

Collegiate Alumni Association



WESLEY TIMES: MAY 2024 EDITION



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CELEBRATING FACULTY: JOLENE BRAUN

Written by Joshua Hood (2017)

Jolene Braun has been a teacher at the Collegiate for thirteen years. Currently teaching Dramatic Arts and English, she has taught thousands of Alumni, becoming a staple of the Collegiate and a favourite teacher for many. Jolene taught my very first class at the Collegiate – Grade 9 Drama. Throughout my four years at the school, I remember Jolene and I constantly find ourselves stuck in conversation whenever we ran into each other. Things are no different now, more than ten years after that first class, as I sat down with Jolene in her office to discuss why the Collegiate is a place where people choose to stay connected.

Growing up in Saskatchewan, Jolene didn't originally set out to become a teacher. She moved to Winnipeg at the age of seventeen to study Theology at the U of W. "I didn't really know what I wanted to do with life, and I kind of thought that something would just open up," she remembers. "In my second year of my theology degree, I had an opportunity to go overseas for an internship, and I took it – mostly just because I really wanted to go somewhere."

Jolene's internship took her to Jamaica, where she and a friend became teachers at a school reserved for pregnant teenagers. "My school had pregnant girls and girls who had already given birth...and that summer, I taught the pregnant girls," Jolene explains. "I had girls from age twelve...and my oldest was seventeen. All in one classroom. And I was expected to teach them English, Math, and Science."

So with two years of a Theology degree under her belt and two textbooks, Jolene became a teacher. "I just remember trying to figure out how to be a teacher and how to relate to these girls, and ultimately realizing that it wasn't the content of the class that was super important, it was giving them a safe space, being able to relate to them somewhat, and sort of keeping educational options open as best I could in the weird position I was in," she says. "That experience made me believe that I could be a teacher, that I could do that. And in my third year of my Theology degree, sort of flailing around deciding what I was going

to do, I was like, I'm going to apply to the U of W for Education. And I got in. And I'm still here!"

Jolene soon found herself shadowing a teacher at the Collegiate – Phyllis Webster. "I was teaching a Lit Focus class, and I was talking to the students about 'Waiting for Godot'. And I put a quotation on the board, and it was 'Religion is the opiate of the masses.' And I asked the students to think about this quotation and how it related to the play...and when I put that quotation on the board, and I said it out loud, there was a student in the back of the room, and he had spent most of the year in that class not facing the front...he turned, and he faced the front, and (Phyllis) noticed that. And she was like, 'You've said something that so peaked that student's interest that he was willing to move from the position he has maintained for months now...I've been trying for months to get this guy engaged, and you managed to do it with a quotation.' The point that I think she was trying to make was that there are so many different ways to connect to students, and you have to keep trying, and those moments when a student becomes engaged, that's a triumph. And it's also a moment to build on. And I was like, 'Oh! I think I get this!'"

Like many of the Faculty at the Collegiate, Jolene has chosen to build a long-term career at the school. What is it about the school that makes it a place teachers want to stay? "Most of the students that are here choose to be here. They want to be here. There's a lot of kids who, it's not their parents who picked the Collegiate, it's them. They found out about the school, they told their parents about the school. So it's completely different when you have somebody who buys into what you're doing immediately...As a teacher, to be in that environment, where students are eager to learn and want to have fun learning, that's exciting." Jolene has also helped students find their voices as leaders. She is involved in the Collegiate's GSA and Student Council, encouraging and supporting advocacy. Is it any surprise many of Manitoba's leaders are Collegiate alumni? "We've had a few leaders emerge. I think one thing is that there's opportunity here that there isn't necessarily in other schools," she explains. "We still have students who only come here for Grade 12, and decide that they are going to run for Prime Minister. That they're going to start a brand new student group. Because they can. We have room for that here."

As my visit with Jolene was wrapping up, she reminded me that, as Collegiate Alumni, her office is always open. "We hope that our students stay in touch with us...I always remind the graduating students a few months before they're leaving, I remind them, hey, you are always welcome back here. You can always come back. Please come and see us. We'd love to see you. And so many of them are like, 'Really? I can come?' Yes! We'd love to see you again. I will say I have enjoyed every single time a student has knocked on my door, has come up to me in the hallway after they've graduated, with a 'Hey Ms. Braun!' It's so exciting to see. And that's everything."

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Photographed: Faculty Member Jolene Braun

Alumni Association News

Written by Association Chair Bob Stuebing (1965)

Now well into our second year, we are pleased that the Collegiate Alumni Association has established a solid foundation on which to pursue its mandate to facilitate alumni engagement with the school and with each other.

This is our fourth newsletter/magazine, and we have held three successful receptions, the inaugural meeting, the first annual general meeting and the seasonal reception last December. The work on our website and expanding our member database is proceeding, and we expect visible progress over the summer months. But while we recognize our progress to date, we also have to recognize the areas where we have not progressed as quickly as we expected.

Specifically, we would like to connect with and hear from the alumni more. We hope the Association and its membership can accomplish the following:

- Increase alumni turnout significantly for future events. As successful as the receptions have been, alumni attendance has averaged below 30.
- Collect more alumni news directly from alumni (career changes and promotions, moves to other cities, marriages, new additions to families, awards and appointments, etc.) to make the class notes sections more robust. The class notes section of our newsletters is informative and, in my opinion, a critical component of our mission. All alumni want to know what their classmates are doing, but we obtain a disproportionate percentage of the content from public sources.
- Gain financial support from the alumni to achieve our \$300,000 endowment fund goal (which will generate \$12,000 annually to cover operating costs) to ensure our long-term viability. For the past six months, we have been stuck at \$211,000. No matter the size, alumni contributions are greatly appreciated and will help our Association thrive after the University of Winnipeg Foundation's five-year commitment to cover our costs is complete. All alumni who donate will also receive a charitable tax receipt, which can reduce the amount of income tax you owe.

The Association has a committed and engaged board and is backed with great support from the Foundation. The board will continue to work to make the Association an important conduit between the Alumni and the Collegiate and among the alumni. But the Association will only achieve the importance and vibrancy originally envisioned when alumni engagement becomes stronger and more visible.

With the above said, I would like to discuss some very positive developments.

We would not be where we are today but for Elena Anciro's outstanding work as the Collegiate Engagement Officer at the Foundation. But, as the adage goes, you can't keep a good woman down, and the Foundation has promoted Elena to Annual Giving Officer. I have personally appreciated Elena's work and support over the past (almost) three years, and while we will miss her, we will fortunately still have access to her as she continues her career with the Foundation. Patricia Nosal has replaced Elena. Patricia is a Collegiate alumni (2014) with a very accomplished background. There is no doubt that she will be a positive force for the Alumni Association going forward.

At the most recent board meeting, the directors discussed the previously contemplated spring reunion. Based on the turnout at our receptions to date, we determined that a reunion event would most likely not be well enough attended to warrant the cost. So, we switched our attention to an information session for the 2024 graduating class, and that will go forward in April. It is critical that we bring in all new graduates as active and engaged members of the Association. While we continue to work to build our member contact data

bank, it may be that we will only achieve the critical mass we need over time by adding 120 new alumni every year.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a report on the December reception with photos, as well as our regular sections, the Dean's Corner, the Alumni Spotlight and Alumni News. You will also find a bio sketch for Patricia Nosal which I expect you will find as interesting as I did.

But I particularly want to mention the "Giving back" feature and thank Ken Atwal (1987) for his support for the Collegiate through the establishment of Dr. Ken Atwal Collegiate Award. Giving back is an important, perhaps the most important, role for alumni in the relationship between them and the Collegiate, and Ken Atwal exemplifies that.

As always, we look forward to your comments and suggestions as we continue to pursue the Association's mission to facilitate alumni engagement with the Collegiate and with each other.

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Dean's Corner



Photographed: Kevin Clace, Dean of The Collegiate

Written by Dean Kevin Clace

It is truly remarkable to realize that the Collegiate is now in the final stretch of yet another academic year. With the advent of spring, there's an undeniable sense of excitement, and eager anticipation, as the Class of 2024 prepares for their upcoming graduation. This year's spring graduation ceremony holds even greater significance as we gear up to commemorate the monumental occasion of the Collegiate's 150th commencement ceremony. It's a milestone that encapsulates years of dedication, growth, and achievement, marking a momentous chapter in the Collegiate's rich history.

Throughout its 150-year journey, The Collegiate has had an immeasurable impact on the lives of countless individuals, fostering their growth and empowerment. In turn, our esteemed alumni, have emerged as advocates for positive change, shaping the fabric of our city, province, and society at large. Over the past year, it has been truly inspiring to engage with numerous alumni, who seized the opportunity to reconnect with the Collegiate as we celebrated our 150th. Each encounter has been a cherished moment, as we listen

to firsthand accounts of the profound impact the Collegiate has had on their personal and professional lives.

It's undeniable that the reconnections we've experienced over the past year wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of Bob Stuebing, Chair of the Collegiate Alumni Association and Elena Anciro, Collegiate Engagement Officer. Their unwavering dedication and commitment to establishing the Collegiate Alumni Association has provided a vital platform for alumni to reconnect. I am profoundly grateful for their vision, passion, and hard work in creating this invaluable space for Collegiate Alumni.

Elena is currently in the process of transitioning into a new role within the University of Winnipeg Foundation, and I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for the exceptional work she has accomplished on behalf of the Collegiate over the past several years. As Elena moves into her new role, I am very pleased to have Ms. Patricia Nosal (2014), join the Collegiate Alumni Association as our new Junior Collegiate Engagement Officer.

The Collegiate Administration, Faculty and Staff are always eager to reconnect with our alumni and we warmly invite you to drop by for a visit. Should you wish to arrange for a formal visit and tour, please don't hesitate to contact Collegiate Dean Kevin Clace at k.clace@uwinnipeg.ca or Junior Engagement Officer Patricia Nosal (2014) at pa.nosal@uwinnipeg.ca. We would be delighted to assist you in arranging for a memorable Collegiate visit.

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Alumni Spotlight



Photographed: Emily Kroft, Collegiate Alumni Class of 2015

Compiled by Patricia Nosal (2014)

After attending The Collegiate class of 2015, Kroft completed her Bachelors in environment sciences honors at the University of Winnipeg, then earned her Master's in Ecology at Concordia University in Montreal. She believes it is essential to ensure future generations understand how climate policy works. She works with hundreds of students at International Institute of Sustainable Development [IISD Next](#) as Water Policy and Youth Engagement Officer. The program is designed to narrow knowledge gaps for young people when it comes to policy. Many young people are highly educated but lack the knowledge of how to engage with policy. Kroft notes; "when information is made available to young people, they are capable of participating in complex sustainability conversations" ([UWinnipeg.ca](#)).

Her hard work is being recognized; in November she was the recipient of the '[30 Under 30 Award](#)' recognizing leaders who are working towards making the planet a better place through a sustainability lens. Kroft goes on to say "You don't really expect to get a big national recognition very early on in your career... So for me, it's just really affirming that the work we're doing is needed, that this is something that we should keep doing and that it is helping people" ([Winnipeg Free Press, 2023](#)). Massive Congratulations Emily! We are thrilled to call you one of our Collegiate Alumni!

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Alumni News

Compiled by Patricia Nosal (2014)

Rylee Gerrard (2023)

Returned to the Collegiate to do a presentation for students regarding her post-grad travels and volunteer work abroad.

Cameron Fraser-Monroe (2017)

Choreographed a piece for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet titled [‘T’ƏL – THE WILD MAN OF THE WOODS.’](#) which was performed at the Centennial Concert Hall from April 25th-28th, 2024.

Katie Simpson (2015) & Liam Saito (2015)

Professional Royal Winnipeg Ballet company members recently got married.
[Winnipeg Free Press](#)

Adam Budowski (2006)

Returned to The Collegiate to do a presentation for students regarding the new Winnipeg Transit system being unveiled in Winnipeg in 2025.

[Ace Burpee’s 100 most fascinating Manitobans of 2023](#)

Wab Kinew (1999)

The first First Nations Premier in Canadian History.

Jennie O’keefe (1994)

One of the creators of [Holiday Alley](#), a four-day celebration of art, music, light and creativity in Selkirk. The event has been named Travel Manitoba’s Event of The Year.

Ash Modha (1987)

Recognized as a Canadian leader in sustainability with recognition on [Canada’s Clean 50 list](#).

Quita Alfred (1982)

An internationally renowned costume designer who was chosen to be the principal costume designer for the screen adaptation of [Mariam Toews’ Women Talking](#).

Daniel Greaves (1988)

Canadian rock vocalist and songwriter Daniel Greaves sang the national anthem at the Jets Game on April 18th, 2024.

Rhonda L. Hinthner (1992)

2023 Manitoba Book Awards Shortlist for a Better World: The Winnipeg General Strike

and the Workers' Revolt edited by James Naylor, Rhonda L. Hinthner, & Jim Mochoruk, published by [University of Manitoba Press](#).

Saira Rahman (1991)

Independent filmmaker and educator Saira Rahman was the featured alumna speaker for the Conversations with Alumni Event in Nov 2023.

Ken Rosenberg (1974)

Congratulations to Ken Rosenberg and his law firm Paliare Roland Rosenberg Rothstein LLP recognized by the [Globe and Mail](#) as Canada's Best Law Firm in 2024 in four areas of distinction: Administrative & Public Law, Dispute Resolution (Litigation, Arbitration & Investigations), Human Rights, and Labour & Employment.

Jim Macdonald (1964)

Congratulations to Jim MacDonald, who recently retired from the Royal Bank of Canada after a 55-year career in the financial sector.

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Giving Back

DR. KEN ATWAL

Class of 1987



Photographed: Dr. Ken Atwal (Class of 1987)

Written By: Matthew Samyn

After working as an emergency doctor for nearly 25 years, Dr. Ken Atwal divides his retirement time between his family, the hockey rink, and working part-time at his medical clinic. The Collegiate graduate (1987) and UWinnipeg alumnus (1991) has lived in the Greater Toronto Area for much of his career, working for the University Health Network and Brampton Civic Hospital after finishing medical school.

“When my family immigrated to Canada from England, the Maples neighbourhood became my new home from the age of five till the moment I graduated from the Medical College at the University of Manitoba in 1995.” says Ken. “During my high school years, the Collegiate only offered grades 11 and 12—we had maybe 100 students enrolled during that time—and I was lucky enough to know just about everybody who went there. It gave the school a familial atmosphere, which helped compliment the diverse and supportive cast of people I met while studying there. I loved being treated like a university student as a young person at the time. Being able to explore and make use of the resources provided by the university made the experience truly enjoyable.”

In the fall of 2023, Ken worked with the University of Winnipeg Foundation to establish a new endowment fund that would help support student experience and success at the Collegiate. The Dr. Ken Atwal Collegiate Award is the sum of those efforts. Designed to recognize high academic achievement while also helping students in grade 11 cover their senior year tuition costs, Ken wanted the award to contribute to the academic journey of each recipient, saying that, “When I look back on my own career and the opportunities I’ve had to grow and travel over the years, I often think that journey started back at the Collegiate during those special two years. I want the students who receive this award to use the funding to develop their own interests and support their passions as they begin their own adventure after graduating.”

As an alumni and donor, Ken notes how important it is for members of the community to find something they feel passionate about at the Collegiate and do their best to support the institution through volunteering or giving back. “The mission at the Collegiate has always hinged on the school’s ability to remain accessible and open to newcomers. Support from donors and alumni help preserve this legacy which is 150 years in the making. The role our space plays in the downtown neighbourhood and the quality of the education that was provided to me and every Collegiate student who has enrolled since then speaks volumes about the work that goes on at Wesley Hall.”

While most of his family have since moved to Southern Ontario, Ken continues to visit his hometown on occasion and recently toured the campus with his brother and fellow Collegiate alumni, Jas, in 2023.

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2023 Seasonal Reception Recap



Photographed: Alumni at our 2023 Seasonal Reception

We gathered for a festive evening on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 in Convocation Hall and Tony's for the Collegiate Alumni Association Inaugural Seasonal Reception. Our master of ceremonies, alumnus and board director Joshua Hood (2017) guided us through the

evening, which was planned by our Seasonal Reception Committee: Ayla Embury-Hyatt (2025), Stacey Katz (2005), Sarah Seniuk (2024), Joshua Hood (2017) and Jennifer Janzen. Guests enjoyed complimentary appetizers and beverages provided by Diversity Foods, piano performances by Silvia Lai (2025), Ethan Brown (2025) and alumna Kat Sengmany (2021), a future alumni art auction, and Collegiate 150 apparel prize draws.

A total of 45 people attended the reception, including 17 alumni, 3 guests of alumni, 10 future alumni volunteers, 7 Collegiate faculty and staff, and 6 Foundation / University staff. Many thanks to those who attended, our future alumni volunteers and our amazing Seasonal Reception Committee for all their hard work!

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Upcoming Events & Announcements



Collegiate May Convocation

We are excited to welcome the graduating class of 2024 at their Convocation on May 16th.

Pride Event: Noam Gonick Film Screening, Discussion & Reception

We are delighted to inform you the University of Winnipeg is hosting a film screening with Collegiate alumni Noam Gonick (Class of 1989) on May 29th, 2024 from 4:00 p.m - 7:00 p.m. More information can be found at uwinnipeg.ca/pride

Hiring Announcement: Patricia Nosal, Jr. Collegiate Engagement Officer

Since the last newsletter, we are thrilled to announce that the Foundation has hired alumna Patricia Nosal (2014) as our Junior Collegiate Engagement Officer. Patricia is a graduate

of both the Collegiate and the University of Winnipeg. At The Collegiate, she received the Special Faculty Award and was actively involved in many student clubs and committees. She has a strong background in building relationships with diverse stakeholders through her internship work with the department of management at the United Nations in New York, the Botswana Network on Ethics, Law and HIV / AIDS, and the Manitoba Human Rights Commission, and her extensive experience in the fine dining hospitality industry. Patricia has been with the Foundation since the end of January, and she is tasked with Collegiate specific projects.

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From The Archives: Dean Tomlinson Reflections

REMEMBERING THE FORMER DEAN OF THE COLLEGIATE **LORNE TOMLINSON**



Former Dean of The Collegiate Lorne Tomlinson

Bob Stuebing (1965)

"I am on record as having stated I never would have made it into university but for the life changing impact Dean Lorne Tomlinson had on me. Dean Tomlinson had a full bag of carrots, but he also carried a big stick. And he instinctively knew when to offer a carrot and when to apply the stick."

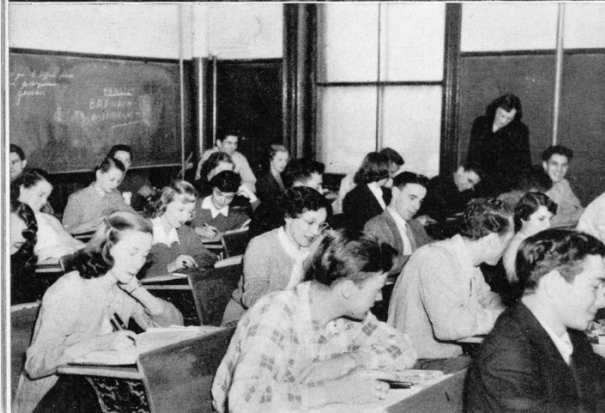
Maggie (Margaret / Marg Leslie) Carr (1964)

"Dean Lorne Tomlinson was the Dean when I attended gr 12 at the Collegiate. He was ever the professional while at the same time a quiet, kind & gentle man who earned our sincere respect."

Sheldon Bowles (1962)

"My father was Lieutenant Governor when Dean Tomlinson died and we went together to the funeral --- dad was delighted to have his office mark the passing of a great Manitoban."

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Photographs from the 1950 'Trics & Tics' (Collegiate Yearbook)

Here we have Collegiate students in the 1950s partaking in everyday activities, meeting with faculty during office hours, socializing with friends, participating in the arts such as choir and theatre.

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

Do you have any photos to share with the Alumni Association? We would love to feature you in our next newsletter! Please reach out to us at: collegiate@uwinnipeg.ca

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