



## South Collegiate Alumni Association Fall 2016



# LIONS' PRIDE

*Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae*

## DANCE PROGRAM AT SOUTH - Chapter 2: Still Going Strong...

by **Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)**

It's been 43 years since the first full credit secondary school dance course was implemented at *South* by visionary teacher, **Mary Hamilton (1971-80)**. Since she left in 1980, there have been changes, lots of them, but through them all, the Dance program has remained strong, thanks to the commitment of teachers such as **Betty (Baker) Telford (1976-80 and 1989-99)**, **Fiona Woytowicz (1980-89)** and current Dance teacher, **Allison (Hatton) Gamble**.

When Betty Baker first arrived at *South* in the fall of 1976, two credit courses in Dance were already in place and her educational background had prepared her well to join forces with Mary in developing the Dance program even more. After earning an Honours degree in Physical and Health Education (Dance Major) from U of T in 1968, she began her teaching career with the Toronto Board, teaching Phys. Ed. and facilitating the Dance Club. Adding further to her dance credentials, Betty took summer courses in Dance at York University, as well as studying for several years at the Toronto Dance Theatre Studio (1965-72). After 7 years of teaching at high schools in Toronto, York and Oxford County, Betty was excited to come to a school where dance

wasn't just an extracurricular activity but part of the curriculum.

For the next four years, Betty worked closely with Mary, teaching some Theatre Arts and Dance, but also Phys. Ed, English and even some Science. In 1980, however, both Betty and Mary left *South*, and a new Dance teacher was hired to replace them: **Fiona Woytowicz**. Fiona embraced the opportunity to head up the school's Dance program and did so very capably until 1989, when she left to become the Dance instructor at the newly established Pearson School for the Arts.

In 1985, after working in the Kitchener-Waterloo area for five years, Betty returned to *South*, but with the Dance courses being taught by Fiona, she was asked to teach a variety of other subjects, including Family Studies and French. With Fiona's departure in 1989, however, Betty was more than ready to return to her first love: teaching Dance. Over the next 10 years, until her retirement in 1999, Betty threw herself into all aspects of Dance at *South*, doing the choreography not just for school shows but for fashion shows and other special events in the auditorium. In 1994, she oversaw the implementation of the first Grade 9 Compulsory Integrated Arts Course (which



Betty Baker - Staff photo 1988

had Dance as one of the four components) and served on writing teams for the London Board working on various Dance curriculums, including the first OAC course in 1996. She supervised the Dance Club and also arranged for her Dance students to visit *South's* feeder schools to lead Dance workshops and performances.

I think it's safe to say that the semi-annual **Evenings of Dance** were always two highlights of the school year for Betty. These evenings could be described as the "final course project" for graduating classes who were required to take full responsibility for every aspect of planning and staging a Dance show. Of course, the school shows, the large cast musicals that *South* staged every two years also involved many dance students, as both choreographers and performers: *Bye Bye Birdie*

(1991), *Carousel* (1993), and *Sugar* (1996), to name a few.

One of the students that Betty remembers with a special fondness is **Jenny Carter ('96)** (now Vogelsang). During her time at *South*, Jen took all four dance courses, including the first grade 12 course (1995) and the first OAC course (1996). She also performed in two of the big musicals and in four *Evenings of Dance*, including being one of the featured dancers in the December 1996 event, entitled *Artastray*.

When asked what the Dance program had meant to her, Jen commented, "*The opportunities I had in dance, drama and music at South helped me to gain confidence in myself and gave me an opportunity to discover and celebrate my creativity and uniqueness... I loved how Mrs. Baker was able to make everyone in the class feel equal, even though there was a great difference between our dance experiences and abilities.*"

When asked to share some of her proudest moments, Betty offered the following thoughts: *I always felt the proudest moments occurred during student-choreographed performances when the audience was not able to tell the difference between the*

*Continued on page 2*

more technically experienced students and those who were novices. Other special moments involved those students who pursued a career in dance and would get in touch with me to notify me of their progress and activities.

One such student is London dance professional, **Lacey Smith ('02)**. When the high school program was reduced to 4 years, she found the OAC Dance course was no longer being offered. Arrangements were made, however, for Lacey to complete all the required Dance and Choreography units with a Grade 12 class, while Betty, who had just retired, volunteered to tutor Lacey in all the academic work and assignments from the former OAC course. Now that's making a difference in a student's life!

One final shared memory: *In teaching an appreciation for the art of dance, I always liked students to contemplate the philosophy in this statement by George Bernard Shaw: "You use a glass mirror to see your face; you use works of art to see your soul."*

When Betty Telford retired in January 1999, **Allison Hatton (now Gamble)** was ready to take over the reins of the Dance Program. Having arrived at *South* in the fall, she had had the opportunity to work with Betty for a full semester, team-teaching and job shadowing wherever possible. Also making the transition easier was Betty's incredible generosity. She was "*just wonderful*" said Allison, offering not only her time, but sharing all of the resources she had accumulated over the years.

Allison has always loved to dance. Growing up in London, she took lessons at Dorothy Scruton's Dance Studio. While earning an Honours Kinesiology degree at McMaster, she took whatever dance courses were offered and was a member of the McMaster Dance Company. She also loved sports and was a member of the badminton and wrestling teams. To continue her sports eligibility, she opted to stay on at McMaster to complete a second degree in Drama.

After earning her B.Ed. at Althouse, Allison taught for two years at Sir George Ross before coming to *South* in the fall of 1998. Knowing she wanted to teach dance, she welcomed the chance to come to the school with the oldest and one of the best programs in the city.

Even though Allison says it was relatively easy to step into such a well-developed Dance Program, she has also tried to build on what was there, putting her own personal stamp on it. In 2003, she introduced a credit course called the **South Dance Company**, where students are required to audition for a more performance-oriented branch of the dance curriculum. The "Company" course is offered every other year, in the years that no major musical is being produced. The students accepted into this course are involved in more specialized activities such as workshops with professional choreographers and out-of-town dance trips. They also visit *South's* feeder (elementary) schools to teach dance classes and are responsible for creating and performing in a major Dance show as part of their course credit.

2015-16 was a Dance Company year and the show the students created was called "**Quiet Please**". For this show, each student selected a book and then chose a passage from that book as the inspirational basis for the dance to be created. Then they had to record themselves reading their chosen passages, while Allison helped select a piece of music to fit the mood of each passage. Professional choreographers were brought in to set the pieces, capturing the spirit of both the music and the passage read. One student, for example, chose a selection from *The Great Gatsby* and performed a dance to a piece of music by The Black Eyed Peas. Another student chose a passage from *The Hunger Games*, with music by Alicia Keyes, while another chose *Cinderella*, with music by Kelly Clarkson.

For someone like me who attended *South* when they didn't even offer Theatre Arts courses, let alone Dance, this all sounds incredible... and wonderful! Not much wonder that Allison described the show as a "*joy to create*".

There have been other "firsts" under Allison's leadership, as well. In 2004, she collaborated with the Music and Drama Departments to introduce a **Musical Theatre** credit course, which forms the backbone of the musical shows produced every two years. Allison has choreographed every one of these musicals, most recently, **In the Heights**, in 2015.

Allison Gamble loves her job. She speaks of how the energy and creativity of her students "*feed her*". Every day is different and she embraces every one. She tells her students that the dance room is just an empty box and challenges and inspires them to find "*their artistic voices*" in order to "*fill the box*".

Allison's job, however, isn't without its challenges. Dropping enrolment at *South* has resulted in cuts, not only to budgets but also to the number of teaching lines. Unfortunately, as too often happens, arts courses are targeted for cuts, being deemed less "essential". Allison is working hard, however, to maintain the strength of the Dance program, relying on fundraising to try to make up for the budgetary shortfall. Another challenge presented itself when music teacher and choral director, **Kevin Wild**, left the school in 2015. With no one to fill his role as music director, Allison is now responsible for both the music and dance components of the school shows.

Undaunted and determined, Allison is currently working on **South's next school show**. It's a song and dance show called **FOSSE**, a 1999 Tony Award winning musical that is a revue of several well-known works of celebrated dancer/choreographer/director, Bob Fosse. *Cabaret*, *Pajama Game*, *Chicago*, and *All That Jazz* are just a few of the shows that this musical draws upon in its 20 musical numbers. The 25 students in this fall's Musical Theatre course are busy rehearsing the show for its January performance dates. Watch for future announcements regarding ticket sales. Why not consider going? I know I am.



Allison (Hatton) Gamble  
Staff photo - 2016

# INTRODUCING SOUTH'S NEW ADMINISTRATORS...

## ***PRINCIPAL... Doriana Rosati***

Born and raised in London, Doriana graduated from Clarke Road S.S. in 1990 and from Sir Wilfrid Laurier University's Business Program in 1994. Her co-op work placements provided her with a wide variety of employment experiences: the marketing department of the Federal Ministry of Correctional Services, Union Gas and Ernst & Young (Chartered Accountants). Following graduation from Laurier, Doriana worked in Toronto, first with Andersen Consulting and then with Ogilvy & Mather, an advertising agency. In 1996, however, she decided on a change in career path and enrolled at Althouse College. Her first teaching position was with the Durham Board in Whitby, ON, but family reasons brought her back home to London in 2000, where she found a position teaching Marketing, Law, and Entrepreneurship at Westminster S.S. In 2004, Doriana became a Learning Coordinator (History & Social Studies) for the TVDSB, a position which she said gave her a valuable *"new perspective on the administrative challenges"* in education. In 2009, following a maternity leave and the birth of her twins, Sofia and Owen, she decided to return to the classroom, accepting a position as History Department Head at Oakridge S.S. Three years later, Doriana became a Vice-Principal, first at Lucas and then at Saunders.



Now, less than twenty years after entering the teaching profession, Doriana is delighted to be embarking on her first principalship here at *South*. She has found the atmosphere in the school to be a very positive one and spoke highly of the friendly welcome she has received from both staff and students. There is a strong sense of community here, a *"settled feeling"*, she said, that has allowed her to fit in very quickly. Seeing the school as a *"professional learning community"*, Doriana has embraced a collaborative approach, *"soliciting the voices"* of the staff to assist her in the planning and administrative process.

The SCAA would like to add their voice in warmly welcoming you to *South*, Doriana!

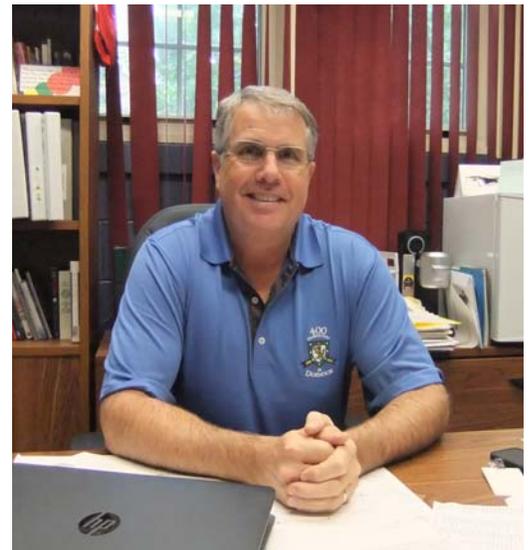
## ***VICE-PRINCIPAL... Richard Pincombe***

A life-long Londoner, Richard assumed the role of *South's* new VP last February. He arrived well qualified for the role, having served in five previous administrative positions: Vice-Principal at Parkside Collegiate (St. Thomas) and Ingersoll Collegiate, then Principal at West Elgin, after which he chose to return to London and the VP position at Banting S.S.

Growing up in the Westmount area of London, Richard attended Sherwood Fox P.S. and Saunders S.S., before earning his B.A. in Phys. Ed. and History at Western. He admits that he started Althouse not fully committed to a career in teaching, but after serving as a volunteer athletic coach that year, he realized he had found his "niche". Not only was he good at relating to high school students, but he loved being involved. His first teaching position was at Beal S.S., teaching and coaching (basketball, football and volleyball) from 1983 to '89, working with renowned coach and *South* alumnus, **Dan Colfax ('62)**. That was followed by teaching jobs at Lucas, Thames and Laurier, before he returned to Beal in 1997 for his final four years in the classroom.

Like Doriana, Richard says he is very happy to be at *South*, which he describes as a "serious" school in that most of the students know the value of a good education and will do what it takes to achieve that goal. Like any teenagers, they want to have fun and push the boundaries a little, but not at the expense of their academic success. He is impressed with the number of students at the school who are independent and confident enough to want to be leaders, and wishes to do whatever he can to encourage that leadership potential.

Richard is clearly a student-focused administrator, who relates to both students and colleagues in a positive, good-natured and supportive way. I know he is a welcome addition to *South's* staff and the SCAA wishes him all the best!



## SCHOOL NEWS ...

### South Honours New Grads: Commencement 2016



The annual *South* Commencement took place on October 6, 2016. This year our new director, **Heidi Hamber ('87)**, who is also a current *South* parent, attended the ceremony on behalf on the Alumni Association to bring greetings to our newest members and announce the winner of the 75th Anniversary Award. Prior to the ceremony, graduates were asked to fill out a form with contact information so they could be entered into our alumni database. Despite its comparatively small student population, the accomplishments of this graduating class remain impressively high. Sixty-four *Ontario Scholarships* were awarded for a minimum average of 80% and twenty-three of these received *SCAA Alumni Awards* for a minimum average of 90%. **Emily Moyer** won the *Scholar of the Year* award (also sponsored by the SCAA), along with 15 other awards! **Ian Currie** and **Cole Fleet** followed Emily in the list of top academic award winners. The *South Anniversary Award* (SCAA sponsored) is voted on by the graduating students and given to a student for participation in sports and other extracurricular activities who has at least an 80% average. This year's winner was **Neila Salkic**. The *Carla Mills Cameron Award* was presented to **Emma Thomson**, with honourable mention given to **Rachel DuCharme**. Class Valedictorian was **Gabrielle Gillespie** and Master of Ceremonies was once again **Todd Gamble ('95) (current staff)**.

### 75th Anniversary Award Winner: Rhonda Milton

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award is different from the other awards given out at *South's* Commencement because it honours a staff member rather than a student. Created by the Alumni Association to commemorate the school's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2003, the award's stated purpose is to "*recognize a staff member who has contributed significantly to making South a quality school.*"

Every year several worthy candidates are nominated by their fellow staff members and every year the Alumni Association Executive has the difficult task of having to narrow the list down to a single award winner.

This year's winner, **Rhonda Milton (1996 - 2016)**, is the 14<sup>th</sup> name to be added to the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award plaque. One of her nominators described her as "*always willing to help at whatever she can*", a person who "*works tirelessly on her courses.*" Another nominator commented on "*the countless hours spent contacting parents and accommodating the needs of her students*", a teacher who "*can be found working in the staff room well before the morning bell and long after the students have left for the day*". A third used the words "*innovative, intelligent and dedicated*", praising Rhonda's "*enthusiasm and the depth of her knowledge*"... "*an outstanding science teacher*".

Rhonda's extracurricular activities over the past 20 years included serving on various board initiatives involving the science curriculum, Science Olympics (city level), Literacy Committee, Social Committee and volunteering at SARI (Special Abilities Riding Institute). Some of her favourite teaching memories include "*teaching new classes to light and use Bunsen burners, helping students learn through decorating cookies to represent mitosis, using computer simulations, dissecting...*"

Her final thought: "*Considering the terrific staff at South, it is a great honour to receive this award!*"



### South Grad Get-together in Ottawa

Following the suggestion of SCAA President, Knute Dohnberg, **Paul Hession ('65)** organized a get-together for *South* Grads living in the Ottawa area on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Paul suggested we meet in a local bar, but as my hearing isn't sharp in boisterous environments, I offered the use of my home for the event. Attendees clearly had fond memories of their days at LSCI. The conversation ran to hijinks and favourite teachers, and "whatever happened to good ol'...".

Participants included **Brad Munro ('60)**, **Jay Hunt ('60)**, **Bjorn Dohnberg ('63)**, **James Palmer ('65)**, **Tim Leah ('66)** and **David Mulcaster ('66)** and **Peg (Parnell) Herbert ('68)**. Many of us hadn't seen each other for fifty years and it was interesting catching up on what people had done over the years and what had brought them to Ottawa.

Several other *South* alumni in the Ottawa region, including Pat (Hession) Bednarz ('67), Ray Jacyna ('62), Sam Short ('65), Kathy Treehuba ('65), and brothers Don ('60) and Jim Wigle ('67) were pleased to be contacted but were unable to attend.

A good time was had by all and it's certainly worth doing again.

#### Ian McKercher ('65)

*Ian's first novel, The Underling, was published in 2012. His second novel, The Incrementalist, was "launched" this October.*



Ian McKercher & Paul Hession meeting for coffee after the event



## ALUMNI IN THE NEWS....

**JANE PEPINO ('65)** was recently appointed Vice Chair of the **Governing Council of the University of Toronto**. A lawyer since 1973, Jane has been a Senior Partner at Aird & Berlis LLP, a prestigious Toronto law firm, since 1982, and the founder of the firm's Municipal and Land Use Planning Group. An alumna of Victoria College, U of T and Osgoode Hall, Jane's curriculum vitae contains a long and impressive list of accomplishments and special honours. Among these are being named one of the Top 25 Women Lawyers in Canada by *Lexpert Magazine*. She has also been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in Canada* in the fields of Municipal Law and Real Estate Law. She is a Member of the Order of Canada (2000) and winner of the Canadian Urban Institute's David Crombie Award (2011). Jane also has a long list of community involvements, including serving two terms as the Chair of Women's College Hospital, a Board Member for Habitat for Humanity, Past Member of the Ontario Human Rights Commission and Member of Chair's Advisory Council, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, to name just a few. An alumna of distinction, to be sure, and well deserving of her most recent honour. Congratulations, Jane!

**MATT GIFFEN ('85)**, who has been reported on several times in the newsletter, usually in connection with his incredible generosity in funding improvements to *South's* football field, has launched a completely new career with the founding of **Bench Brewing Company** ([www.benchbrewing.com](http://www.benchbrewing.com)). According to his website profile, farming and country life have always been a passion and *"after 25 years working in big cities, I knew it was time to start following my passion... That really was my inspiration for Bench – I wanted to build a unique craft brewery that produces remarkable small batch beers in the heart of Ontario's wine country."*

Two craft beers are currently on the market: Ball's Falls Session IPA and Twenty Mile Farmhouse Ale. Unfortunately, they are only available in the GTA/Niagara area. Bench Brewing's future home, the historic Maple Grove Public School in Beamsville, will be open to the public in early 2017.



**ANDREW RAMSDEN ('94)**, general manager of **Ramsden Industries**, is proud to be part of the business founded 70 years ago in his grandfather's garage on Colborne Street. The company's aluminum castings plant on Oakland Avenue, which produces a variety of aluminum products for the automotive, industrial and defence industries, is in the process of completing a \$6.1 million expansion project that has increased productivity and allowed them to create about 14 new jobs. Andrew, who started working in the plant part-time as a teenager, has a biology degree from Guelph ('98) and an MBA from Western ('04). After a stint in management consulting and working in BC, Andrew rejoined the company in 2009, becoming a part-owner with his father, Bob.

**GREGG ('98)** and **JUSTIN WOLFE ('00)**, co-owners of the popular *Early Bird* and *Rock au Taco* restaurants on Talbot Street, have expanded their entrepreneurial efforts into Wortley Village. Their newest collaboration, **Wolfe of Wortley**, opened up in early July and has been doing a brisk business ever since. Their goal was to create a restaurant with a "big-city" feel in "their old stomping grounds". While some of the fare may seem exotic, *The Wolfe* features many ingredients sourced from local farmers, and the menu changes frequently, based on what is seasonally available. Given the number of very complimentary online reviews, it looks like the Wolfe brothers have launched another successful business. ([www.wolfeofwortley.com](http://www.wolfeofwortley.com)) (Open 5PM Tuesday to Sunday)



**VAUGHN MARTIN ('05)** was one of five new members named last April by the Western Mustangs Champions Club to their **Wall of Champions**. Vaughn, who won two Yates cups and was a Vanier Cup finalist playing football with the Mustangs, was drafted by the San Diego Chargers in 2009. While his professional career has been hampered unfortunately by injuries, Vaughn was thrilled to be honoured by Western and commented about what being a Mustang meant to him: *"It's a family. It's a big purple family.... All the things I've gone through in my life... It hasn't been easy and athletics as a whole has been a refuge."*

**DAN KNIGHT ('07)**, a former member of the SCAA executive, is program administrator for London and District Junior Achievement. Dan, who got involved with JA in 2005 when he was a student at *South*, and now owns and operates his own event planning business ([www.day2knightevents.com](http://www.day2knightevents.com)) has nothing but praise for JA's Company Program: *"It's great for them (high school students) to see what a real life business is all about."*

**MARION WOODMAN (staff, 1954-74)** and with her late husband Ross Woodman, were honoured at the **Art Gallery of Ontario** last June. A special private gathering celebrated their *"contributions to art in London, donations of works to the AGO and their lives in the arts"*. Although Marion's frail health prevented her from attending the event, friends and colleagues paid tribute to the Woodmans as *"tireless supporters of the arts"*. The most recent donation of artwork to the AGO was in 2014: a set of paintings by the late London icon, Jack Chambers, who painted a highly regarded portrait of the couple in 1961. The June celebration marked the opening of a summer exhibit at the AGO featuring a selection of works by London artists donated by the Woodman family.

Portrait of Marion and Ross Woodman painted by Jack Chambers (1961)



# IN MEMORIAM

## Mabel (Williams) Williamson ('27)

passed away peacefully with family at her side, in her 107th year. Loving mother of Murray (Geri) Williamson and Daryle (Ronald) Pryde. Dear sister of Alma McInnes, of Rochester, Michigan, and Marilyn (Williams) Hale ('53) of London. Predeceased by brothers John and Richard and sister Gladys (Williams) Robertson ('31). Also loved by her five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. One of Mabel's caregivers at Westmount Gardens posted the following: "I had the pleasure of taking care of Mabel for three years.... Such an inspiration to everyone around her.



I will always remember her." A long-time friend added "Mabel was an inspiration to everyone who met and knew her.... she leaves a legacy of love and wisdom." (Editor's Note: I interviewed Mabel for an article in the Spring 2014 issue. Glad I had the chance to meet this remarkable lady.)

## Dr. E. Lawrence (Larry) Barton ('30)

passed away Feb. 8, 2016 in his 102nd year in St. Catharines, ON. He graduated in medicine from UWO in 1937 and practised as a pathologist in Ontario until 1984. Predeceased by his wife, Helen and son Robert, Larry is survived by daughter Barbara Newport, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Grace Lavern (nee Shafer) Cooper ('32)

died peacefully July 5, 2016, age 101, at London Health Sciences Centre. She is survived by her son Paul, three grandchildren, whose nickname for her was "TBT" ("tiny but tough") and four great grandchildren. Lavern's family lived in London during her teen years but were forced to move back to Windsor during the Depression. She met her husband, Ted, speed-skating (an activity she continued to do into her 80's)



In 1997, Lavern moved back to London to be nearer her son. She lived on her own and looked after her own financial affairs until age 98, when she moved into the Waverley Retirement Residence. She will be remembered for "her feisty spirit, her love of telling a joke, and her enjoyment of a rum and coke...but only one!"

## Barbara Anne (Caldwell) Done ('45)

passed away peacefully at McCormick Home on Apr. 28, 2013, in her 87th year. Beloved wife of the late Clarence Done. Loving mother of Michael (Gayle) Done, David (Jo-Anne) Done and Steven (Brenda) Done. Proud grandmother of three and great grandmother of three. Dear sister of Winnifred (Caldwell) Coles ('44). Predeceased by her brothers Joseph Caldwell and William Caldwell ('39) and her sister Lois Eiler. Before she died, Barbara provided a memory that's featured in a small pamphlet for Canada's 150th, [www.londoncelebrates.ca](http://www.londoncelebrates.ca). "I remember when on a warm sunny day in May 1945, I had just returned from lunch in my first afternoon class, an announcement came over the loudspeaker that the war in Europe was over. A great number of students headed from South Collegiate to the downtown corner of Richmond and Dundas to celebrate the peace in Europe. We hugged, kissed, sang and danced with friends and strangers."

## John (Jack) Adams Steadman ('49)

passed away at home on Sept. 19, 2015, with his family at his side. Missed by his high school sweetheart and wife of 67 years, Dorothy, and by daughter Janis (David) Green of Belleville. Predeceased by his son John. Survived by his sister, Lynne Price (Roy), two grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Predeceased by two siblings: Janet and Tom. Jack loved spending time at the family cottage in Bayfield. After starting his career as a Lineman for Bell Canada in 1951, Jack and his family were transferred to Belleville in 1963 where he took a management position with Bell, until retiring in 1983.

## Donald Lawrence McDonald ('51)

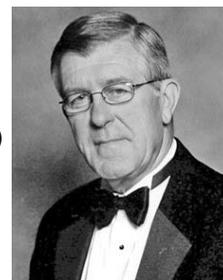
passed away peacefully in Belwood, ON, on April 3, 2015, with his family by his side. He is survived by his loving wife of 60 years, Judith, and their three children, David, James, Catharine and their families, and his brother Gerry and his family. He is sadly missed by all whose lives he touched.

**Robert M. (Bob) Vick ('53)** passed away Apr. 26, 2015, age 82, in Dunnville, ON. Beloved husband of Anne-Louise (Johanson) ('53) and father to Macy Anne Young, Michael Vick and David Vick (Elizabeth). Much loved grandfather of five and great grandfather of three. Brother-in-law to the late James Johanson ('70). Bob was the head of the Science Dept. at Cayuga Secondary School for many years

and coached the Senior Boy's Basketball and Tennis Teams at C.S.S., as well as the Cayuga Girl's/Ladies Softball Team. During his retirement he enjoyed collecting antiques and stamps.

**Mary (Agnes) Hontos ('54)** passed away March 26, 2016 at University Hospital. Lovingly remembered by daughter Mary Ellen DiFazio ('88) and husband Steve, of Georgetown. Proud Grandma of Damian and Drake. Sister of Georgia Velos of Toronto, the late Elizabeth Condos and Dr. John William Agnos. Mary dedicated her life to nursing at Victoria Hospital for close to 40 years. She enjoyed cottage life at Port Stanley and tending to her many flower gardens. For many years, she was a volunteer at Parkwood Hospital where she enjoyed working with the Veterans. She will be fondly remembered for her "quick wit, vast knowledge and wonderful conversations she could have with anyone."

**Donald Bere ('56)** passed away July 2, 2016. He is survived by his high school sweetheart and wife of 56 years, Sharon (Stoneham) ('57).



Described as "a great dad and friend" of Brent ('83) (Wendy), Laural Chipczak ('84), Scott ('85) (Lindi), and Janet (Jon) and "adoring Papa" to Mitchell and Madison Bere, Brooklyn and Jackson Bere, and Liam and Caitlin Stone. Also survived by his sister Joan Sapone (Umberto). Don was a partner at Stevenson & Hunt for many years and past president of Forest City Kiwanis Club.

## John Duncan MacArthur ('56)

passed away peacefully, Apr. 24, 2016 in Hamilton, ON, in his 79th year, after a battle with cancer. Dear husband of Ilka and father of Donny, Debbie, Billy, John Jr., and Suzie. Also missed by three grandchildren and one great grandchild. Predeceased by much loved sister Joan (MacArthur) Thornton ('59). John enjoyed a successful 30+ year career at Stelco. After retiring in 1992, he enjoyed extensive travel, including an emotional visit to Vimy Ridge to honour his father. He looked forward to winters spent in Florida. He was also a lifetime member of YMCA. John will be remembered for his "great sense of humour, telling endless stories and jokes".

### **Mary Elizabeth (McKinley)**

**Blackstock ('66)** passed away July 17, 2016 in the company of her family, after a short battle with cancer. She is survived by husband Dick, her three children Sarah (Juana), Adam (Hilary) and Emily (Ron), and grandchildren, Isa, Nica, Maya, Rylan & Nate. Sister to Rick (Carol) and the late **David McKinley ('56)** (Jeanie). Aunt to Shannon, Susie, Julie Anne, Maia, Rob and the late Mark. Despite the challenges she struggled with over the years, family and long-time friends will remember Mary's creativity, individualism and passion, as well as her love of family, books and dogs, her "*Best Four-Footed Friends Forever (BFFs)*".

**David Kenneth Miller ('66)** died in palliative care at Toronto East General Hospital on Feb. 17, 2016, after a lengthy coma following a heart attack. David was a member of the *South* basketball team throughout his high school career. After graduating from Waterloo Lutheran University (now Laurier), he went on to earn an MBA at Queens University.

David lived most of his life in Toronto, where he worked as a bicycle courier for over 25 years. Beloved partner of Jen Esplin. Dear brother of **Maureen (Miller) Tipping ('63)**, and **Catherine Miller ('70)**. A master story-teller with a keen sense of humour, David will be missed by his family and many friends in Toronto and London.

**Kerry Ferris ('67)** passed away at University Hospital on Sept. 20, 2016, age 67. Dear mother of Alyosha Ferris (Rianne). Also missed by sister Kathryn Ferris (Blanche), brother **Pat Ferris ('65)** and sister-in-law **Gayle (Keys) Ferris ('68)**, as well as her nieces and nephew. Columnist, James Reaney described the London artist as "*a great spirit*" whose works "*are among the most beautiful & spiritual in all the London art community*".

#### **Memorial Exhibition:**

A special exhibition of Kerry's work is being held at **Westland Gallery** in Wortley Village, from **November 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>**.

**Brooke Charles Lionel Nelles ('68)** passed away on June 5th, 2016 at Victoria

Hospital in his 66th year. Beloved son of the late **Mary (Hoare) ('34)** and Archdeacon Lionel Nelles. Cherished brother of **Dr. Ruth Nelles Fink ('63)** (Paul). Loving uncle to Ashley Carra (Daniel) and Thomas Fink. Also mourned by long-time friend, Donna Lamb-Gunness and step-daughters Catharine Veinot (Sam) and Brittany Veinot (Dave). Brooke was a Master bridge player, a veteran of many tournaments and contributed greatly to the London bridge community.

**Alexander Korakianitis ('81)** passed away unexpectedly at University Hospital on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in his 54<sup>th</sup> year. Beloved father of Kayleigh and Mark Korakianitis. Loving soul-mate of Gail Copeland and her daughters Beth and Emily. Loving son of Athena, brother of **Nikolas Korakianitis ('88)** and uncle of Jackson and Maia. Missed by his many friends and extended family members.



**Iris Turcott ('72)** passed away in Toronto on Sept. 22, 2016, after a short battle with cancer. In her role as theatre dramaturge, Iris worked with many of Canada's most prominent playwrights, including Brad Fraser, Judith Thompson, Joan MacLeod, Tomson Highway, Daniel MacIvor, Robert Chafe and Ronnie Burkett. When anyone unfamiliar with the term "dramaturgy" would ask what she actually did, Iris would say she "*helps people make theatre. I work with writers from conceiving an idea, right down to production.*"

Newfoundland native, Robert Chafe, whose play, *The Colony of Unrequited Dreams*, is making its Grand Theatre debut this March, offered this high praise: "*Iris was the purest artist I'd ever met. Money truly didn't matter to her. Recognition didn't matter to her. Story did. Being true to an audience did....She demanded emotional honesty. She demanded engagement.*"

Playwright and master puppeteer, Ronnie Burkett, also reflected on Iris's theatrical legacy: "*She wasn't just a dramaturge fulfilling a job like an editor; she had her own philosophical and spiritual view of what theatre and language should be, and what they could do to an audience. With Iris, you always knew you were dealing with a giant brain and a giant heart, and a giant investment in the bigger idea of what theatre is...*"

Iris's love of theatre goes back to her London roots, performing in school shows at *South* with teachers like **Fraser Boa (1964-72)**, as well as in community theatre. After high school, she trained at the City Literary Institute in London, England, before completing an Honours Degree in English and Drama at Western, and a B. Ed. specializing in theatre at the University of Toronto.

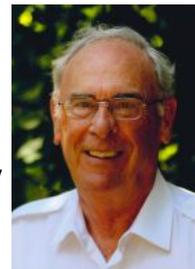
During her impressive career, Iris taught at the National Theatre School, and was co-founder and co-artistic director of Playbill Theatre. She spent 17 years as company dramaturge at Canadian Stage. She also worked with the National Arts Centre, and was involved in several international co-commissions, including the Royal Exchange in Manchester, and Dublin's Abbey Theatre. In 2008, she was awarded the George Luscombe Award for mentorship in theatre and in 2013, she was selected as Playwrights Guild of Canada's honorary award recipient for her devotion to Canadian theatre and her work with Canadian plays and playwrights.

Iris is survived by her son, Merrick Anderson, brothers **Tim ('70)** and **Michael ('71) Turcott**, and her nieces and nephews.



**George Alfred Robbins (staff, 1953-61)** passed away in London on Oct. 31, 2016 in his 95th year. Survived by son Eric Robbins (Jacqueline) of Mississauga, daughter Lynda Robbins of Victoria, BC and grandsons Nathanael and Willem Robbins. During his career, George taught in Paris, Kitchener-Waterloo and in London at *South*, Central, and Sir Frederick Banting S.S. For fourteen years prior to retirement, he was an Area Superintendent of Schools with Middlesex County. An avid lawn bowler, George became a Canadian Champion and represented Canada at the 1974 Commonwealth Games in New Zealand. Following his retirement, he also enjoyed bicycling, travelling, mystery tours, cottage visits and meals with special friends.

**Robert (Bob) Winston Jamieson (staff, 1992-98)** passed away at London's University Hospital on July 23, 2016, in his 76th year. Deeply missed by his wife of 46 years, **Sandy (Scott) ('60)**, and his two daughters, Martha and Lisa. Proud "Pops" of Peter and Natalie. Loving brother of Maurice (Eleanor) and Mary (John) Thornton. After graduating from the Phys. Ed. program at Western in 1965, Bob began a long career of coaching, teaching and mentoring secondary school students. He had "*a profound impact on many young people with his positive attitude, tremendous work ethic and sense of fair play*". Upon retirement, Bob and Sandy travelled extensively. He loved summers at Bruce Beach and was a proud piper with the Kincardine Scottish Pipe Band. "*His stories and sharp wit kept people laughing at the tennis court, golf course and on the ball diamond.*"



# UPDATE ON SCAA ACTIVITIES



## A New Way to Support Your Alumni Association... E-transfers:

So you do your banking online? You haven't written a cheque in ages? You've been frustrated because you haven't been able to help SCAA financially? NOW YOU CAN!

It is now possible for the Alumni Association to receive e-transfers.

Send contributions to [DONATESCAA@gmail.com](mailto:DONATESCAA@gmail.com), naming the recipient as South Collegiate Alumni Association.

For a security question, use "What is South's mascot?" And the answer is "LION".

## Website Update:

The SCAA Web site needs to be revamped, and we want alumni input into what you find useful on the existing Web site, what is missing, and what we don't need. If you have five minutes or so to spare, please take a look at the site and e-mail your comments to [contact@southalumni.ca](mailto:contact@southalumni.ca) by the end of the year. And while you're doing that, check the list of Class Reps ...

## Class Reps:

Does your year have a class rep? If not, then please consider volunteering. It's not a difficult job, but a worthwhile one...

## New Director still needed:

The vacancy on the SCAA Executive has still not been filled. As indicated in the spring issue, we are looking for a volunteer with sufficient technical skills to be able to help out with upgrading and maintaining our website as well as keeping our alumni contact information service up-to-date. Neither the position nor the tasks involved would be onerous. Executive meetings are normally bi-monthly and only during the school year.

If interested yourself, or if you can suggest someone we can contact re the above, please contact SCAA President Knute Dohnberg at (519) 670.6021 or at [knute@primus.ca](mailto:knute@primus.ca).



## Directory of Entrepreneurial Alumni

Promote your business and support those owned by fellow South alumni listed in our [free directory](#) (Accessed on the alumni website homepage)

As a contact, you may email [directory manager Sandy Ross](mailto:scaa-dir@sandyross.ca) ('79) (scaa-dir@sandyross.ca) or call her at **519.871.word (9673)**.

## Support the Alumni Association!

If you enjoy this newsletter and enjoy logging on to the alumni website, help us defray some of the costs.

**Become a sponsor for just \$20 a year.**

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E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Graduating year \_\_\_\_\_

**Send cheques, payable to the South Collegiate Alumni Association, to the mailing address in the box on the lower left side of this page. THANK YOU!**

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