

ISSUE NO 1 | SEPTEMBER 2020

Huron's very first redEd magazine explores the ways our community has responded to the global pandemic with compassion, integrity & innovation.

redEd. “

magazine



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AT WESTERN



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Respecting your privacy

We hope that you enjoy receiving Huron's alumni and friends magazine. If you do not wish to receive this publication or any additional information from Huron, such as news on upcoming events, please let us know by contacting kotto2@huron.uwo.ca or 519.438.7224 ext. 368.

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You are now reading the first edition of **redEd.** magazine

Our new **redEd.** brand is the embodiment of Huron pride, representing the bold institutional red, which – like their accomplishments – distinguishes our community wherever they go. Keep an eye out for more **redEd.** debuts, across multiple platforms, as we further grow the prominence of our network and strength of our connections.

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Remembering our community of compassionate leaders

WHAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO FAR IS JUST THE BEGINNING

In the first week of September 2016, I welcomed my first entering class as President of Huron. If they were somewhat nervous, so was I. Over the coming years, they would learn much, build friendships and create a lasting bond with Huron. Now, four years later, the Class of 2016 have graduated. They have become the newest members of the Huron alumni family.

To say it has been an eventful four years for them and for Huron would be an understatement. Those students who moved into Huron, on that very hot September morning (I remember it well), would be witnesses to a tremendous period of growth and change.

OVER THEIR NEXT FOUR YEARS HERE, HURON WOULD:

- Double its first-year class, growing from 250 to 500 new students in September
- Increase international enrolment from 6% to 31%
- Increase the number of students who identified Huron as their first choice by over 400%
- Raise our minimum entrance average from under 78% to approximately 85%
- Renovate and update almost our entire physical plant, including dramatic transformations of Lucas House, Apps House and Young House

- Increase the number of tenure track faculty by 20%
- Begin construction on a dramatic new Academic Building (slated for completion this fall)
- Enter into a partnership with Harvard Business School
- Appoint our first Chancellor, Prem Watsa
- Re-engage with our alumni network, increasing our confirmed contacts by 26%
- Begin recognizing the accomplishments of alumni across Canadian society, awarding honorary degrees to leaders such as Melinda Rogers, Michael Medline and Kelly Meighan
- Define a distinct place in Canadian post-secondary education with our commitment to develop **Leaders with Heart**

I would say this has been a pretty active and exciting time to be part of the Huron community.

But, what I want to tell you today is that what we have witnessed in the past four years is just the beginning. As I sit at my computer on this beautiful sunny morning, Huron has set another new record for applications.

In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, where universities across North America are bracing for financial catastrophe

because of anticipated enrolment declines, the number of Huron students who accepted their offers for September 2020 is up by more than 20 per cent over this time last year.

Yes, you read that correctly: Huron is actually looking at an increased enrolment for this year – and that increase is on top of last year's record enrolment. By the Fall of 2021, we will have experienced four successive strong years of enrolments and will have essentially doubled the size of our student body, all while upholding our commitment to delivering Canada's most personalized educational experiences.

I do not want to give away too many surprises, but there will be some major announcements about our future in the next few months. I was completely serious when I said above that what had been accomplished so far is just the beginning. I believe Huron's future will be even brighter in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. What we offer to students, what we have always offered to students, will be in even higher demand. Our small classes, our safe and supportive community, our commitment to individual care, our high academic standards – all of these will be rare assets among Canadian universities.



Dr. Barry Craig
Huron President

AS ALUMNI, YOU HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN OUR FUTURE SUCCESS. TO HELP ACHIEVE OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE, I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- **Stay in touch** – we need to know the size of our family and who we can count on for support. We also want to know how you are doing so we can share your stories with others
- **Help spread the word** – your own testimony is a tremendous advantage when it comes to recruiting new students
- **We need your financial support.** So many of you have benefitted from your education and the community you found at Huron. Now is the time to give back, so others can pursue the same opportunities you have had.

With regard to that last point, I want you to know I am committed to leading the way. Throughout the summer, my wife and I announced the following personal gifts: \$1,000 to London's homeless shelter to top up donations made by our students, \$5,000 to establish Huron's George Floyd Memorial Bursary to increase access to Huron for marginalized and underrepresented communities, and \$100,000 to create a fund for students experiencing economic hardship – most specifically those drastically affected by the unforeseen circumstances of Covid-19.

In addition to other gifts we have previously made, we have now committed \$356,000 of our own money because we believe in Huron.

Now is the time for any and all of you to show your support for Huron, according to your own means. I have been blessed in my life and can do what I have done. I know many of you are not in a position to do the same. But, others are, and I would like to call on you now to lend a hand.

Over the past four years, I have come to know how special Huron is and I want to thank you for the kindness and support you have shown to me and to this wonderful institution. This is probably the strongest and most direct financial ask I have made since I arrived at Huron. I do so now because this is our moment of opportunity. We are growing and are positioned to move Huron to a new place of prominence. With your help, generations of students to come will be able to have their lives changed at Huron, just as you did.

Barry Leung





THROUGH BETTER AND WORSE, STUDENTS REMAIN AT THE HEART OF HURON

OUR COVID-19 RESPONSE MEANS WE ARE REFOCUSING OUR PRIORITIES TO PROTECT THE MOST IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF THE WORLD'S FUTURE LEADERS.

Last year, you read all about our big plans for Huron's new Academic Building. From the 450-seat theatre through to new classrooms and much-needed space for recreation, this promised to be Huron's largest-ever construction project.

Up until March of 2020, brick by brick, we saw this wonderful new vision for our students becoming a reality. However, when Covid-19 called us to act to protect the needs of our community, that meant closing the doors of our university and temporarily halting the progress on our new 40,000 square-foot Academic Building.

WE WILL CREATE INSPIRING SPACES WITHIN THE HEART OF HURON, BUT OUR STUDENTS REMAIN AT THE CENTRE OF EVERYTHING WE DO. RIGHT NOW, THEY NEED SUPPORT BEYOND BRICKS AND MORTAR.

We are happy to announce, after this very unexpected pause, progress on the building has resumed and EllisDon is working harder than ever to create Huron's new central hub. With that said, long before the fall semester began, President Barry Craig made the decision to put our students first and forgo the mixed model of on- and off-line learning many other universities pursued. This fall, new and returning students have begun to engage in online learning, from the safety of their own homes.

While we are still very excited about enhancing spaces on campus and completing our new Academic Building, our top priority is to ensure students, from across the globe, are able to participate in a superior post-secondary education. For many of our young leaders, Covid-19 has compromised their financial stability and peace of mind. It has taken away their ability to work, stretched their parents' resources thin and forced them to unexpectedly relocate.

AS SOON AS WE ARE ABLE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO HOSTING A RIBBON CUTTING. IN THE MEANTIME, WE NEED TO CUT COSTS FOR STUDENTS WHOSE ACCESS TO EDUCATION MAY BE AT RISK.

In the spirit of mitigating the strain Covid-19 has put on millions of families, our Students' Council established Huron's Student Relief Fund, redirecting \$10,000 of their budget toward their peers' most immediate needs. To expand upon the positive impact of the fund, President Dr. Barry Craig and his wife, Dr. Sara MacDonald, donated \$100,000.

With requests for financial assistance pouring in, the fund would have been completely diminished if it was not for

individuals who recognize investing in education is the best way to influence large-scale change. Donations from faculty, staff, alumni and friends, which help equip our students to face challenges and adapt to the new normal, will be the focus of our university for the foreseeable future.

WE CANNOT GIVE UP ON OUR VISION FOR CANADA'S ONLY CHARACTER-BASED EDUCATION.

As a university and a global community, we have faced difficult circumstances before, and we did not succumb to uncertainty or fear. We have committed to enhancing our spaces and programs to better serve our students' changing needs, and that is exactly what we are going to do.

With the support of our alumni and friends, Huron will be more readily able to complete our building project while also investing in our university's distinct advantages. We will enable students to pursue their studies uninterrupted and unencumbered by the difficult reality we are all facing. Together, we will take steps towards so much more than our new Academic Building. Alongside raising the curtain on our 450-seat theatre, we will raise the standard for young people who are seeking the knowledge and skills to lead the world towards a safer, more sustainable and equitable future.

When it is safe to do so, we will warmly welcome you home and into the new spaces your generosity creates for those following in your footsteps by championing our commitment to excellence in leadership.



Dr. Sara MacDonald and Dr. Barry Craig

Photo: London Free Press



Our President and Vice President, Growth, Meaghan Blight, checking out EllisDon's progress

HURON IS PROUD TO WELCOME VIVEK PRABHU AS OUR NEW ALUMNI BOARD PRESIDENT

I am honoured by the opportunity to serve as the President of our Alumni Association's Board of Directors for the next two years. Like many of you, I think back on my time at Huron fondly - a place where I made friends who I still actively keep in touch with to this day.

What I hope to do during my time as President is further instill the idea that Huron is not only a place we look back on. As a board, we want Huron to remain relevant and engaging in the lives of our fellow alumni. The questions remain the same: how do we bring more people into the fold who currently feel disengaged? What type of events should we host? What more can we offer to help fellow alums tap into our superstar network? Our board continues to do the work to answer these questions, but do not be surprised if we actively solicit your point of view.

TO DO JUSTICE TO OUR ALMA MATER'S POTENTIAL, WE NEED YOUR HELP.

The COVID-19 pandemic has redefined the ways we will interact for the foreseeable future. However, I see this as an opportunity to further embrace technology as a way to enhance engagement. In other words, we will be

doing more, not less. Even with all that is going on, there is a lot of momentum behind Huron right now - across all areas. As we head into the rest of 2020, and beyond, I am excited to learn more about our soon-to-be fellow alumni, construction progress on campus and new program offerings. Big things are happening at our university and alumni engagement is part of that upward momentum.

The best way to stay connected with each other and informed on all things alumni is through Huron's website and social media accounts. Follow the Alumni Association on **Facebook and LinkedIn** or stay connected through me or any other Board Members. We want to promote your successes and make sure you are included in our university's rising prominence.

Thank you for your support. I look forward to what is next.



Huron

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



VIVEK PABHU '13

Honors Specialization, History
Senior Account Director,
Hill+Knowlton Strategies

WE ARE NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF BELIEVING IN “NATURAL BORN LEADERS”

INSTEAD, WE MATCH OUR STUDENTS WITH MENTORS WHO LIVE HURON'S VALUES AND ENCOURAGE THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS WITH HEART TO DO THE SAME.



ZIYANA KOTADIA

Honors Specialization,
Global Gender Studies
President, Huron Students' Council

Ziyana Kotadia, Huron's new Students' Council President, extends Vivek's invitation for alumni to get involved by reiterating the importance of mentorship for our university's young people.

“ Mentorship is one of the hallmarks of what makes the Huron community so special. When I was in first year, connecting with mentors - both as friends and resources - was incredibly empowering. I owe a lot of my success to their guidance. I am very hopeful other students will also get to engage with our impressive network, and the great people and professionals who are part of it.

Huron is all about paying it forward: you learn from leaders who shape your student experience. Then, as alumni, you have the opportunity to provide others with that same support as they progress through university - and far beyond it. Now more than ever, our students need mentors who can help them navigate the uncertain and, at times, intimidating circumstances we find ourselves in.

I look forward to working with Vivek and the Alumni Board to facilitate more opportunities for our alumni and students to come together in ways that support personal and professional development. Whether you want to take on a formal role within our Mentorship Program or participate in events as speakers and connectors, I am eager for you to see the value in helping mold the next generation of Leaders with Heart by revealing to them all the things you wish you had known before you graduated. ”



WE NEED **YOUR** LEADERSHIP: MENTOR A STUDENT.

HURON'S MENTORSHIP PROGRAM ALLOWS YOU, AS ONE OF OUR PRESTIGIOUS ALUMNI, TO CONVENIENTLY CONNECT WITH OUR CURRENT STUDENTS AND SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE IN WAYS THAT ARE CONVENIENT FOR YOU.

MENTOR A STUDENT:

- Participate in our formal Mentorship Program, from November to April annually, and connect with the same student for a minimum of one hour per month at times that best suit your schedule
- Connect with students for Coffee Chats to share brief insights into your career pathway and industry
- Attend Mentorship-based events as a participant or guest speaker

**INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?
SUBMIT AN APPLICATION ONLINE TODAY!**

huron.jotform.com/200834736935966

- 1** Lead by example to foster the qualities of **Leadership with Heart** within our students
- 2** Contribute to student progress throughout their professional journey
- 3** Prepare students for the workforce by sharing your knowledge and skills
- 4** Learn about new trends and technologies from emerging student leaders
- 5** Break down barriers and make meaningful connections for students, as they make their way towards fulfilling careers

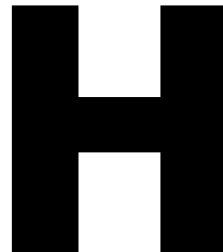
A portrait of Taylor Boyd '19, a young woman with long, wavy brown hair and bangs, wearing a light blue and white striped button-down shirt. She is smiling slightly and looking directly at the camera. The background is a blurred interior space with arched windows and a bright light source.

“I wanted to find a meaningful way to show my appreciation for all Huron has given me, especially the Centre for Undergraduate Research Learning. I have a strong sense of responsibility to give back to the Huron community. Whether it is through mentorship or making a gift, alumni can play a influential role in ensuring new opportunities are made available to future students. That commitment is what makes Huron such a unique place.”

– Taylor Boyd '19

FROM HURON TO HARVARD

TAYLOR BOYD'S PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATION BEGINS AND ENDS WITH A CAPITAL



When Taylor Boyd received her acceptance letter to the Harvard Graduate School of Education, she admits she was more than a little surprised. "I actually thought maybe it was a mistake," Taylor shares. "My second thought was to thank my Huron professors because I owed so much to them for their support over the years."

While the Huron alumna is very humble about this phenomenal achievement, our faculty and staff knew her acceptance was well deserved. Taylor earned a place at one of the world's most-recognized institutions by taking advantage of the avenues for independent research and relationship building that are part of Huron's unique learning environment.

Receiving Huron's prestigious Hellmuth Scholarship gave Taylor the financial wiggle room to participate in academic and research opportunities on campus, without compromising her ability to save for graduate school. Taylor was also part of our Scholar's Electives Program, which allows students to complete independent research, over and above their foundational degree courses.

Through this interdisciplinary model and her role as a Centre for Undergraduate Research Learning (CURL) Fellow, Taylor was assigned to work one-on-one with Dr. Christine Tsang who facilitated the undergrad's investigation into the

influence of reward on student creativity, motivation and autonomy in elementary classrooms in Norway and Ontario.

"Centres for research at the undergraduate level are very rare and CURL gave me the foundational skills and experience to prepare for graduate school," says Taylor. "My acceptance to Harvard was the result of years of mentoring by my Huron professors as well as the research opportunities provided by the university." In her final year at Huron, Taylor was awarded the Mitacs Globalink Research Award to complete her international study in Norway, which became, "one of the most fundamental parts of my undergraduate career."

Building on the strong research skills she gained via Huron's Psychology program and her studies in Human Development and Psychology at Harvard, Taylor began a new position as a lab manager at New York University this summer.

At Huron, we are proud to celebrate Taylor's significant accomplishments and look forward to seeing how her impressive work ethic and curiosity contribute to educational best practices around the world. In the meantime, we want to sincerely thank her for donating to CURL to ensure future students have similar chances to show the world what they can achieve when their opportunities align with their ingenuity.

HOW DOES CURL AND ITS DONORS SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS THE WORLD NEVER EVEN THOUGHT TO ASK BEFORE?

CURL enables Huron students to engage in one-on-one research mentorships with our faculty. Whether they want to contribute to a professor's ongoing work or the student has a burning question of their own, we provide the financial and human resources to help them pursue wise and just answers to society's most puzzling problems.

CURL Fellowships: \$1,500 fellowships are awarded each year to support students' independent research projects under the mentorship of a CURL faculty associate.

CURL Travel Bursaries: \$500 bursaries are awarded each year to enable students to travel to conferences, workshops and other events that foster research and career development.

CURL Conferences: Two opportunities to showcase students' discoveries: The Fall Exhibition and Spring Conference offer on-campus venues for students to present their research in multiple formats.

RESEARCH SHOWS COVID-19 INFLUENCES ADOLESCENTS' PSYCHOLOGICAL STRESS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

HURON PROFESSOR, DR. TARA DUMAS, AND KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR, DR. WENDY ELLIS, COLLABORATIVELY LAUNCH TWO RESEARCH PAPERS FOCUSED ON HOW SOCIAL DISTANCING AND COVID-RELATED STRESSORS ARE AFFECTING YOUNG PEOPLE.

Empowered by funding from a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Development Grant, the two researchers were previously studying social media and adjustment earlier this year. They were in the midst of collecting data at Ontario schools when everything changed. Realizing the profound impact of social distancing on teenagers, these researchers re-designed their work and began two studies to examine the effects of the initial COVID-19 restrictions on adolescents.

"Life during social isolation is so vastly different than what teens typically experience," shares Dr. Tara Dumas. "They have lost out on interacting with their friends and classmates. Beyond the more general stressors that came with the pandemic, including finances and fears about contracting the virus, teens also have unique stressors revolving around school, graduation, future plans and their social lives."

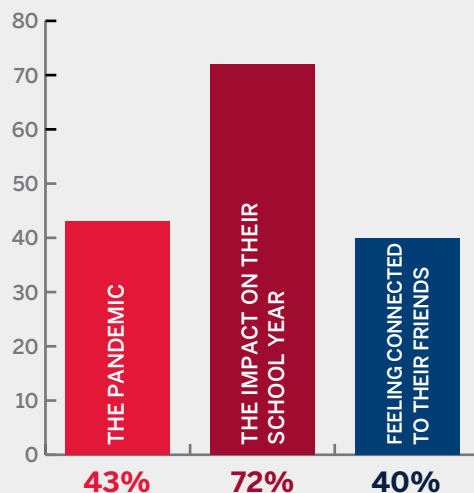
Drs. Dumas and Ellis have published their findings in two papers. "Physically isolated but socially connected: Psychological adjustment and stress among adolescents during the initial COVID-19 crisis" in the *Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science* looks at how young people are adjusting to the new realities and restrictions associated with Covid-19. A second paper, "What Does Adolescent Substance Use Look Like During the COVID-19 Pandemic?" is in the *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

These papers are among the first published works on predictors of adolescent mental health during the pandemic. During this unprecedented time, the research has important implications, which have the potential to (re)shape how families are supporting their young people as well as community awareness and service delivery.

THE FIRST STUDY (ELLIS, DUMAS & FORBES, 2020) FOUND ADOLESCENTS ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THE COVID-19 CRISIS AND REPORTED LEVELS OF COVID-RELATED STRESS WERE RELATED TO HEIGHTENED DEPRESSION AND LONELINESS.

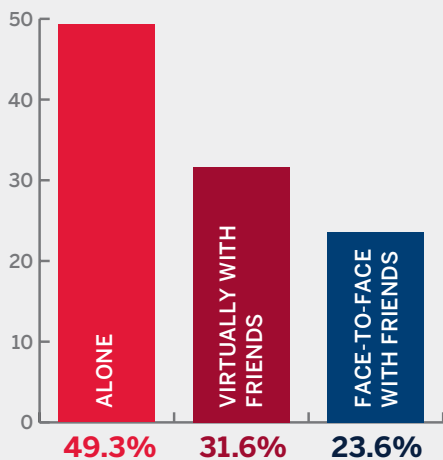
- Researchers measured how teens were spending their time in those early weeks of the pandemic. Since schools closed, 48% reported spending more than five hours per day on social media and 12% reported spending more than 10 hours per day. Social media use was related to greater depression but not loneliness.

WHAT DID YOUNG PEOPLE REPORT THEY ARE "VERY CONCERNED" ABOUT?



- Around 50% of teens reported spending between one to two hours a day texting or video chatting with friends. Time connecting with friends was related to less loneliness, but higher depression.
- 40% of teens reported spending more than one hour a day with parents and siblings. This time with family protected against feelings of loneliness and depression, beyond the level of COVID-19 stress teens were experiencing.
- Despite low levels of physical activity reported by teens, there was a protective effect of exercise on reported loneliness.

WAYS STUDENTS ENGAGE IN SUBSTANCE USAGE DURING THE PANDEMIC



THE SECOND STUDY (DUMAS, ELLIS, & LITT, 2020) LOOKED AT HOW COVID-19 RELATED STRESS WAS RELATED TO TEENS' ADJUSTMENT, INCLUDING THEIR SUBSTANCE USE.

The results of their study included the following:

- The frequency of teens' alcohol and cannabis use has increased since the pandemic. However, the frequency of binge drinking and vaping has decreased.
- Increased COVID-19-related fears and depression were associated with a greater likelihood of solitary substance use, while concerns for how social distancing would affect peer reputation was associated with a greater likelihood of face-to-face substance use, particularly among teens who felt they had low popularity among peers.
- Teens have real concerns about what social distancing from friends will do to their relationships and reputations. This appears to have consequences for adherence to social distancing practices, particularly among teens who do not feel popular.

"It's important, I think, for parents to be aware if their teens are using substances alone, as it may be a sign they are struggling with COVID-related fears or depressive symptoms," Dr. Dumas explains. Dr. Ellis adds the researchers were somewhat shocked by the findings of such high levels of stress: "For adolescents, the effects of this stress are worrisome. During the teen years, there is an increasing desire for autonomy, peer connection and risk-taking behaviors, all of which may be hindered when they are forced to physically distance from friends."



In terms of broader implications and next steps, Dr. Dumas shares it will be important to continue to track teen adjustment during the pandemic. This is especially true because this particular research project reflects the realities of teens within the early stages of social distancing, and they will experience new – and renewed – stressors as the situation evolves. This type of research will be absolutely essential for informing the government regarding how best we can provide for and protect young people, as we all hope to move forward from this global crisis.

Huron will continue to champion the importance of research, including that which helps ameliorate adolescent mental health concerns, so our students may live more fully and free from the fears we all grappled with when the world turned upside down.

WHEN HURON ASKED “WILL YOU ANSWER THE CALL TO LEAD?”



KRISTEN BUCKLEY, CLASS OF '06, RESPONDED BY PICKING UP KIDS HELP PHONE.

Covid-19 brought with it concerns about health, safety and proper social distancing. Alongside these macrocosmic concerns came ones we could not measure with a thermometer or six-foot marker: From mid-to late March, the national e-mental health support service, Kids Help Phone, experienced a 350 per cent surge in service usage.

This extraordinary level of outreach, from youth experiencing mental health crises, represented one of the most menacing aspects of our global pandemic – the growing sense of isolation, uncertainty and fear. Yet, despite the increase in demand, which was accompanied by a complete overhaul in delivery to accommodate the Government’s work-from-home mandate, “We are proud to say there was no disruption in our services,” shares Kristen Buckley, Associate Vice President, Government Partnerships and Service Programs, Kids Help Phone.

How did the organization achieve the (nearly) impossible task of increasing its ability to be there for Canada’s 6.5 million young people, while transitioning all its staff, volunteers and operations remotely? Kristen attributes it to a fast-acting business continuity plan, trusted government partners and the heart-warming response of Canadians.

“We operate out of counselling centres, so the beginning of March consisted of a lot of steps that needed to take place quickly. With this completely unforeseen increase in primary mental health concerns, we had to make sure we could take care of our young people, while also taking care of one another.”

When requests for support skyrocketed, Kids Help Phone put out a call, so they could significantly scale their services. Despite everything the world was already going through, this plea for help was answered by more than 8,000 Canadians who volunteered to be crisis responders through the Crisis Text Line powered by Kids Help Phone.

Beyond that, when the non-profit’s National Walk had to be transformed into a digital *Never Dance Alone-athon*, 35 cities across Canada came together for the Kids Help Phone’s largest-ever fundraiser.

“Not only was it a heck of a lot of fun, but it brought together communities who otherwise may never have been made aware of each other – or the impact and necessity of our services,” Kristen says.



Kristen and her little ones participating in the Never Dance Alone-a-Thon

Kids Help Phone 

LEADERSHIP *with heart*

IS ALL ABOUT WEARING YOURS AUTHENTICALLY

Considering our highly successful alumna started her interview with, “Please do not mind if a little person interrupts,” – just in case her daughter was not satisfied with dad’s snacks – it is not at all surprising how Kristen describes her leadership style:

“My heart is on my sleeve. If I am having an off day, I will let you know and happily tell you about it. That way, the people around me feel more comfortable with being vulnerable. They know they will be supported, not chastised. I have to feel confident I am caring for my people, above everything else.”

To further explore Kristen's heart-first approach to management, we asked her about Huron’s growingly popular mission of Challenging Students to be **Leaders with Heart**. In response, Kristen spoke about the special place her alma mater holds in hers. In her excitement to see Huron articulating a people-first mantra, Kristen offered to connect with our students to support their personal and professional development. The youth mental health advocate encourages all her fellow alumni to do the same.

“At the very least, just be kind to people. Take the time to answer their questions – something that has likely happened so many times in your career. It will come full circle. We can all show these students you do not have to be an Executive or CEO to be a leader. As Huron graduates, we know it’s about leading with heartfulness and kindness above all else.”



Kristen and her family

“Kids Help Phone has been around for over 31 years. We are grounded in community, what young people need and what they reach out for. We lift their voices, not only in the moment they contact us, but also by sharing their concerns at a broader level for longer term, widespread benefit. My position is rooted in conversations and connections that transform a 2 a.m. crisis call into meaningful societal responses.”

– Kristen Buckley '06

IF YOU WANT TO BE SUCCESSFUL, YOU CAN'T "SKIP" ON HARD WORK



After graduating from Huron's Political Science program, Ben Leon did what he thought made the most sense: he pursued a career in law. The Huron alumnus lasted not even two full days as a law clerk. It was not

Ben's lack of competency that resulted in his swift exit, but rather the call of an irresistible opportunity.

"I remember walking into the office of the lawyer, who had just brought me in the day before, to let her know I had received an offer I could not refuse," Ben shares. "The internship at Just Eat paid me next to nothing, but I knew this was a company and industry I felt connected to. I really hoped I was taking just one step backward to take 10 steps forward."

For three months, Ben demonstrated his unshakeable determination to contribute real value to the company that eventually acquired SkipTheDishes.

Huron's emphasis on industriousness and accountability served the previous Operations Intern well, resulting in his attainment of a permanent position at the end of the three-month contract.

"The experience of not knowing exactly what I wanted to do with my career was actually a huge blessing in disguise. It gave me the motivation to do everything I could to make the opportunity at Just Eat count. I was first in every morning and last out at night. I made sure any task I was given, no matter how mundane, I gave it everything I had," shares the Class of '13 Alumnus, who has since been promoted to the Director of Restaurant Success.

This promotion has been one of many (five to be exact) along Ben's journey – thanks both to his drive and the proudly Canadian company's noteworthy momentum. From making his way around the sales side of the organization through to joining the Strategic Development team, Ben and SkipTheDishes have witnessed phenomenal growth, in part thanks to his analytical skills, industry know-how and grit.



Ben met Amy, Class of '11, at Huron, and they have been married since 2016. He still recalls the early morning breakfasts at Westside Diner where the couple went so often that the restaurant added Amy's standard order to the menu – now affectionately known as "Amy's Breakfast".

SKIP THE DISHES

HURON ALUMNUS DELIVERS ON THE CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THE WORLD ORDERED

In March of this year, the industry revolution caused by Covid-19 demanded Ben – and the entirety of SkipTheDishes – to give even more than the everything previously expected. With nearly 100,000 restaurants closing their doors due to the pandemic, the company immediately started brainstorming how to keep the industry afloat.

WITHIN THE DAYS, WEEKS AND MONTHS FOLLOWING THE SHIFT TOWARD SOCIAL DISTANCING, SOME OF SKIP'S INNOVATIVE ACTIONS INCLUDED:

- Trialing and implementing work-from-home procedures for 1,800 employees
- Introducing new operational policies such as providing restaurants with seals and stickers for takeout packages, suspending cash orders and fully implementing contactless delivery
- Working with governments in five provinces to allow restaurants to sell alcohol with food orders, helping stimulate the diversification of sales
- Adding new offerings, like grocery and convenience delivery, to help support the public's efforts to socially distance
- Expediting payment to restaurant partners to support cash flow
- Updating Skip's network and applications to reflect restaurants' colourful new menu and service offerings

In addition to these operational amendments, SkipTheDishes is serving up more than their fair portion of philanthropic good. The company committed \$20 million in direct support to their restaurant partners through rebates on the fees they would usually pay. They also gave Canadians the option to tip their favourite restaurants. By May, donations had exceeded \$500,000 and Skip matched every donation, up to \$1 million, in support of Food Banks Canada to, "Help our neighbours who need it most."

With consideration of the socioeconomic impact of the past several months, this type of innovation and generosity is needed now more than ever. We are proud our alumnus recognizes the importance of leveraging corporate success to achieve community good, and we hope to see more of this type of aspirational leadership as we all adjust to the world's new socioeconomic terrain.

"Looking back at my early days at Just Eat, I never could have guessed we would play a part in helping Canadians stay safe. That said, it has been an unforgettable experience and I am extremely proud of how our team has responded."

– Ben Leon '13





WE WILL NOT BE DOOMED TO REPEAT IT

STEVE GAMESTER PRODUCES A DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE ULTIMATE WARNING FROM HISTORY

More than 115 years ago, philosopher George Santayana warned us never to forget the lessons of the past, lest we be doomed to repeat them. In a nearly ironic sequence of events, his saying has generated countless paraphrases – with the original quote becoming far rarer than its easier-to-recall counterparts. However, Santayana's sentiment regarding the importance of historical knowledge holds true today, and as a university invested in contributing to a better future, Huron has and will continue to heed his warning.

On March 5, hundreds of Londoners saw firsthand that our students and alumni share Santayana's opinion, choosing to honour the past, so we may be better prepared to deal with present challenges. Just weeks before the world shut

down, Huron packed the London Jewish Community Centre for a screening of *Cheating Hitler* – a History Channel documentary produced by Steve Gamester, Class of '97.

The previous History student, turned Saloon Media producer, attended the event alongside one of the film's cast members, Tara Hofbauer, the granddaughter of survivor Rose Lipsyc. They were joined by Dr. Alain Goldschlager, Director of the Holocaust Literature Research Institute, and Jewish Studies Professor Eli Nathans.

THE FILM WAS APTLY NAMED FOR ITS THREE STARS – EACH OF WHOM WAS A CHILD WHO MIRACULOUSLY MANAGED TO “CHEAT” HITLER OUT OF THEIR DEATH.

Credit: Saloon Media

“*Cheating Hitler* is a documentary about three survivors of the Holocaust, all of whom live in Canada today,” Steve explains. “They are among our last living link to this horrible chapter in history. We wanted the film to provide a platform to tell their amazing stories of survival and create the opportunity for them to investigate the mysteries and unanswered questions they still had from the war.”

During the film, besides the crinkling of tissue boxes, you could have easily heard a pin drop, as Huron students, faculty, staff and supporters were drawn into the real-life narratives of Rose, Maxwell and Helen. The documentary took all of us back in time to the different regions in Europe where the interviewees were captured, their families brutalized and their lives definitively changed by the atrocities they witnessed and experienced.

At one point, Rose looked up at the camera and asked, “Why do people kill little children? How can it even be possible?” The questions hung in the air, challenging each of the audience members to answer the seemingly impossible. The film does not allow viewers to wallow for too long because much of it focuses on the unyielding bravery of the survivors who, at the time their stories took place, would have been the youngest with us in the Jewish Community Centre.



Helen Yermus



Maxwell Smart



Rose Lipszyc



WHEN HISTORY'S STORYTELLERS SUFFER SO GREATLY TO SHARE THEIR PERSPECTIVES, THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS PAY ATTENTION & TAKE ACTION TO PREVENT THE POSSIBILITY OF A RECURRENCE.

The now-grown children have twice cheated Hitler – first by surviving and now by sharing their stories in such a way as cannot be ignored. Facilitated by Steve's expert capacity for storytelling and production, each survivor's contribution to the documentary revealed truths they never wanted to relive. During the filming, every participant, including the film crew, cried and mourned, and each of us along with them.

More than their sorrow, it was their strength that stunned the audience. Each in their own way, Maxwell, Helen and Rose explained that ensuring their truths would never be forgotten was their final rebellion against Hitler and those who attempt to deny what took place. Our institution believes it is every person's job to continue their noble work – and Steve Gamester agrees with us.

"The Holocaust serves as the ultimate warning from history, an example of the depths humanity can sink to under certain circumstances. Knowing this history is the responsibility of every generation – not only so we can honour the people who were lost and those who survived, but to ensure this never happens again."

– Steve Gamester '97

HURON IS DEDICATED TO TEACHING ITS STUDENTS AND OUR COMMUNITY ABOUT THE HISTORY, CULTURE AND LEGACY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. PART OF THIS DEDICATION REQUIRES GRAPPLING WITH THE HOLOCAUST AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR HUMANITY.

Through our interdisciplinary Jewish Studies programming, which is housed at Huron and delivered in partnership with Western and King's University College, we engage students of every faith and background in enriching dialogue with the aim of fostering compassion, empathy and understanding: three powerful antidotes to hate, discrimination and violence. As we look towards our academic future, we want to grow the positive influence of this program, which you can learn more about at huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/art-social-science/jewish-studies.

STEVE GAMESTER '97

Honors Specialization, History
Film Producer, Saloon Media



Bishop Todd Townshend



CAN LEADERSHIP *with heart*

MEND THE TEARS OF INDIVIDUALISM? HURON'S NEWLY ELECTED BISHOP AIMS TO FIND OUT.

Huron has been part of Bishop Todd Townshend's life since he was a kid. What stands out most from his early visits to our university is the ornate Great Hall that he used to look out over after sneaking up to the university's balcony. After that, Todd became increasingly intertwined with Huron's rich theological and educational legacy when, in his early twenties, he pursued his Master of Divinity.

For the last 12 years, before he was elected to lead the Diocese's 150 churches, Bishop Townshend taught full time at Huron and in 2013 was chosen to become our Dean of Theology.

"Our evolving Theology Program presents a great opportunity to try and ensure the education we offer gets ahead of the needs of a world that is changing very quickly," Bishop Townshend shares. "We want to nurture students' abilities to glean meaning from these changes and use their insight to serve their communities."

Little did Todd know, this statement about our rapidly changing world would take on a whole new meaning when, weeks later, Covid-19 spread across the globe, instigating an unprecedented restructuring of our daily lives. Yet, even before individuals had to distance themselves from one another, in accordance with safety best practices, Huron's newest Bishop shares people had already been torn apart by our priorities.

"The modern era has been too successful in making individualism and consumerism our highest aims," he explains. "While they are noble and useful goals, we have gotten to a place in society where people are encouraged not to need anything outside of themselves. No one wants to need anyone else or that sense of community, which beneath it all, is what we actually yearn for so deeply."

In big and small ways, Covid-19 has acted as a reminder of how easy it can be to take togetherness for granted. More than that, it has shown the importance of mutual dependence for protecting the best interests of individuals and their communities. During our interview, long before we received this harsh lesson in selflessness, Bishop Townshend suggested we may need to seek a cure for rampant individualism.

"We are torn from one another in this way, and we sense it. That is why Leadership with Heart resonates and why, when they get a taste of the strength of community we offer, people realize it is something that should be a very big part of life, but right now, is not."

Be it the coming together of congregants or the supportiveness of our alumni network, Bishop Townshend asserts leaders should aim to unite people to address the different ailments our society copes with. Regardless of whether the issue is poverty, injustice or global climate change, even a smaller church or non-denominational group can amplify their voices by speaking together to influence the world.

Beyond his duties as a religious leader, Bishop Townshend always counts himself a proud member of Huron – a network he hopes will continue to put its imagination and energy toward doing great things.

"There are around 1,400 driven students currently attending our school. That, in and of itself, is impressive. But, over and above these young leaders, we should never forget how strong the global connections are that we have. Our staff, faculty and alumni are cheering for you – and each other – and that wonderful resource is a great delight to me, and should be leveraged accordingly."

HURON CELEBRATES **LEADERS** *with heart* WHO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES WITHIN THEIR INDUSTRIES & COMMUNITIES

Each year, Huron community members submit recommendations for our Alumni Awards of Distinction, inclusive of our Young Alumni Awards. We receive glowing nominations about our alumni's personal and professional journeys, which reflect their uncompromising willingness to go above and beyond within their workplaces and for their communities.

When it is safe to do so, we look forward to celebrating our 2019 and 2020 award winners in person. In the interim, we want to give a thunderous round of applause for all our nominees. Thank you for representing your alma mater in ways that will inspire future generations of **Leaders with Heart** to recognize the proud and enduring legacy of Huron's alumni.

2019 AWARD WINNERS

DAVE NUGENT, CLASS OF '08 & MICHAEL KATCHEN, CLASS OF '09

Huron celebrates the leaders of Wealthsimple, "The world's most human financial company," with our Young Alumni Award. Dave Nugent and Mike Katchen, who met at Huron and worked together to bring the award-winning enterprise to fruition, have achieved global recognition for making investing accessible for populations who previously felt left out of participating in financial growth.

Mike Katchen, the Co-Founder and CEO of Wealthsimple, is someone who inspires not only the Huron community, but North Americans more generally. Through his exemplary career, which has been fuelled by risk-taking and a passion for problem-solving, he has shown the world what it takes to be a true leader in any capacity. His nominator shared, what is most impressive about Mike's achievements, to date, is that he has never placed an upward limit on what he thought was possible. Equally as important, he has never lost touch with the human impact of his work.

While pursuing a successful career in investing with a large financial institution, Dave Nugent was approached by Mike about a not-yet-named company. Dave believed in Mike's brainchild enough to ditch his permanent gig, which was – to say the least – a smart move. After helping Mike bring the enterprise through to fruition, Dave ultimately led the company's B2B business as Chief Client Officer, Wealthsimple Advisor Solutions.

Most recently, he transitioned into the role of Managing Partner of Purpose Advisor Solutions. While Dave's global leadership positions keep him extremely busy, he continues to make time for the Huron community by mentoring and engaging with alumni who are navigating life and work post-graduation.

When asked about his leap from corporate comfort to high-risk entrepreneurialism, Dave attributed his belief in the importance of following your passions to his Huron upbringing, and we could not be happier that he continues to share this wisdom with our community.

AMY GIBBONS, CLASS OF '02

Within her current role as AVP, Marketing, Individual Customer at Canada Life, Amy championed the company's transformation from three brands into one. Amy's capacity for relationship building and strategic planning sets her apart in the office and the community. She is an active member of numerous charitable organizations; the Director of Huron University College Executive Board; and in 2015, was named one of Business London's Top 20 under 40.

Amy is being honoured with the Alumni Award of Distinction because of her ongoing dedication to fostering professional development and corporate success, but also because of her commitment to charitable giving and service, which has distinguished her as one of London's most selfless leaders.

GAIL VAREY (CLASS OF '69), BEVERLEY PATERSON WOOD (CLASS OF '64) AND ANN KENNEDY KEDWELL (CLASS OF '66)

Many moons ago, our Alumni Award of Distinction winners, Gail, Beverley and Ann sat in Gail's living room discussing how to keep their fellow alumni engaged in Huron's culture of inclusivity and excellence in leadership. In a fitting response, they established Huron's Alumni Association and, in the years following, each served as President of the Board.

Over and above the time and effort they have put into nurturing Huron, each alumna has also contributed financially to the areas of the school that reflect their interests in academic pursuits and Huron's theological beginnings. In celebration of their significant contributions to the vitality of our community's connections, all three women have also been named Honorary Directors – titles which they will hold for the rest of their lives.

2020 AWARD WINNERS

AMY BRYSON, CLASS OF '92

As its founding institution, Huron is extremely proud of our longstanding partnership with Western University and the ways our shared vision encourages students to reach the topmost levels of their industries. As Acting University Secretary at Western, Amy provides strategic oversight and leadership that shapes the University Secretariat.

Prior to her role at Western, this Alumni Award of Distinction recipient spent more than a decade practicing commercial law. Throughout the entirety of her career, Amy has volunteered on the boards of for-profit and non-profit organizations alike, inclusive of CAA South Central Ontario and Huron's Executive Board. When she received her nomination for our Alumni Award of Distinction, Amy shared that the challenging areas she has learned and worked within, as a student, employee and volunteer have enriched her life and empowered her to create tangible, positive change for the causes she enjoys giving back to.

SUZANNE FLEMING, CLASS OF '90

Since studying History at Huron, Suzanne Fleming has built a robust portfolio of experiences, inclusive of rowing with Western's Varsity team and the Canadian National Women's team. She remains engaged with Huron, continuously offering her support to our university – always focusing on what will most benefit our students.

Suzanne is currently a Managing Partner and Head of Branding and Communications at the leading global alternative asset management firm, Brookfield Asset Management. In addition to generating multi-billion dollar revenues, the company prioritizes corporate giving and social responsibility. We applaud Suzanne with the Alumni Award of Distinction, for championing a brand that is defined by a long legacy of positive stewardship within the communities in which they operate.

BILL SIMPSON, CLASS OF '99

Huron has named Bill Simpson one of our Alumni Award of Distinction winners, in recognition of his unyielding dedication to protecting and uplifting children, adults and their families, through his work as a personal injury lawyer and partner at Leners LLP.

Bill's colleagues describe him as smart, driven and determined, so it is not surprising he is renowned for obtaining excellent outcomes for his clients – even when handling very complex cases. In homage to his achievements, Bill has received a number of awards, including being named one of the Best Lawyers in Canada (2020) and one of the Top 40 Under 40 (2012).

NATALIE PIERCE, CLASS OF '14

Our mission is to challenge students to be **Leaders with Heart** who act ethically and with integrity in all they do. That is why we are so thrilled when graduates, like Natalie Pierce, find employment with organizations who live out our principles on the world stage.

Our 2020 Young Alumni Award winner is the Communications and Programme Lead within the Global Shapers Community, a scalable solution founded by the World Economic Forum for organizing and mobilizing the full potential of young people. Within her current role, which she earned after completing internships at the United Nations Office of Geneva and Teach for Canada, Natalie helps spread awareness and uphold programme excellence, while ensuring moral and intellectual integrity remain at the heart of all her organization does.



HURON ALUMNA PROVES

LEADERSHIP CANNOT EXIST IN THE ABSENCE OF CONNECTIONS

Jessie Rodger was drawn to Huron because of our university's strong focus on social justice. She has carried that dedication to community good throughout the entirety of her career.

After working in a women's shelter, Jessie always knew she would return to the sector to support the safety and well-being of women and children. Toward this end, she attained her diploma in Social Service and, eventually, her Masters in Social Work. Thanks to her unwavering dedication, Jessie has been able to lead within the place that inspired her passion for protecting populations exposed to the terror of abuse.

Now the Executive Director of Anova, the largest women's shelter and sexual assault centre in the province, Jessie explains, "I had to learn a lot about what

it means to lead and what kind of leader I would strive to be. It's all well and good to want to smash the patriarchy and end gender-based violence, but you need to form the right connections to make this happen."

EVEN IN CRISIS, THE FOUNDATIONS OF COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP DO NOT SHIFT

Her focus on relationships became especially important when Covid-19 forced Jessie and her entire organization to, "change every single thing we do." Alongside the logistical nightmare of transitioning counselling online through to engaging in "incredibly difficult conversations," Anova faced hardship as physical donations and third-party fundraisers were made impossible by physical distancing.



"Amidst all of this, it was my responsibility to explore the question, 'What is the bigger threat, Covid or the abuser?' I needed our community to understand how trauma and abuse may force us to act in ways that seem incongruous with the larger aims of public health. For example, women cannot simply choose to observe the stay at home mandate when they are trapped there with someone who is putting her life – or the lives of her children – at risk."



HURON BELIEVES EVERYONE DESERVES TO LIVE FREE FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF ABUSE

At the end of the 2020 Academic Year, instead of claiming their residence rebates, our students, bolstered by the generosity of Dr. Barry Craig and his wife, Dr. Sara MacDonald, donated \$10,000 to support My Sister's Place, a day shelter for women and children who are affected by trauma or facing mental health challenges, and the Unity Project, a local emergency shelter.

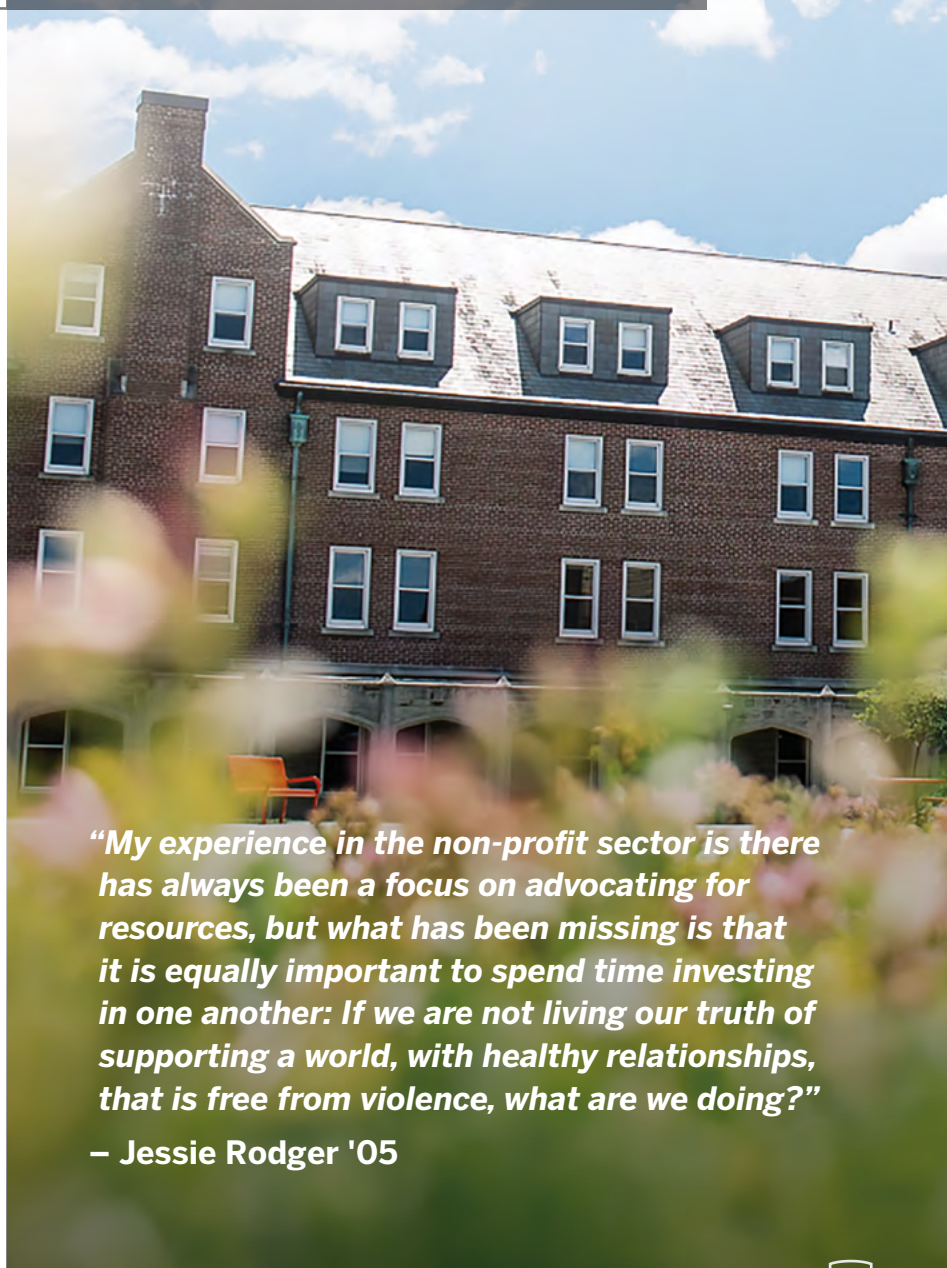
Weeks later, the reduction of Covid-19 restrictions caused many companies to breathe easier. But, not Anova – nor Jessie Rodger. Directly following the Victoria Day weekend, calls doubled to the organization, as more women had the freedom to leave their homes and make their plea for help.

Luckily, Anova had been preparing for the influx and their advocacy succeeded at encouraging the community to respond to the drastic changes in the centre's capacity. "People came through in really wonderful ways, including major increases in monetary donations and a willingness to volunteer, even though that fear of Covid lingered," Jessie said. "It really showed we were being heard."

Our community's positive response to Jessie's powerful voice and emphasis on collaborative leadership shows how **Leadership with Heart** challenges organizations to overcome even the bleakest circumstances, while remaining true to their core values.



a future without violence.



"My experience in the non-profit sector is there has always been a focus on advocating for resources, but what has been missing is that it is equally important to spend time investing in one another: If we are not living our truth of supporting a world, with healthy relationships, that is free from violence, what are we doing?"

– Jessie Rodger '05



LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGHTER

FARAH AND ALANA MAKE THEIR HURON CAREERS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Anyone who has seen Farah Shahfazzlollahi setting up for a special event knows she will inevitably be wearing a smile and working harder than she has to. Farah, who has become one of Huron's most recognizable faces, began at the university in 2004, taking on brief morning shifts so she could return home to take care of her two young children.

From starting out as a cashier through to her current position as part of our Catering Team, something that has never changed is Farah's passion for the people who shape our campus – including our wonderful alumni. "I have always loved Huron," Farah explains. "I love the kids like they are my own. Every time there is an event, like Homecoming or the Alumni Awards, all the past students call my name and say, 'You're still here!' It means so much to me."

Farah's second role at Huron was within the Dining Hall Deli. She recalls learning exactly what each student liked, so she could start making their sandwich as soon as she saw them. Only on our tight-knit campus could the staff – not only remember your name – but also your favourite meal. What's more Huron than that?

SOME PEOPLE WARN THAT YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE YOUR WORK HOME WITH YOU, BUT FARAH WAS OVER-THE-MOON TO BRING HER HOME TO WORK.

After putting her heart and soul into Huron for several years, in 2011, the sense of family Farah nurtures on our campus took on a whole new meaning, as her daughter, Alana, decided to don the Huron red too.

"Both of my children came to Huron, which made my husband and me so happy because they were in such great hands with the professors and staff who had always been so good to me. I knew it was the best-possible choice to come here, and I was right because they have both been very successful."

WHY TAKE THE BUS WHEN YOU CAN COORDINATE RIDES WITH MOM?

When asked what it was like to go to the school her Mom works at, Alana laughed, acknowledging it might not be ideal for many kids. But, the French and English Literature Major appreciated the opportunity to get involved in the community her Mom had always told her so much about. They saw each other at lots of events and, before Alana became a Residence Don, it certainly made getting home from school simpler.

"Sharing those experiences has fundamentally shaped the way we communicate," shares Farah's daughter, Alana. "Every time I ask her how work is going, I know exactly what she is talking about. We will always have the Huron connection, and I love hearing how everyone is doing and what new initiatives are happening on campus."



Mother and daughter at Huron Convocation



Alana Ashbourne,
Class of '15

Just like her Mom, Alana certainly made her mark on Huron's campus. She lived, worked and studied at the university, taking on many roles within Student Life, the Registrar's Office, Academic Advising, the Mailroom, Computer Lab and more. Not only did her extensive involvement with Huron help Alana develop an eyebrow-raising capacity for time management, it also inspired her enthusiasm for curating better environments for people of varying ages and abilities to learn within.

ALANA LIVES THE VALUE OF HER LIBERAL ARTS EDUCATION BY DEVELOPING INNOVATIVE STUDENT-CENTRED LEARNING PROGRAMS

Alana's career has evolved alongside her interests in adult learning and online education. Now, in addition to pursuing her Master of Education at UBC, Alana works as a Learning Designer for BrainStation in Toronto. Her newest program of study is Adult Learning and Global Change, which considering current circumstances, could not be more timely.

The broader lens of her education pertains to how we can ensure the successful continuation of education amidst the global pandemic. "I cannot say enough about collaboration, patience and educational institutions' willingness to adapt to meet students' rapidly changing needs," Alana shares. "Now, more than ever, you need to reach students where they are at and help remove barriers that prevent them from being able to adapt to online or physically-distanced learning."

We are proud to have both Farah and Alana as part of our Huron family, and we appreciate the ways both of these bright, hard-working women have contributed to our campus. The only other thing we expect from the Shahfazzlollahi family is that all future generations also choose to take part in Canada's best Liberal Arts experience (no pressure!).

"One of the greatest gifts Huron gave me was being able to see how individuals' lived experiences affect their ability to succeed. If you think a one-size-fits-all educational model is the best way to nurture success, you are going to do your institution – and its students – a disservice. Huron's small, but very mighty community's emphasis on diversity helped me develop a worldview that influences the ways I approach teaching and learning, so I do not make the mistake of counting people out just because they have lived – and learn – a little differently.

– Alana, Class of '15



STAY AT HOME

HOMECOMING

OCTOBER 16 - 18 2020

We have all earned the chance to reconnect, reminisce and have fun. Our virtual Homecoming is going to give us that chance. We look forward to showing you that face-to-face or through a screen, our community is stronger together.

REGISTER NOW

**FOR HURON'S FIRST-EVER VIRTUAL
HOMECOMING CELEBRATION AT**

huronatwestern.ca/alumni



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Lisa Kamenar at lisa.kamenar@huron.uwo.ca

Huron
AT WESTERN

DAVID LESTER '00

Honors Specialization, Political Science
Founder, DCL Capital Holdings Inc.



TAKE A PENNY LEAVE A LEGACY

NAVIGATING FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP DURING COVID-19

When, according to your Mom, your first word was “penny,” a career in finance seems like the inevitable choice. David Lester turned the traditional options of banking and investing on their heads by combining his strengths: a serious penchant for saving and a pizzazz for strategic thinking and relationship building.

Now, the Class of 2000 alumnus is a money strategist, published author of *I <3 Money* and *From Middle Class to Millionaire*, and media personality. He has appeared on The Exchange and is a regular contributor to CTV, VICE and CNBC.com. David nurtured his ability to juggle multiple responsibilities at Huron where he completed an exchange in Sweden and also managed to work nearly full-time hours at Merrill Lynch, while obtaining his Honors Political Science Degree.

“The world is not a cookie cutter place where you go from your university classes to a dream career,” David shares. “You need to gain great experiences and get creative, so you can mold a desirable path forward. Do not get crushed by your expectations for how everything should fall into place: work hard, but enjoy yourself – life is short.”

BE SMART AND TAKE THE SPARK OF JOY APPROACH TO SPENDING

When he was in school, this self-proclaimed workaholic never took his own advice. Without skipping a beat after graduation, David continued to develop a seriously impressive portfolio by working with the biggest names in banking in Toronto. After becoming a well-established financial expert and author,

David earned his certification as a Financial Coach. In 2012, he founded DCL Capital Holdings Inc. and four years later he opened a US operation within the world's financial capital – New York City.

Since joining our southern neighbours, the *From Middle Class To Millionaire* author has shaken up his own approach to work and now prioritizes fun nearly as much as finances – and he encourages others to do the same.

“When people think of financial experts, spunky does not tend to come to mind, but I like to keep things fun and exciting. I do not motivate people from a place of fear, I want them to enjoy life, and I definitely live the mantra I preach.”

FROM BIG CITY BOARDROOMS TO THE TEDDY BEAR PICNIC, EVEN THE BRIGHTEST STARS FEEL THE COVID-19 PINCH

Despite the safeguard of savvy financial management and stockpile of charisma, David still had to drastically re-strategize in response to Covid-19. Recognizing New York was becoming a hotbed for the global crisis, in March, he sought refuge in his childhood bedroom.

Instead of North America's foremost bankers, David became surrounded by teddy bears and other trinkets, which symbolized the rights of passage for a late 90's teen. While he has since returned to New York, David certainly misses getting breakfast and orange juice in bed from his Mom each morning.

When you teach people about agility and adaptability for a living, you are better prepared than most to transition your career online. Through social media and creative video production techniques, even in the thick of things, David continued to support his followers and reassure the public that “Even when it is as bad as it gets, you can still be excited

for the future. Just because the world is changing drastically, does not mean it's over. Take it from someone who graduated in 2000.”

WE COULD NOT LET NEW YORK'S SPUNKIEST FINANCIAL COACH OFF THE HOOK WITHOUT ASKING FOR TIPS ON HOW TO REMAIN MORE MARIE KONDO AND LESS CHARLES PONZI DURING THE PANDEMIC.

His unsurprisingly sunny outlook should ring especially true with our young alumni:

- Change your belief system: everything may not be a smashing success, but unhealthy stress is not going to get you anywhere. Just. Keep. Swimming.
- Financial well-being is inextricably linked with your mental health, so you need to take care of both, but especially the latter – now more than ever.
- There are generations of people who do not have your unique skill set and perspective (i.e. social marketing, ability to work remotely, leverage technology etc.), so use that to your advantage and market yourself accordingly.
- If you are working from home or currently not working and have some spare time, start a business that “makes you tingle.”

The last helpful reminder David shares is, “Successful education is half the things you learn and half who you meet. Huron's alumni network is full of extremely prestigious people, which is a huge asset you would be wise to take advantage of.”



A behind-the-scenes look at David's makeshift studio audience

“Create your own career and ultimate life. Treat it like a “smorgasbord” and build your future with delicious morsels that make you happy every single day. Take what you love and leave behind what does not make you happy. That goes for your career, cities to live in, vacations, lifestyle and relationships.”

– David Lester '00

CREATE A FUTURE FOR COMPASSIONATE LEADERSHIP

Generosity comes in many forms, but there is something truly remarkable about giving to a cause you may not directly benefit from. Planned giving is the ultimate investment in tomorrow, and when you give toward education, you actively support the young leaders who will shape our world's future.

Janet Stewart is a longtime friend of Huron. As a member of our Board for six years and through several decades of service as a member of the Corporation, Janet has become an ally to a number of Huron's Presidents – and our university's social justice mission. Over the past several years, Janet has also donated to Huron and, most recently, she decided to plan a gift to our university.

"I have never needed to be persuaded to give to Huron. I am happy to contribute because I believe in what the institution and its leaders are doing. There is power in the Liberal Arts in that its teachings hold important values our society is in desperate need of learning. I am proud to support that."

Thus far, Huron's rich history of **Leadership with Heart** has stretched 157 years. Together, with the generosity of your Legacy Gifts, we look forward to graduating compassionate, socially-aware leaders for many years to come.



JANET STEWART

For more information on Huron's planned giving options or to let us know about your plans, so we may celebrate them accordingly, please reach out to Sarah McCarthy at sarah.mccarthy@huron.uwo.ca.

IN MEMORIAM *As of August 7, 2020*

The Hon. Mr. Justice John deP. Wright '62,
June 30, 2020

Marion Orser '91 and '97,
May 14, 2020

The Rev. Dr. Tom Bonnema '99,
April 11, 2020

**Professor Elizabeth Revell,
Professor Emeriti '98,**
April 3, 2020

Edward 'Ted' Williams '60,
January 25, 2020

The Rev. Frederick Etherden '59,
January 17, 2020

The Rt. Rev. Clarence M. Mitchell '54 and DD '81,
December 17, 2019

Bill Gow '69,
November 13, 2019

Sylvia (Zavitz) Goddard '73,
November 8, 2019

The Hon. Mr. Justice Robert Thompson '69,
November 6, 2019

William Higgs '63,
November 4, 2019

Susan (Smith) Blocker '74,
October 18, 2019

William Anthony '82,
October 16, 2019

Franklyn Read '69,
October 15, 2019

David Reiss '06,
September 1, 2019

Susan (Dunster) Borden '69,
August 23, 2019

Jaffray Smith '63,
June 24, 2019

Julia Valencia '03,
March 13, 2019

The Ven. Cyril Ladds '55,
July 26, 2020

Donald Muir Henderson Q.C. '60,
August 7, 2020



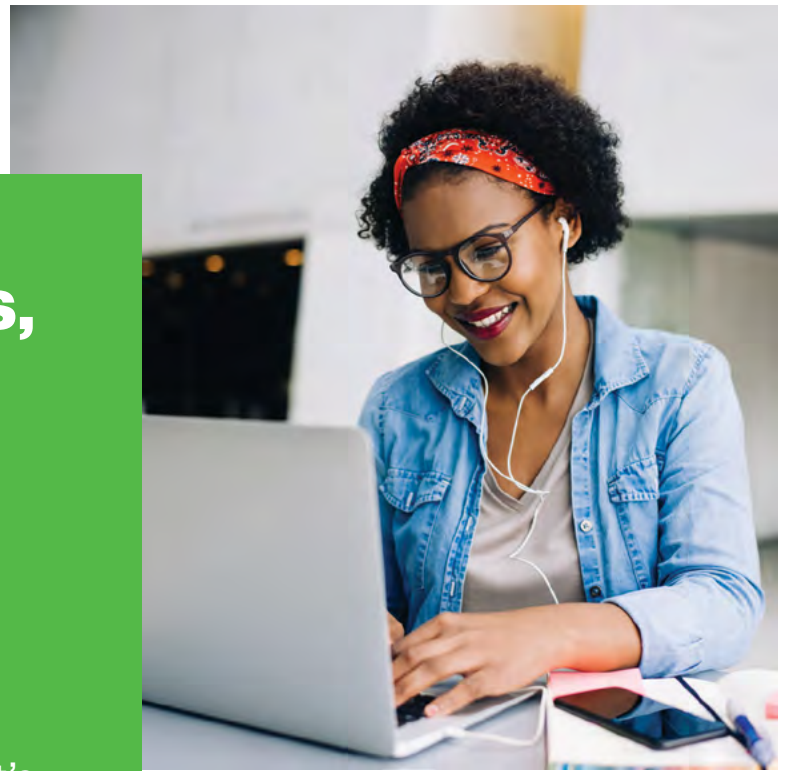
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