katz, and Joshua Hood.

Below, you'll find some pictures from our Collegiate Alumni Association Seasonal Reception. It was our highest attended reception yet, and for the first time, was hosted in the University Club located on the 4th Floor of Wesley Hall. Food inspired by the classic Tony's menu was provided by Diversity Foods, and live music was played by current Collegiate students. As you look through these photos, see if there's anyone you recognize!





Trics & Tic Yearbook Photos

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.



