

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

### **2012 FANSHAWE COLLEGE SPRING CONVOCATION**

#### **Christopher Hood**

Program Director, Boys' and Girls' Club of London

June 12 at 10 a.m.

Christopher was born and raised in Toronto and is a graduate of Western University. His love of sports led him into teaching at the elementary level for the Toronto Board of Education, and at Variety Village, where he taught adapted Physical Education to physically and mentally challenged children. He also coached wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis, wheelchair track and field and sledge hockey at the national and international levels.

Christopher returned to London four years ago to work at the Boys' and Girls' Club of London, where he started My Action Plan to Education (M.A.P.) as the program manager. M.A.P. provides academic support (after school tutoring), advocacy (connected to the school boards), social support (with leadership and mentoring), and financial scholarship for post-secondary education. There are currently 11 M.A.P. graduates studying at Fanshawe.

Christopher has also coached and trained professional athletes from the CFL, NHL, and CIS, as well as Olympic athletes and triathletes in Iron Man triathlons. His hobbies include cycling, surfing and gourmet popcorn!

#### **Danielle Aziz**

Director and Group Facilitator, Onward Social Skills

June 12 at 2 p.m.

A graduate of Fanshawe College's Child and Youth Worker (CYW) program, Danielle began her career as a counselor, teaching anger management techniques to boys and girls who had been diagnosed with ADHD. Based on those experiences, she created Onward Social Skills in 1996 as a resource to help children face difficult emotions, learn to make friends, and develop basic social skills. After her first year in business, she set up program streams serving students aged five to 14 who struggle with personal issues and low self-esteem. To date, the program has served over 2,000 children.

Danielle has developed and revised curriculum for every Onward program. Lessons are built around various themes and feature interactive and expressive learning through activities, poems, role play, stories, and games. The activities help kids learn to take responsibility for their actions, recognize their strengths, and reach their potential in an empowering way. They also help kids make friends – a vital skill that not only helps them at Onward, but at school and at home. As her business has grown, Danielle has hired several staff members and now has seven assistants who help her develop and deliver programs. Many of her assistants are Fanshawe students and graduates.

Danielle has taught in Fanshawe's CYW program in London and Woodstock. She received the Fanshawe College Distinguished Alumni Award in 2010.

**William Coxhead**

Director – Parks and Recreation, City of London

June 13 at 10 a.m.

Bill Coxhead is a seasoned professional and municipal public servant who has served Londoners for over 20 years. He currently holds the position of Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of London. Bill oversees the City's diverse municipal parks system and recreational facilities where thousands of opportunities to participate start every day. Moving Londoners towards healthier lifestyles through amazing experiences is his team's mission, and they support the dreams and aspirations of citizens as they live, work and play in this great city.

Bill is happily married with two children, both of whom are high performance athletes. As an avid skier and alpine racer, Bill has been a long-term program coordinator, board member and executive at Boler Mountain, a not-for-profit community ski and sport centre. He brings his landscape architectural, management and recreation planning skills to the Boler table.

Bill holds a degree in Landscape Architecture from University of Guelph, is a member of the Ontario Association of Landscaped Architects and Parks and Recreation Ontario, has studied public administration at Western University and has management certificates from the Ivey School of Business and Queen's University.

**Dr. Gillian Kernaghan**

President and CEO – St. Joseph's Hospital

June 13 at 2 p.m.

Dr. Kernaghan was appointed the President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Joseph's Health Care, London on October 4, 2010. Prior to assuming this position, she served as the Integrated Vice President of Medical Education and Medical Affairs for London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and St. Joseph's Health Care, London for five years. In that role, she had accountability for medical affairs, infection prevention and control, pandemic planning, ethics and academic liaison.

Gillian joined the medical staff of St. Joseph's, Parkwood Hospital and LHSC as a family physician in 1984. She took on the role of Vice President, Medical Services at Parkwood Hospital in 1993, and for all of St. Joseph's in 1998 after restructuring. She continued part-time family practice until 2010. She completed her residency at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1984 upon graduation from the University of Western Ontario, and was awarded her Fellowship in 2000.

Gillian is a certified trainer in Crucial Conversations and Crucial Confrontations and teaches with the Physician Manager Institute of the Canadian Medical Association. She is also an Assistant Professor at Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western University, and an Adjunct Professor in the Arthur Labatt School of Nursing, Western University. In May 2011, Gillian became the President of the Canadian Society of Physician Executives. She is also a Board Member for the Canadian Resident Matching Service.

**Perry Ferguson**

President – Voyageur Transportation Services

June 14 at 10 a.m.

Perry is President and CEO of Voyageur Transportation Services, which employs over 900 people within Southwestern Ontario. Voyageur is a multi-functional transportation company involved in Patient Transfer, School Busing, Freight Distribution, Training and the Taxi/Limousine Industry.

Perry officially joined Voyageur Transportation, his family's business, in 1983, focusing his efforts on sales and operations. He has used his entrepreneurial acumen to significantly expand the company's services, creating Checker Limousine in 1990 and Voyageur Patient Transfer Service in 2001. Checker now has a fleet of 80 Executive Sedans, while Voyageur Patient Transfer Service has locations in London, Chatham, Sarnia, the GTA, Guelph and Waterloo.

Perry is actively involved in community development, and has served as Past-Chair of Ambassador London, Past-Chair of the London Convention Centre, Past-President of Tourism London, President of the Medical Transportation Association of Ontario, Vice-Chair – Service on the 2001 Summer Game Committee, Executive – Ontario School Bus Association and a member of various other associations.

Through his personal interests and organization, Perry supports many charity associations such as the Boys' and Girls' Club of London, Junior Achievement, Multiple Sclerosis Annual Bike Tour and both St Joseph's and LHSC Foundations.

Perry was a 2011 inductee into the London Business Hall of Fame. He has a strong desire to achieve more and continue to work on the importance of personal and corporate involvement in the community.

**Paul Way**

Vice President and Region Head, Western Ontario Region – TD Waterhouse Private Client Group

June 14 at 2 p.m.

Paul has 26 years of experience in the financial industry in Canada. As Vice-President and Region Head of TD Waterhouse Private Client Group for the Western Ontario Region, his responsibilities include leadership of a team of Wealth Professionals within the Private Client team including Investment Management, Trust Services, Private Banking, Estate Planning, Wealth Planning and Insurance services.

Paul is an accredited Certified Investment Manager (CIM) and Financial Management Advisor (FMA). He also holds the Chartered Strategic Wealth Professional (CSWP) accreditation with the Canadian Securities Institute (CSI) and is a Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute (FCSI). He is accredited as a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and as a Trust and Estate Professional (TEP). He is a graduate of Seneca College's three year Accounting and Finance program and holds a degree from York University majoring in Psychology and Economics.

Paul is committed to community involvement, currently giving his time on Boards with organizations such as Museum London, the London/Middlesex United Way and the London Chamber of Commerce. Paul and his wife Carol have been together for 26 years and have three teenage children.

**Brad Nelson**

President and Chief Operating Officer – PCL Constructors Canada Inc.

June 15 at 10 a.m.

*Honorary Diploma Recipient*

As one of Canada's pre-eminent construction executives, the president and chief operating officer of PCL's Canadian buildings and civil infrastructure operations, and a director on the board of PCL Construction Holdings Ltd., Brad Nelson has been instrumental to the growth of the Canadian construction industry and PCL's Canadian buildings and civil infrastructure portfolio. His keen ability to build relationships and promote the Canadian construction industry has led to a further entrenchment of Canadian contractors being known globally for ethics, integrity, and quality.

After spending more than 23 years with a large London-based international contractor, Brad joined PCL in 1997 as executive vice president of PCL Constructors Canada Inc., responsible for the Central and Eastern Canadian building and civil infrastructure operations (Toronto and Ottawa district offices). In 2002, he became president, Central and Eastern Region, PCL Constructors Canada Inc., responsible for the Central and Eastern Canadian building and civil infrastructure operations (Toronto, Ottawa, Winnipeg, and Atlantic Canada district offices). In 2008, Brad's tremendous track record led him to be named chief operating officer and president of PCL Constructors Inc. with responsibility for the Canadian building and civil infrastructure operations.

Brad has held leadership positions with many organizations, including the Ontario General Contractors Association, the London District Construction Association, the Canadian Construction Association, the St. Joseph's Hospital Building Committee, and the LRHA Museum Building Committee. He and his company support many charities including the United Way, Habitat for Humanity, and the PCL Toronto Building Community.

In 2007, Brad was nominated for the Ontario Premier's Award for College Graduates.

**Wes From**

Vice President, Engineering – Trojan Technologies

June 18 at 10 a.m.

Wes joined Trojan Technologies in 2001 and now has overall responsibility for Development and Engineering of products and technology. Before joining Trojan, he was engaged in technology development for medical imaging. He also worked for the Ontario Rehabilitation Technology Consortium in developing technologies for children with physical disabilities.

Wes is licensed as a Professional Engineer. He has a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Systems Design Engineering (Waterloo) and a Master of Applied Science degree in Mechanical Engineering (Toronto) in biomedical robotics. He has a life-long interest in studying creativity and how innovation happens.

**Dan Mathieson**

Mayor, City of Stratford

June 18 at 2 p.m.

Dan Mathieson holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Guelph and a Masters of Public Administration Degree from the University of Western Ontario. He is in his third term as Mayor of his hometown, Stratford, Ontario. He chairs the Southwest Economic Alliance (SWEA) and sits on numerous Boards and Committees in healthcare, municipal affairs, law enforcement, athletics, universities and colleges, and not-for-profits.

Stratford was a railway town that became famous for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, auto parts and culinary tourism. Beginning with online innovations in education, healthcare and public services, the City has recently emerged as a technology centre specializing in digital media and a 'living lab' for global technology companies such as Toshiba, RIM and Cisco. The City owns its smart grid electrical system, and a citywide Wi-Fi network built over a 70km loop of optical fiber. Stratford also boasts the new University of Waterloo | Stratford Campus and research relationships with Western University and Clemson University in the United States. Stratford was designated one of the world's Top Seven Intelligent Community for 2011 and 2012 by the New York-based broadband think tank, the Intelligent Community Forum.

Mayor Mathieson was recently named to an international advisory board for the new ICF Institute for the Study of the Intelligent Community at Walsh University in North Canton, Ohio. The institute was established to study, support and promote the intelligent community concept, which focuses on the use of broadband connectivity as a tool for economic and social development. He joins representatives from Finland, Hungary, South Korea, the United States and Canada.

## **Richard Bain**

Photographer and Publisher – Binea Press

June 19 at 10 a.m.

Richard Bain spent the first half of his professional career in the telecommunications industry. Twenty years after starting out as a repairman for Bell Canada, he became Vice President of Business Development for London Telecom, with responsibility for business units in Western Canada and the United States, as well as the operations of affiliate Skyjet Aviation.

In 1998, Richard left the telecom world to pursue his love of photography, and subsequently established Binea Press, a publishing company specializing in tabletop books. He now has 15 books on Ontario featuring his own work. These photo collections include, *Images of Waterloo County* with foreword by Peter Gzowski; *Fanshawe College* with foreword by Anne Marie DeCicco-Best; the best seller *Stratford*, with text by Christopher Plummer; *The Thames*, with foreword by Lloyd Robertson; *London – People Parks and Places* with foreword by Victor Garber; *Stratford - Dramatically Different* with foreword by Colm Feore; *Niagara* with foreword by Trisha Romance, and *Cheers!* with foreword by Jim Cuddy.

Binea Press has also published work for other authors, including *The Action Sandwich*, by Alan Frew from Glass Tiger; *And Then I Wrote*, by Bill Brady; and *The Right Road*, by John Davidson. Richard, a graduate of Western University, attributes his time as a photographer at the student newspaper *The Gazette* as the reason he pursued photography as a “second” career. He lives in London with his wife, Joan, and together they have four children.

## **Dana Lewis**

TV News Correspondent

June 19 at 2 p.m.

*Honorary Diploma Recipient*

Dana Lewis is a freelance TV News Correspondent based out of London, England. After studying at York University and Fanshawe College, he has enjoyed a celebrated career, working for Fox News, NBC News, CBS News, and various Canadian TV outlets. Dana has covered the world including the current war in the Middle East, the hotel suicide bombings in Amman, Jordan, and updates following the London terrorist attacks. He was one of the first reporters to enter Afghanistan after September 11 and has been embedded with the 82nd Airborne and 10th Mountain division in Afghanistan, as well as the 101st Airborne and U.S. Marines. In 2003, he was an embedded reporter with the 101st Airborne in Iraq.

Dana earned an Emmy nomination for a story on Russian orphans and won the prestigious Overseas Press Club award for the War in Kosovo, among various RTNDA awards. He also personally sponsors an award for Broadcast Journalism students from Fanshawe College. It is called the “Front Line” award and is presented annually to the student who delivers the best breaking news story. He/she must be willing to grab their equipment at any time of the day or night to pursue the story.

## **Noteworthy Graduate: Irma Foley**

Irma Foley has been a Fanshawe College student almost from the moment Fanshawe opened its doors in 1967. After being forced to leave school as a teenager, she has become a dedicated life-long learner, taking several courses and programs at Fanshawe, studying computers, sign language, personnel administration, and other topics.

Now, just shy of her seventy-third birthday, Irma is about to graduate with a Developmental Services Worker diploma.

While most people her age think about slowing down, Irma keeps a very full schedule. She works regular hours at Community Living in St. Thomas, serving people with various disabilities, and makes time to volunteer in classrooms at Locke's Public School.

"I like being out there and being involved," she explains. "I'm a people person and I meet a lot of very interesting people. [School] gives me an opportunity to be out there and be active and trade ideas. I enjoy myself very much. I don't feel seventy-two."

Irma finished the Developmental Services Worker Apprenticeship program last year and felt compelled to go on and complete her diploma for both personal and professional reasons.

"You can never learn too much, can you?" she says. "With everything I do, there's always something to learn about myself. We do what we want to do or what's good for us most of the time and from that we learn. I've been assessing myself since the day I was born. I'm fascinated with people."

Diploma in hand, Irma is looking forward to continuing her work serving people with disabilities through Community Living.

"I always remember that I'm there to serve," she says. "People don't stay in this job if it's just a job to them. It's not just a job to me. I love the people I serve very dearly. And each one is an individual. I can say I'm the most peaceful and the most contented I've ever been in my life. I feel really good about everything right now."

Despite her full schedule, Irma hasn't ruled out the possibility of taking other courses in the future.

## **Noteworthy Graduate: Candice Sickles**

When Candice Sickles wants something, she won't let anything – not even cancer – get in the way. On June 15, Candice, who comes from Oneida Nation of the Thames, will graduate from Fanshawe College's Construction Engineering Technician – Supervisor program after missing two years of college fighting cancer.

Candice got a taste for the construction industry working for her uncle's construction company. A winter slowdown sent her in search of other opportunities, which led directly to Fanshawe.

"I always knew that I wanted to do something hands-on," Candice says. "So after the winter came and I got laid off, I said, 'I want to do this, I want to learn more' because my uncle just taught me the basics. I looked online and saw that Fanshawe had a program with everything I wanted to do, so I applied."

Candice was accepted at Fanshawe and started her two-year program in 2009. Things were going along nicely until life threw a giant obstacle at her. She was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer. Her illness forced her to take a leave from college and spend the next two years dealing with doctor visits, chemotherapy, radiation, and other aggressive treatments. When the worst was over, she returned to school, even though she was still fighting the disease.

"[The treatment] was tiring, but I had a set goal in my head," she remembers. "I knew I wanted to do this, and doing it while doing the treatment gave me something to look forward to. I wasn't down and out. I was focused on my goal and I knew that nothing was going to stop me."

Candice returned to Fanshawe to complete her diploma during the Winter 2012 term. Today, she is finished with her treatment, has earned great marks, and is ready to graduate as the only female member of her graduating class. She is currently working in Fanshawe's First Nations Centre and is looking forward to facing new challenges in the future.

"Any obstacle can be overcome," she says. "Everybody's going to have setbacks, but it's just a matter of how you deal with it. If you want to succeed, you'll deal with it in a good way. Even though I was going through all of this sickness and chemo and radiation, I just looked past that and said, 'When I'm done this, I am going back to school.' I just made myself determined to do it."

In addition to graduating, Candice was named First Nations Student Centre Student of the Year for 2011-2012.