

A photograph of two hikers with backpacks walking away on a dirt trail through a dry, brushy landscape. In the background, there are mountains under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The image is partially framed by a large, diagonal grey shape on the left side.

**SUMMER 2018**

**TO EARTH AND BEYOND**

**Alumni Newsletter**



**Western**

**EARTH SCIENCES**



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

**DR. PATRICIA CORCORAN**



Welcome to Western Earth Sciences! As the Department Chair, I am excited to provide you with one of three newsletters that will be sent to you throughout the year. Expect them in February, June and October. The new name for our newsletter is "To Earth and Beyond"; whether we're "digging" for critical information below the surface, collecting crucial samples from the surface or atmosphere, or studying other planets remotely, we're all part of the extraordinary field of geoscience.

I've been at Western for 15 years and I've served as Department Chair for 12 months already – it's tough to believe! Quite a number of new faces have arrived in our department offices. Kristen Harris is our new Administrative Officer, Amy Wickham is our new Academic Program Coordinator, and Alysha McNeil is our new Geoscience Collections Curator. Two new faculty members have joined our team: Nigel Blamey (Economic Geology) and Katsu Goda (Earthquake Hazards and Risks). Steve Hicock (Quaternary Geology) has retired, but will continue to contribute to our department from an emeritus space just around the corner from his old office. Although I would like to provide updates on all of our faculty members, I simply don't have the space for 26 briefs! I can say that we are lucky to have some of Canada's most renowned scholars. Two of these individuals (Gail Atkinson and Gordon Osinski) are highlighted in the newsletter for having won prestigious awards.

Huge congratulations go out to our graduate students who have completed their degrees in the past year, as well as to our undergraduate students who will be graduating this week. I'm particularly proud to announce that for the first time in many years, an Earth Sciences student will be awarded the J.B. Bancroft Science Prize and Medal (awarded to a graduating student in the Faculty of Science with the highest standing in an Honors Science Program who has achieved an "A" average in second, third and fourth years). The winner this year is Aamna Sirohey, who is working with Sheri Molnar this summer using passive seismic techniques to understand how local geology impacts the amplification of seismic waves. She will begin working full-time with Sander Geophysics in September.

I'd like to end the message from the Chair by stating that all seven of our field courses offered in the 2017-2018 academic year were a great success! The courses included: Field Geography and Geology of Southwestern Ontario (ES2130), Introductory Field Mapping Techniques (ES2250 – Whitefish Falls, Ontario), Advanced Field Mapping Techniques (ES3350 – Sudbury, Ontario), Planetary Surfaces Field School (ES4001/PS9605 – Arizona), Regional Field Geology (ES4450/GL9601 – Nova Scotia), Geophysical Field Techniques (ES4451/GP9509 – Calabogie, Ontario), and International Geoscience Field Experience (ES4452/GL9600 – Colombia). You can get a peek at our students in action in the photos on the following page.

I wish you all a productive but relaxing summer!

Patricia Corcoran  
Associate Professor and Department Chair





# BACK FROM THE FIELD!





# New Faces of Earth Sciences

WELCOME TO THE DEPARTMENT



ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER  
**Kristen Harris**



ACADEMIC PROGRAM  
COORDINATOR  
**Amy Wickham**



GEOSCIENCE  
COLLECTIONS  
CURATOR  
**Alysha McNeil**



ASSISTANT  
PROFESSOR  
**Nigel Blamey**



ASSOCIATE  
PROFESSOR  
**Katsu Goda**

## Retirements



ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER  
**Marie Schell**



PROFESSOR  
**Steve Hicock**

THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SERVICE!



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP & AWARD WINNERS!

## FACULTY



**Gail Atkinson**

**Hellmuth Prize for Achievement in Research**

Recognizes research achievements of Western's most distinguished faculty members

**Gordon 'Oz' Osinski**  
**Faculty Scholars Award**

Recognizes faculty members with significant recent scholarly achievements in teaching or research



## GRADUATE

**Alan D. Edgar Award in Petrology:**  
Povilas Grigutis

**Arcangelo Rea Family Foundation  
Graduate Scholarship:**  
Sara Belontz

**G. Gordon Suffel Fellowship:**  
Povilas Grigutis

**Faculty of Science TA Award:**  
Joshua Littleton

**Geophysics Travel Scholarship:**  
Justin Rumney  
Reynold Silber  
Jacob Kukovica  
Mark Novakovic

**J. Malcolm Slack Earth Sciences  
Award:**  
Lindsay Blythe

**Lumsden Scholarship in Science:**  
-Stephanie Mabee  
Omar Al-Mufti  
Elizabeth Hooper  
Ryan Kahue  
Reynold Silber

**Robert W. Hodder Travel Bursaries:**  
Mailyng Aviles  
Lindsay Debono  
Povilas Grigutis  
Tim Howe  
Kelsey Rozon



# UNDERGRADUATE

**Aleksis Dreimanis Prize**  
Ricardo Rodriguez

**Carodocian Prize in Geochemistry**  
Amanda Philavong

**Lumsden Scholarship in Science**  
Ryann Keen

**Gordon Dixon Memorial Award**  
Cameron Scott

**Dr. Harvey Hunter Memorial Award**  
Emma Holt-Witherspoon

**Mineralogical Association of Canada  
Student Prize**  
Nikol Posnov

**JP Bickell Mining Foundation  
Scholarship**

Aamna Sirohey  
Jolee Stewart  
Cameron Scott  
Chi Tat Kwan  
Ryann Keen  
Jordan Siewnarine  
Jonathan Balogun

**Canadian Society of Petroleum  
Geologists - Student Industry Award**  
Aamna Sirohey

**Charles Southworth Memorial Award  
in Paleontology**  
Nikol Posnov

**Norman B. Keevil Award in Earth  
Sciences**  
Jolee Stewart

**J.B. Bancroft Science Prize and Medal**  
Aamna Sirohey

**Geophysics Travel Scholarship**  
Mingzhen Deng

**Roma Fence Group of Companies  
Scholarship in Mining and Mineral  
Exploration**  
Jolee Stewart

**Brandon J. Papp Prize**  
Jason Wosniak



# Congrats to our Graduates!

## *Undergraduate Students*

Colin Aerts  
Sarah Bazal  
Patrick Bovingdon  
Kenneth Bradfield  
Monique Coral  
Mingzhen Deng

Kira Fuller  
Kayla Golay Lausanne  
Adam Grenier  
Rayne Hettinga  
Yuanyuan Hou  
Ryann Keen  
Samantha Kobak

Amanda Philavong  
Nikol Posnov  
Ricardo Rodriguez  
Cameron Scott  
Aamna Sirohey  
Jason Wozniak  
Yanan Zhang

## *Graduate Students*

### **Geology**

Lauren Twible, Ph.D.  
Halima Warsame, M.Sc.  
Andrew Thomson, M.Sc.  
Jessica Stromberg, Ph.D.  
Michelle MacRae, M.Sc.  
Byung-Hun Choe, Ph.D.  
Steve Morrow, M.Sc.  
Peter Christoffersen, M.Sc.  
Mo Asmail, M.Sc.  
Shuo Sun, Ph.D.  
Matthew Maloney, M.Sc.  
Alysha McNeil, Ph.D.  
Elise Harrington, M.Sc.  
El Mahadia I. Mohammed, Ph.D.  
Mana Pourdast, M.Sc.  
Sarah CoDyre, M.Sc.

### **Geophysics**

Frederick Jackson, M.Sc.  
Hiruni Gunawardana, Ph.D.  
Hadis Samadi Alina, Ph.D.  
M. Akbar H. Zuberi, Ph.D.  
Timothy Officer, Ph.D.  
Simon Thorpe, M.Sc.  
William Zylberman, Ph.D.  
Benjamin Consolvo, M.Sc.



# Alumni Relations & Development Update

This section is an engagement resource for our Earth Sciences alumni living across the globe. Your engagement serves to maintain the quality of the Western Earth Sciences brand locally, nationally and internationally. This portion of the newsletter will highlight news and profiles on fellow alumni, details about new programs and volunteer opportunities that would benefit from your involvement, event information and gift announcements.

We have news! The Dr. G. Gordon Suffel Collection is getting a new home along with an opportunity to honour Dick Hutchinson. This summer, the Suffel Collection will begin its move into a new home, providing better access to an indispensable resource on Western's campus. The collection's new home will also bring an opportunity to honour Dr. Richard Hutchison.

Watch for more information coming your way soon via email about the Suffel Collection and how you can help honour Dick Hutchinson.

## Upcoming Alumni Events:

### ***Homecoming 2018 Faculty of Science BBQ with Rick McGhie.***

Saturday October 20, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Grad Club, Middlesex College, Western University

Join Faculty of Science alumni, friends, family, faculty, staff and students at this popular annual event. Meet the new Dean of Science, Dr. Matt Davison (effective July 1, 2018.)

### ***Earth Sciences Alumni Reception***

Mineral Exploration Roundup 2019

Tuesday January 29, 2019 at 5pm-7pm

Vancouver Convention Centre, Room 201

### ***Earth Sciences Alumni Reception***

Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada 2019

Monday March 4, 2019 at 5pm-8pm

Fairmont Royal York, Manitoba Room

For further information on other alumni activities, news or ways to support the Department, please contact me at your convenience.

Paula Luchak

Director of Alumni Relations and Development – Science

Paula.Luchak@uwo.ca

519-661-2111 ext. 86642



# Alumni Corner



## ALUMNI FEATURE: ALYSHA MCNEIL, PHD

After completing my B.Sc. at the University of Waterloo in 2011, I started my M.Sc. in experimental petrology at Western with Dr. Robert Linnen. In 2014 I was upgraded to the Ph.D. program and Dr. Roberta Flemming was added as a co-supervisor as crystal structure became a component of my research project. Over the course of my Ph.D., I had the opportunity to work as the electron microprobe operator for the Earth and Planetary Materials Analysis Laboratory on the JXA-8530F Field Emission microprobe and during the Fall 2017 term, taught ES 1081A - Earth, Environment and Sustainability. In March 2018 I successfully defended my Ph.D. on the crystallization processes and solubility of niobium and tantalum minerals in pegmatites.

After completing my thesis, I took a short trip to Hawaii with my husband to celebrate, and as of May 3rd, 2018, started in my new position for the coming year as the Geoscience Collections Curator at Western University for the new collections facility. The Earth Sciences department and I are currently working on the creation of a facility to house and display specimens from the Suffel, Dana, and other collections within the department. Currently, these collections are stored in a closed tunnel on campus with limited access. The new collections facility is to be housed in the North Campus Building and will contain a large display area and multiple storage rooms for the safe and proper storage of the thousands of rock and mineral specimens within these collections. The timeline for the opening of the facility is still being developed but will likely be in late 2018 - early 2019. Stay tuned for updates regarding progress!

# In Memory Of...



## DR. MICHAEL FLEET

Jan 4, 1938 - Dec 6, 2017

In 1964 he emigrated from England to work at Western in Earth Sciences, teaching mineralogy, crystallography and geochemistry. Over 38 years as a Professor and 14 as an Emeritus, he published two books and hundreds of articles. He liked nothing better than fierce academic debate. Mike had three great passions in his life: his research, his family and Manchester United.

<http://harrisfuneralhome.ca/obits.php?id=1838>

## DR. ROBERT HODDER

March 26, 2017

A field geologist in both the private and academic worlds, he was appointed professor at Western in 1970 and was department chair from 1982-1990. He served as professor emeritus since 1993 and inspired a generation of students who are now leaders in the field. Bob was an outdoor enthusiast and global traveler who remained active and curious until his final days.

<http://yourlifemoments.ca/sitepages/obituary.asp?oid=1012056>

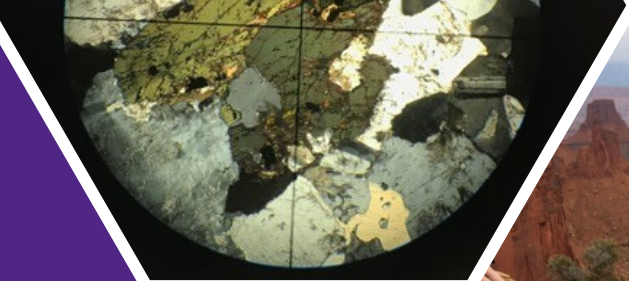


## BRANDON J. PAPP

Brandon was a student in his 4th year of a four year BSc with a Major in Geology. He was a geologist, an athlete, and a kind person to all who knew him. The Brandon J. Papp annual book prize was developed in his honour to be awarded to a graduating student enrolled in a geology module who shows enthusiasm and proficiency in field courses/trips, and who makes a noticeable effort offering guidance to his/her classmates while in the field.

Brandon's parents, Shawn and Barb, accepted Brandon's posthumous degree on June 13th, 2018.





[www.uwo.ca/earth/alumni](http://www.uwo.ca/earth/alumni)



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