

WESLEY TIMES

COLLEGIATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

October 2024 Newsletter

Hello Collegiate Alumni! For those who don't know me, my name is Joshua Hood, I graduated from the Collegiate in 2017, and I am the new Chair of the Collegiate Alumni Association. The Collegiate is an extremely special place to me. It is a true honour to have this opportunity to stay connected with the school, its faculty, and its students through this position, and give back to an institution that did so much for me between Grades 9 and 12.

This edition of the Wesley Times comes right after our 2024 AGM, where several changes to the board were made. Stacey Katz, an alumni and teacher at the Collegiate, has moved from a Voting Director to our Faculty Representative. Dean Osaed Khan joined the board as a Non-Voting Director, Ayla Embury-Hyatt became our Grade 12 representative, Eliana Gebreselassie is our new Grade 11 representative, and the board elected Adam Pollock and Brandon Murdock as Voting Directors.

The board extends its sincere gratitude to departing board members Kevin Clace, Jennifer Janzen, and Sarah Seniuk, whose contributions over the last few years have made the success of the Collegiate Alumni Association possible.



The AGM also saw now-Former Board Chair Bob Stuebing step down from being a Voting Director. To say that Bob is the brains behind the Association would be an understatement. Bob's passion for the Collegiate and giving back to the community is the reason why there's an Association in the first place. Bob was presented a beautiful painting of Wesley Hall as a thank-you gift at our AGM, and he was quick to point out which window was his while he resided at Wesley Hall during his time at the Collegiate! I am personally grateful for Bob asking me to become the next Chair and look forward to his mentorship and collaboration moving forward. Bob will still be involved in the Association – you can read his contribution to this newsletter in the 'Giving Back' section, and the Board has created a Past Chair position that Bob will hold as a Non-Voting Director.

You may notice that the Fall Edition of our newsletter is no longer a magazine. The Board decided a newsletter format would suffice, given the high production costs of the magazine that can now be put towards other priorities.

The Endowment Fund for the Collegiate Alumni Association has grown to \$308,000. The Association is extremely grateful for the contributions from many in our community, and the Board also acknowledges this wouldn't have been possible without the hard work and contributions from Bob Stuebing.

A new initiative the Association is implementing is the mailing of postcards to Collegiate Alumni for whom we have addresses for, but no email or phone number. We are hoping this will continue to expand engagement with Alumni as we work to keep all of our members involved with the Collegiate.

Finally, the Association is inviting you to our annual Seasonal Reception on Wednesday, December 4th, from 5:30pm to 8:30pm. This year, we are holding the reception at the Faculty Club, located on the 4th Floor of Wesley Hall. This is an extremely unique space that many students at the Collegiate have never had access to – and now, the Alumni Association is opening the doors! We would love to see you there.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Wesley Times. I encourage you to check in with your former classmates who you may not have heard from in a while – I've been reaching out to a few of mine who have accomplished some great things recently. We would also love to hear from you! If you have any big life updates to share, or even just want to say hi, please feel free to send Patricia Nosal an email anytime. The Association can be reached at collegiatealumni@uwinnipeg.ca.

We look forward to seeing you at the Seasonal Reception!



Dear Collegiate Alumni,

As the leaves turn and the crisp autumn air greets us, I am excited to share with you the wonderful start of the 2024-2025 academic year at The Collegiate. This year, we have welcomed an outstanding cohort of students from Winnipeg, across Manitoba, and around the world. Our international students and those from our partner, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, bring a richness and diversity to our campus that truly makes The Collegiate a vibrant and dynamic place to learn and grow.

It is with great respect that I take a moment to honor the incredible contributions of Bob Stuebing, who has recently stepped down as

Chair of the Collegiate Alumni Association. Bob's leadership and dedication over the years have had a lasting impact on both the alumni community and the University of Winnipeg. We are grateful for his passion in fostering strong connections among our alumni, and I am confident that his legacy will continue to inspire us. Taking up the mantle is Joshua Hood, and I look forward to working with him to ensure that the alumni network remains a vibrant and engaged community. More details about Bob and Joshua's roles can be found [here](#).

As we continue to uphold our traditions and values, The Collegiate remains steadfast in its mission to prepare students for future success, not only in their academic pursuits but also as leaders and changemakers in society. Our veteran faculty, who have dedicated years to the development of our students, continue to provide an exceptional learning experience. Their commitment ensures that while The Collegiate evolves with time, it remains a place of deep moral integrity and academic excellence.

I'd also like to recognize the remarkable work of Patricia Nosal, our Junior Collegiate Engagement Officer, whose dedication to keeping alumni connected is truly commendable. If you would like to reconnect with the Collegiate, Patricia can be reached at pa.nosal@uwinnipeg.ca. We'd love to hear from you, whether for a visit, a tour, or just to catch up on all the exciting developments.

The Collegiate Administration, Faculty, and Staff are eager to continue building on our legacy while welcoming new opportunities. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events and encourage you to stay connected with your Collegiate family.

Warm regards,
Osaed Khan
Acting Dean, The Collegiate

Alumni Spotlight: Sarah Harris (2013)



Collegiate alumna Sarah Harris ('13) split her high school career between two places: Wesley Hall, and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet facilities (RWB). A stone's throw from the Portage Avenue campus but a world apart, the stages on Edmonton Street host some of the most prestigious productions and skilled dancers in North America. The unique partnership that exists between the Collegiate and RWB sees young talent from across Canada start their day on the warm up barre, and finish their afternoons studying at the Collegiate.

"Looking back on my time as a student, the small class sizes and enthusiastic teachers are what made me really excited about attending university one day. My experience as a campus community member and the freedom we had as students to live the same university lifestyle that was afforded to undergraduate students was both incredibly rewarding and something I knew I wanted to return to after dancing for the RWB." says Sarah.

After enrolling in the RWB's aspirant program and 8 years of professional dancing, Sarah decided to pivot her interest from the ballet stage toward engineering. "Sometimes it's about putting the effort into building a new path for yourself, and trusting that what you're being drawn to at that time will be right for you. Plans often change early in life, and I'm glad I took a chance enrolling into the engineering program at the University of Manitoba." says Sarah when asked about her decision to go back to school.

Despite being initially drawn to environmental engineering, Sarah soon changed her mind after observing a live joint replacement surgery. This demonstration inspired her to pursue biomedical engineering and manufacturing. "Observing surgery served as a lesson in the ethical responsibility associated with the production of medical devices. Every tool in the operation room directly affects the life of the patient receiving surgery. After witnessing this surgery, I realized that I wanted to be a part of the manufacturing and engineering of these life-saving devices". Inspired by her newfound passion for biomedical engineering, Sarah interned at the Orthopedic Innovation Center (OIC) during her undergrad. While working at the Centre, she gained valuable experience in improving orthopedic treatments, conducting standardized testing for medical devices, additive manufacturing, and 3D modeling.

Wanting to connect more with her peers in the engineering field, Sarah helped co-found the *Women of Manitoba Engineering Network (WOMEN)*—a student group that aims to promote opportunities for woman-identifying engineering students at the University of Manitoba. "My motivation for this initiative stemmed from the many positive experiences I shared with other women in the university's mentorship program. Advice from individuals who share your academic interests is an essential part of building relationships with your peers, coworkers, or classmates—their insight can help shape the trajectory of your career. Having someone who may be further along in their career lend you support can often inspire your own success later in life." says Sarah. Currently, in Manitoba less than 30% of registered engineers are women, there is a [30 by 30 Initiative](#) to increase the percentage of newly licensed engineers who are women to 30% by the year 2030. In the years since graduating in 2018, she is proud to say that the group she helped create has continued to grow steadily since her departure, securing their own office space and funding to help support the next generation of women engineering students.

Currently, Sarah's work is focused on clinical epidemiology and quality improvement and at Pan Am Clinic, where she has helped establish a database to support better orthopaedic practices in Manitoba. "The Pan Am Clinic established a medical registry in 2019 which collects surgical and patient-reported data. The program is important because it encourages patient-centric care and the high-volumes of information can be used for research and policy. I get to collaborate on projects with orthopaedic surgeons and other scientists. This year I had the opportunity to travel to both Halifax and Germany to discuss some of the work we have been doing. It's been a really exciting project to be a part of!"

Sarah will return to the Collegiate to tell more of her story as part of the *Conversations with Alumni* series in the New Year! Sarah believes it is integral to give back to the community, and it is important for people to have positive role models in their lives.

Alumni Presenting at The Collegiate: Amy Mann (2021)



Amy Mann, a brilliant member of the Collegiate Alumni Class of 2021, delivered a fast-paced and engaging Zoom presentation to current Collegiate students. Now living in Toronto, where she studies at the University of Toronto, Amy is a rising star in the field of geophysics and mathematical modeling, integrating principles from physics, statistics, and computer science. At just twenty years old, she is already applying to PhD programs and has won prestigious awards, including the University of Toronto National Scholarship, a full-ride award valued at over \$100,000.

Amy's presentation, titled *Mathematical Modeling the Effects of Climate Change on Malaria Transmission*, delved into the complex interplay between climate change and the spread of malaria. She began by explaining the nature of malaria, a parasitic disease carried by both humans and mosquitoes. Her research centers on how climate change impacts the aquatic lifecycle of mosquitoes, affecting key transmission rates—such as susceptibility, infectiousness, and recovery rates in human populations.

One fascinating insight from her lecture was the identification of the optimal temperature range for malaria transmission, which lies between 25-27 degrees Celsius. Amy also introduced students to epidemiology, teaching them how individual infections can trigger broader public health concerns through human-to-human transmission. She stressed that while malaria is a serious global health threat and one of the leading causes of death worldwide, limited financial resources and access to treatment hinder efforts to combat the disease. While vaccines and preventive measures like bed nets exist, they are often inaccessible in the regions where malaria is most rampant.

Amy's interest in climate science began during her time at Collegiate, where she took a geography course that profoundly influenced her academic path. "Taking geography was a huge influence on me," she said, "It exposed me to climate change, which led me to opportunities in computer science and mathematical modeling." Even while still in high school, Amy was coauthoring research papers. Notably, she contributed to *Not Cool: On the Loss of Cold Weather in the Canadian Arctic* (2021), published in the peer-reviewed journal *Atmosphere-Ocean*. The study, led by Dr. Danny Blair, took an unconventional approach by focusing on the loss of cold in the Arctic, rather than the commonly discussed warming trends. The research highlights the critical role of cold temperatures in shaping the Arctic's environment, including its landscape, wildlife, and the well-being of its inhabitants.

In closing, Amy left Collegiate students with an inspiring message: "You never know what will come along and you never know where your studies will lead you. Stay curious!" Her words resonated as a reminder of the power of curiosity and open-mindedness in academic and personal growth.

Amy Mann's achievements and insights are a testament to the power of curiosity, interdisciplinary study, and the potential of young minds to tackle some of the world's most pressing global issues. Her work in climate change, epidemiology, and mathematical modeling sets a strong example for future generations of scientists and researchers.

Celebrating Faculty: Gerry Narinsky



For over thirty years, Gerry Narinsky has made The Collegiate his workplace home, teaching mathematics and physics with a passion that resonates with both his students and colleagues. While he humorously admits he can't recall the exact number of years—twenty-nine or thirty—his impact on the institution is undeniably profound.

Gerry's journey in education began as a substitute teacher in various schools. Encouraged by a friend who praised her experience at The Collegiate, he eagerly seized the opportunity to teach summer and evening courses. This initial step led to a full-time position the following year, marking the beginning of a fulfilling career.

With an academic background rooted in the honors mathematics and psychology degree he received from the University of Winnipeg, followed by a certificate in education from the University of

Manitoba, Gerry initially sought to become a psychologist. After realizing the unique demands associated with the profession did not align with his personal strengths, Gerry decided to put his skills to better use as a teacher. Reflecting on this change of heart, Gerry often jokes with his students that, “Psychologists do a lot of listening, and I’m not really a good listener. Being a teacher is perfect because they have to listen to me if they want to graduate.”

Students of Gerry often remark that his skill as a communicator, sense of humor, and empathy as an educator are what have endeared him to countless Collegiate community members over the years—despite being a self-proclaimed introvert.

One significant reason for Gerry's long tenure at The Collegiate is the inspiration he draws from his fellow faculty members. His first office partner, the late Howie Mathieson, was a guiding figure in his life whom he affectionately described as, “the dad I always had.” His current office partner and fellow mathematics teacher, Kelly Livesly, has been a pivotal figure in helping shape Gerry's teaching career. “Thanks to curriculums and routine, it is very easy to get bogged down continuously doing the same things time and time again, but Kelly is the kind of teacher who finds ways to inspire change and keep things interesting,” says Gerry. “It’s incredible how friendships can flourish at The Collegiate, especially ones that benefit both staff members and the students we teach. I’m happy to call her my best friend.”

Gerry attributes the longevity of faculty members at The Collegiate to the academic freedom and flexibility afforded to teachers. “If you can do your job better, then you are going to enjoy it more,” explains Gerry. “If you enjoy your job, the students will feed off that energy, creating a cycle of happy students and happy teachers. I truly value the unique student body we have at The Collegiate. Many students come without preconceived relationships from elementary school, which means they are able to create new connections and foster collaborative learning with their new peers at any time.”

As Gerry Narinsky continues his journey at The Collegiate, his dedication to teaching, humor, and empathy have no-doubt left an indelible mark on the lives of his students and colleagues alike. His story is a testament to the transformative power of education and the enduring bonds that can be forged in a supportive academic environment like that which is found in Wesley Hall.

Giving Back



Written by: Bob Stuebing (Class of 65 and Past Chair of the Collegiate Alumni Association)

The University of Winnipeg Foundation has completed a video of its history which can be viewed on [YouTube](#) or accessed through the [University's web site](#). Jim MacDonald (Class of 64) is featured in one segment discussing the 2005 Collegiate Campaign which he chaired and to which he personally gifted \$1.0 million. His comment at the time, which he repeats in the video, is, "this isn't indicative of my wealth; it's indicative of my gratitude."

That is an emotion shared very tangibly by the Collegiate Alumni.

In the fiscal year ended March 31, 2024, the Foundation raised over \$4.0 million. A reasonable estimate of gifts from Collegiate Alumni, as reckoned from the Donor Appreciation listing in the Foundation's 2024 annual report, is approximately \$1.2 million, or between 25% and 30% of the total contributions. We estimate the Collegiate Alumni base at 5,000, and the Association, in collaboration with the Foundation currently maintains reliable email contact with just 2,300 of these alumni; the University alumni base is in the order of 54,000. In boxing parlance, the Collegiate Alumni punch well above their weight!

We included the first "Giving Back" column in the fall 2023 Alumni Association Magazine in which we featured Jim MacDonald. We subsequently featured Dr. Ken Atwal (Class of 87) in the May 2024 issue of Wesley Times and Ken Rosenberg (Class of 74) in the July 2024 issue. This will be a regular feature in all future issues, and there is no shortage of committed Alumni with stories to relate. So stay tuned!

Collegiate donors are listed in the Foundation's annual report and the reports feature selected donors and their personal background. Ken Rosenberg and Ken Atwal are featured in the 2024 Report, and Jennifer Roblin (Class of 79) is noted for sponsoring her annual "Tea for Wii Chii" in Toronto which, over the course of 10 years, has raised over \$240,000 for the Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre, an important inner-city centre which supports the Indigenization work of the University and the Collegiate. Ruth Hastings (Class of 68) is also noted as the 2023 Duff Roblin

Award recipient. Mrs. Hastings, the President and CEO of Qualico Developments, is an annual donor directly and through Qualico.

The 2023 Annual Report goes in a different direction as it relates the stories of students whose educational journey was made possible by bursaries and scholarships funded by donor gifts. One of the stories features Meagan Dutka, the first recipient of the Susan A. Thompson Scholarship for Women in Leadership, a scholarship endowment fund initiated by friends of Susan's to acknowledge her important contributions to Winnipeg, Canada and the University of Winnipeg. Although Susan graduated from both the Collegiate (Class of 67) and the University (BA 71) and the scholarship is University focused, the Collegiate connection is fundamental. Susan was, politely, struggling in the public school system when she hired on at the United College Library which led to her completing her high school at the Collegiate. And with that background, Susan regularly refers to the Collegiate as the "gem" of the University of Winnipeg.

The 2022 Annual Report also notes the "Tea for Wii Chii" Fundraiser and establishment of the Thompson Scholarship, but, in addition, it includes a chronicle of the Collegiate Advisory Committee which was the forerunner of the Collegiate Alumni Association, and, the background behind the Louis Ludwig and Sherri Walsh Daycare Bursary which provides daycare support for single mothers who would not otherwise be able to attend university. Sherri Walsh is a Collegiate graduate (Class of 78) and is currently the Chair of the University of Winnipeg Foundation.

The 2024 Report contains a list of The Collegiate Endowment Funds, most of which fund bursaries and scholarships which enable deserving students in need to pursue their educational journey. And many of these endowment funds were established and are funded by Collegiate Alumni. Three such examples would be the Douglas Family Bursary (Bryce Douglas, Class of 64), the Leonard Asper Family Collegiate Bursary (Leonard Asper, Class of 82) and the Antenbring Family Bursary (Bob Attenbring, Class of 62 and Joy Attenbring, Class of 60). The Douglas Fund has, to date, paid out \$136,000 in assisting 43 students with their Collegiate tuition, the Asper Bursary has paid out \$68,000 assisting 32 students, and the Antenbring Family Bursary has distributed nearly \$95,000 to 41 students.

All of the Reports include a listing of corporate, foundation and estate donors. Collegiate Alumni are prominent in many of these organizations, and Collegiate Alumni, and/or their related companies and foundations provided the seed capital for three important campus buildings, McFeetors Hall (Ray McFeetors, Class of 1965 and Great West Life), Asper Centre for Theatre and Film (Leonard Asper, Class of 82 and the Asper Foundation) and Richardson College for the Environmental and Science Complex (Tannis Richardson, Class of 44, Jim Richardson, Class of 67, Hartley Richardson, Class of 72, Royden Richardson, Class of 72, and Richardson Firm, Family and Foundation).

In short, the Foundation's Annual Reports contain insightful and heartwarming reading. The Foundation's web pages include both the current and historical reports. [Check them out.](#) And coming soon, all the Collegiate Alumni Association's newsletters will be available on the Association's web page, so the historical "Giving Back" columns will always be retrievable.

The Mission of the University of Winnipeg Collegiate Alumni Association is "to cultivate a proud and involved community of alumni and students engaged in the life, success and advancement of The Collegiate." While the purposes of the Association are broad and focus on all aspects of the relationship of alumni to each other and to the Collegiate, Article 2.c.iii. of the Association's Bylaw No. 1 articulates the specific purpose, "to advance and promote the best interests of The Collegiate through ongoing financial support of its capital and operational priorities and long term objectives;"

The Collegiate Alumni have a long and commendable record of supporting our alma mater. The challenge for the Collegiate Alumni Association will be to initiate a campaign that is both important to the Collegiate and appeals to the Alumni to channel their generosity. I, for one, look forward to participating when that campaign becomes active.

Rylee Gerard (2023) shared a new blog, she wrote a personality piece for [EF Canada](#), describing how her experiential learning changed her, and her perspective on life.

Aidan Vaudreui (2023) joined the Royal Winnipeg Ballet as an apprentice.

Madison Chisholm (2016) is currently obtaining her Master of Science degree in [Bioscience, Technology and Public Policy](#) at the University of Winnipeg. She is one of six students selected from the Faculty of Graduate Studies to have received Trainee Award from [Research Manitoba](#).

Quinn Cove (2014) & Joshua Hood (2017) spoke at The Collegiate welcoming the incoming class of 2025 into the Collegiate Alumni Association.

Anmol Negpal (2012) CEO and Founder of Nospharma was a panelist at the OnTheVerge 2024 Biotech Conference. Where he and other panelists explore the evolving biotech landscape in Montreal, he also presented [MedTech Talent Accelerator](#) Seminar where he shared his unexpected journey that led to creating a biotech company for rare neurological disorders.

Jessie Margolis (2010) is co-owner of Danali, a Winnipeg clothing retailer that set roots in Winnipeg in 1979. Danali recently launched an online consignment shop (www.afterdanali.com) that will stock items Danali has previously sold and similar offerings.

Micah Erenberg (2010) is a singer-songwriter who released his new album titled " *The Secret Beach - We Were Born Here, What's Your Excuse?*". He was inspired to name his album after a Simpsons episode portraying his love-hate relationship with Winnipeg.

Kelly Nestruck (1999) recently started a new position as Television critic at *The Globe and Mail*.

Krista Jackson (1990) co-directed the play *The Diviners* at the [Stratford Festival](#).

Hilary Druxman (1982), celebrates three decades owning her business 'Hilary Druxman Design' within the Exchange District. All her jewelry is made on site, and she has raised nearly one million dollars for 80 charities. Read more at [The Winnipeg Free Press](#).

David Jackson (1970) recently won the Lawyer of the Year Award 2025, he has been honoured for his expertise in Insolvency and Financial Restructuring Law. The Taylor McCaffrey "Lawyer of the Year" award honours lawyers who have garnered the highest overall peer feedback within a particular practice area and geographic region.

Upcoming Events & Announcements



Wednesday, December 4th
5:30 p.m – 8:30 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!*

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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.

