

Collegiate Alumni Association



JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER: CONVOCAATION EDITION



Valedictorian Elizabeth Sabale and Dean Kevin Clace, 2023 Collegiate Convocation

Meet Our New Alumni

Spring has always been an important time for grade 12 students at The Collegiate. As exams approach, students rush to hand in their last assignments, apply for summer jobs, and say their goodbyes before the final bell rings. With graduation on the horizon, many students also took the time to thank the faculty and staff members who spent the last four years helping them succeed and spurring on their passions outside of the classroom.

Despite its continued importance as the traditional nexus of celebration at The Collegiate, the aptly named Convocation Hall would struggle to hold the excited families of the 124 students who graduated on May 18, 2023, let alone the faculty and staff who accompany the proceedings. The RBC Convention Centre is the most recent home of Collegiate convocation and is evidence of how large our community has grown in the last few decades.

Having much of their high school experience in the midst of a pandemic, the Class of 2023 were challenged to rise above unique circumstances in order to receive their diplomas and become the first group of alumni to join the Collegiate Alumni Association since its inception on September 14, 2022.

The incredibly talented Class of 2023 will now forge their paths beyond the walls of Wesley Hall, attending post-secondary institutions such as the University of Winnipeg, University of Manitoba, McGill University, Western University, and Emory University, just to name a few.

Hannah Puff and Lileia Silvaggio are two of the many graduates of note this year. A dynamic presence on the court, Hannah has committed to play basketball for the McGill Martlets and received the McGill Prestige Major Undergraduate Scholarship. Lileia became the inaugural recipient of the Neen Hodgins National Entrance Scholarship at Western University, a four-year \$80,000 scholarship only awarded to one student each year.

Rylee Gerrard and Zachary Gordon received the Special Faculty Award, which is usually awarded to only one student, but this dynamic duo's unique qualities as individuals and as a team set them apart from others. In their presenter speech, Mr. Mason and Ms. Janzen shared that, "as a duo these two accomplish anything they put their minds too... They often worked tirelessly to serve their peers, open doors, and provide opportunities while demonstrating a genuine appreciation for the gifts, talents and diversity of everyone around them."

Congratulations to Hannah, Lileia, Rylee, Zachary and to all our accomplished graduates!

Valedictorian Elizabeth Sabale summed up the emotions of the day with an eloquent and heartfelt farewell to the Class of 2023:

“This day is the culmination of all the years of learning, years of growth - those days of mere survival - and most of all, every single day of resilience and hard work...

We are here to celebrate these achievements together, connected one way or another through years of making memories in the same spaces - especially those we cannot reminisce about in public - that brought colour to our high school experience...

Teachers, staff, Collegiate caretakers, and our administrators, is something we should be grateful for when we remember that you were the constants in our daily lives; the ones that took care of us even on days when we did not want to learn...or those days when work seemed tougher than usual. We thank you for your wisdom, your kindness, your patience, and the utmost care and effort you put into your work...

Graduates of 2023, we will continue to be faced with opportunities that will shape our future. After all, in the years of what we called “preparation,” we’ve actually been doing it ourselves - that is, shaping our future until this very moment. In our caps and gowns, it must then mean something that we all made it here and will walk out with our diplomas and a shared sense of success. So, going forward, don’t let anything stop you until you’ve reached your destination. And since life is a journey, don’t let anything stop you...”

Alumni Association News



Stained glass in Wesley Hall commemorating the union of Wesley and Manitoba College

A message from Bob Stuebing (Class of 1965), Collegiate Alumni Association Chair on behalf of the Board of Directors:

For me, the most significant event since my comments in the February newsletter was that I had the honour of officially welcoming 124 new alumni to the Association at the 2023 Convocation on May 18. To say the class of 2023 is impressive would be a serious understatement. Forty students were listed on the Dean's Honour List with a full course average of 90.0% or higher while a further 41 were designated as Students of Distinction with an average between 80.0% and 89.9%. As we are contemplating class reunions in five year rotations, it will be exciting to see where this class is in 2028, 2033 and after that.

The February edition was well received with many comments. But one particular comment (from an alumna whose address we did not have but to whom a classmate forwarded the newsletter) which reflected all the comments was simply, "This is the best thing that's come by me for a long time." And I

personally enjoyed a 30-minute telephone conversation with a classmate whom I have not seen or talked to in over 50 years after we connected through the newsletter. Clearly the system works!

But our email address list is not complete. If you are talking to other alumni, ask if they are receiving the newsletters; and if not, ask them to [update their alumni record](#) or forward their email address to collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca. We continue to work to expand our contact list but it is more than helpful when alumni contact us.

The current newsletter is our second and includes the first “Dean’s Corner” message from Dean Kevin Clace. The Dean’s message will be a fixture in future editions, which will continue on a quarterly rotation. Also, in this edition, we feature Sherri Walsh (Class of 1978) in the “Alumni Spotlight” section. In April, Sherri was the recipient of the inaugural [University of Manitoba Faculty of Law Outstanding Alumni Award](#). Congratulations Sherri!

The Association has continued to build momentum. We are progressing with development of the [alumni web pages](#), which we hope to complete by the fall and UW Alumni Affairs has launched [UWinnipeg Connect](#), an online career and networking platform for all UW community members. On September 11th (circle that date), the Association will hold its first Annual General Meeting. As with the inaugural meeting last September, we will provide for virtual attendance for alumni who are unable to attend in person. Watch for the formal notice with the supporting meeting materials in August.

We also launched the [Collegiate Alumni Association Endowment Fund Campaign](#) to solicit donations to build our endowment fund, the income from which will fund the Association’s operations going forward. In March, we commenced contacting select alumni who have a record of supporting the Collegiate and as a result, we have raised \$190,000 of our \$300,000 goal. I have committed to match all donations dollar-for-dollar, so an additional \$55,000 in gifts is needed. Alumni who would like to support our campaign can contact Elena Anciro, Collegiate Engagement Officer at the University of Winnipeg Foundation by email at e.anciro@uwinnipeg.ca or by telephone at (204) 789-1440, or [donate online](#). No matter the amount, your gift will have a profound impact and will help us create a proud and involved community of alumni and students who are engaged in the life, success and advancement of The Collegiate for many generations to come.

And finally, some fun. We need a name for our newsletter. Something that reflects the Association's mission while underlining the importance of our quarterly communications. Email your suggestions to collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca. The Association Board of Directors will select the name, which will be on the masthead of all future editions. And for the alumnus who suggests the selected name, we will award a \$100 gift certificate redeemable at Tony's.

We are excited; we are making progress; we are having fun; and we are really looking forward to enhancing the alumni experience going forward.

On behalf of the Board, we look forward to welcoming you to the Association's first Annual General Meeting in September.

Dean's Corner



A message from Dr. Kevin Clace, Collegiate Dean:

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to the generations of Collegiate Alumni who are a part of the newly formed Collegiate Alumni Association. I was pleased to join The University of Winnipeg Collegiate as Dean in July of 2018.

Upon my arrival, I quickly learned how truly unique the Collegiate is and the special place it holds in the hearts of our alumni. Over the past five years, I have thoroughly enjoyed connecting with many alumni who have returned to the infamous Wesley Hall for a walk down memory lane. It is always a privilege to have our alumni visit and share stories of favoured Deans, Faculty and Collegiate experiences. The Collegiate always has an open door for visiting alumni, and although many of our alum already stop by for an impromptu visit, I want to take this opportunity to formally invite you back to the Collegiate. If you would like to schedule a tour, meet the Dean, or connect with a specific faculty member, please feel free to reach out by email to collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca. Recent alumni can also email faculty directly via the [faculty listing](#) on the Collegiate website.

In May, we hosted our annual Convocation at the RBC Convention Centre where 124 graduates crossed the threshold from Collegiate Student to Collegiate Alumni. Like previous generations who have graced Wesley Hall with their presence, the Class of 2023 is permanently etched in the hearts of Collegiate Faculty, Staff and Administration. Fond memories with this group include cheering on the Senior Boys Basketball Team to another Zone 12 Championship, skiing at Assessippi, traveling to Costa Rica, and reviving longstanding traditions after the pandemic such as Holiday Café, Evening of the Arts, and Collegiate Coffee House. I have enjoyed working with this amazing group of individuals over the past four years, and I look forward to seeing what the future holds for our new alumni.

Finally, I am excited to share that in 2023, The Collegiate will celebrate its 150th anniversary. To mark this momentous occasion, we are hosting a Collegiate 150th Celebration Event on Thursday, September 21st between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing many alumni return to The Collegiate to celebrate this incredible milestone. Please look forward to a formal invitation to this event in your e-mail in the very near future.

Alumni Spotlight: Sherri Walsh, LL.B. (Class of 1978)



Sherri Walsh, Collegiate Class of 1978, is the recent recipient of the inaugural [University of Manitoba Faculty of Law Outstanding Alumni Award](#). This award is presented to a University of Manitoba Law graduate for outstanding professional achievement in their legal career, and dedication / commitment to the betterment of the legal profession while exhibiting the qualities of integrity and professionalism. Sherri is undoubtedly a deserving recipient of this prestigious honour.

Sherri is a litigator, adjudicator, and arbitrator and the Managing Partner at the Winnipeg law firm Hill Sokalski Walsh LLP. Her notable career milestones include acting as the Commission Counsel to the Commission of Inquiry into the Circumstances Surrounding the Death of Phoenix Sinclair (2011-2013), serving as Chief Adjudicator under the Human Rights Code (2012-2019), being an arbitrator on The Manitoba Framework Agreement – Treaty Land Entitlement, which was signed in 1997, and being the City of Winnipeg's first Integrity Commissioner.

The University of Manitoba Faculty of Law Outstanding Alumni Award is just one of many inaugural honours that Sherri has earned. In 2000, she received the inaugural Manitoba Human Rights Commitment Award and in 2016, she

was the inaugural recipient of the [Nellie Award](#) in recognition of her work to promote social justice, human rights and the rights of women and girls in Manitoba. She was also admitted as a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America in 2018, the first woman in the province to be given this honour. Congratulations, Sherri!

Alumni News

Fatima Sherefa (2023)

Will step down as the Association's Grade 12 Future Alumni Board Director and pursue her post-secondary studies at the University of Manitoba. Fatima's position will be filled by Sarah Seniuk (2024). Thank you, Fatima!

Ranveer Sandhu (2022)

Signed with Central Wyoming College to play soccer on scholarship.

Katherine Sengmany (2021)

Returned to The Collegiate as a featured alumna performer at the 2023 Collegiate Coffee House and Convocation.

Michael Lavoie (2019), Elizabeth Lamont (2015), Zachary Rogers (2012), Alanna McAdie (2008), and Tristan Dobrowney (2006)

Featured in a [Winnipeg Free Press article](#) for their work with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet.

Sophie Smith Dost-Mohamed (2017)

[Shaw Festival debut](#) in *Prince Caspian* and *Playboy of the Western World*.

Emma Gray (2016)

Manitoba's flag bearer at the 2017 Canada Summer Games. Emma won gold in rowing single scull, and bronze in rowing double scull and quadruple scull.

Geoff Gray (2012)

Professional Canadian football offensive lineman for the Winnipeg Blue Bombers.

Blair Kaplan Venables (2003)

Wild Mag has recognized Blair's book [The Global Resistance Project](#) as one of the [Most Inspiring Books for 2023](#) in their latest feature.

Dr. Jordan Slosower (2002)

Co-Director of the recently opened [West Rock Wellness](#), an integrative, community-based, mental health and wellness center in New Haven, CT grounded in interdisciplinary and holistic therapeutic approaches, including psychedelic-assisted therapies, trauma informed psychotherapy, integrative psychiatry and mind-body medicine. A recording of Jordan's [Alumni Perspectives Webinar – Insights into Psychedelic Medicines](#) is available to view on the Alumni Speaker Series web page.

Jill Hardy (1999)

Four-time women's amateur golf champion. Featured in a [Winnipeg Free Press article](#) as the only female competitor on a new local golf circuit, Prairie Scratch Tour.

Daina Leitold (1993)

Costume designer for Shakespeare in the Ruin's production of *Twelfth Night* and Rainbow Stage's production of *Rent*. Executive Director of [Green Kids, Inc.](#)

Saira Rahman (1991)

Acclaimed filmmaker and recipient of the inaugural Inspiring Women Award. Named as one of [Ace Burpee's Top 100 Most Fascinating Manitobans for 2022](#).

Krista Jackson (1990)

Appointed as the new Artistic Director and Executive Director of [Imago Theatre](#) in Montreal, Quebec.

Nerissa Werthman (1981)

Curator of [Instant Opus Improv Series](#), a long-running, completely improvised music series in New Orleans featuring players from every genre.

Margaret Sweatman (1971)

Shortlisted for the [Margaret Laurence Award for Fiction](#) for her book *The Gunsmith's Daughter*.

Brett Buckingham (1965)

Life Update: "I am retired in Lethbridge to be near family. I spent most of my working years in Winnipeg. I performed at Rainbow Stage in the 80's and early 90's." Read more about Brett in our [Alumni Life Updates PDF](#).

The Honourable Janis Johnson, C.M. (1968)

Chosen to receive the [Order of Manitoba](#), the highest honour in the Province of Manitoba. In 2020, Janis was also appointed a member of the Order of Canada.

Maggie (Marg Leslie) Carr (1963 – 64)

Life Update: “As an Arts graduate of the last United College class of 1967, myself and a few fellow grads walked with new grads for the 1st class of U of W. It was such an honour!” Read more about Maggie in our [Alumni Life Updates PDF](#).

Rita F. Gunn (1959)

We are saddened to hear of Rita’s passing on April 17, 2023. [Read more about Rita’s life in her obituary.](#)

Anita Schmidt (1952)

We are also saddened to hear of Anita’s passing on February 27, 2023. [Read more about Anita’s life in her obituary.](#)

Do you have an update or news you would like to share with your Collegiate community? Email us at collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca.

Upcoming Events & Announcements



THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
Collegiate

150
YEARS

September 11, 2023

Collegiate Alumni Association AGM

Watch your inbox for an invitation to attend our inaugural Annual General Meeting either in-person or online.

September 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. CDT

Collegiate 150 Celebration

Mark your calendars for this momentous occasion and commemorate our 150th anniversary with fellow alumni, faculty, staff, students and special guests. A formal invitation with more information will be sent to all alumni very soon!

December 2023 – Date Coming Soon!

Seasonal Reception

Ring in the holidays with your Collegiate community. Stay tuned for more info!

May 2024 – Date Coming Soon!

Inaugural Collegiate Homecoming & Reunions

We are excited to announce that the Inaugural Collegiate Homecoming & Reunions will take place in May 2024. All our alumni are invited and there will be featured reunions for the following classes: 2019, 2014, 2009, 2004, 1999, 1994, 1989, 1984, 1979, 1974, 1969, 1964 and 1959.

Call for Class Liaisons

We are looking for Class Liaisons from our featured reunion years who will connect with their classmates, communicate reunion information, and help us discover the exciting news and updates of your class. This is a flexible volunteer position that can suit your schedule and communication preferences. If you are interested in helping us reunite your graduating class, email us at collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca!

Call for Model School Subcommittee Members

Did you attend the Model School during your time at The Collegiate? The Collegiate Alumni Association Board is looking for Model School alumni who can provide ideas and feedback on how to engage and reconnect with this important alumni group in our Collegiate community. If you are interested in becoming a Model School Subcommittee Member, please provide a letter of intent expressing why you are interested in serving on the subcommittee and why you would be the ideal candidate. Please email submissions of interest and questions to collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca.

Join UWinnipeg Connect Today!

[UWinnipeg Connect](#) is an online community, and a career and networking source where alumni, students, staff, faculty and other UW Community members can share their experiences and connect. If you are looking for career assistance or would like to offer a helping hand, UWinnipeg Connect is a virtual platform that allows you to meet others. You choose if and how often

you wish to volunteer your time and exactly how you want to help, and you can join the Collegiate Alumni Association Group to connect with your fellow Collegiate alumni. It's free and only takes a few minutes to [sign up!](#)

Newsletter Name Contest

Over the last 150 years, there have been several iconic names associated with The Collegiate like Coffee House, our former yearbook name, Tric Tics, and our favourite hang out, Tony's. Now, we are searching for a name for our Collegiate Alumni Association newsletter! We invite alumni to submit suggestions to the Association Board by emailing collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca. The winner will receive a \$100 gift card redeemable at Tony's.

From The Archives



*UNTITLED (PLUM BLOSSOM, PEONY, AND CHRYSANTHEMUMS WITH BIRDS)
Collection of The University of Winnipeg*

Do you recognize this beautiful watercolour painting on silk? It is now part of a group exhibit at The University of Winnipeg Gallery 1C03 called [Within and Beyond Tradition: Works by East Asian Artists in The University of Winnipeg Collection](#) from May 8 – August 4, 2023.

The painting was gifted in 1970 by alumnus Peter Wong (Class of 1970) on the behalf of his graduating class, but the artist is unknown. The gallery welcomes alumni who may have information about the painting to contact collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca.



Dean Carl Halstead addresses graduates at the Collegiate convocation ceremony at Young United Church on May 28, 1952 (UW Archives)



Collegiate international students dressed for success (UW Archives, date unknown)

Do you remember how you felt on your convocation day or what you wore at your graduation dinner? What advice would you give to the Class of 2023?

If you see yourself in any of the archive photos we share, let us know and we will treat you to a coffee and snack at Tony's the next time you are in the neighbourhood!

Help us take a trip down memory lane by sharing your photos and memories. [Share your story](#) with us today!



Spread the News!

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The Collegiate at The University of Winnipeg

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