



South Collegiate Alumni Association
Fall 2011

LIONS' PRIDE

Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae



Who Says You Can't Go Home Again...?

by **Sandy Ross** ('79) of *Word's Worth*

The heavens beamed warm autumn skies on the enthusiastic 1,500+ people who attended South Collegiate's 2011 Homecoming on Friday, October 7. Student Council's BBQ fed the masses, as we discovered burgers are great appetizers before Thanksgiving turkeys. And the SCAA's Tailgate Pub hit capacity, running out of libations just in time for the bar's 11:00 PM close.

Cast of Hundreds



This reporter, who worked the stands selling 50/50 tickets, learned many in the crowd were proud parents of players. Some were neighbours, enjoying the excitement at South and a 20 Celsius evening under the lights. Others in a lawn-chair contingency gathered at the Tecumseh playground, watching over young ones on monkey bars in between shouts for our garnet and grey. And current students filled the length of the field, hanging out with classmates and cheering our teams, likely oblivious to the nos-

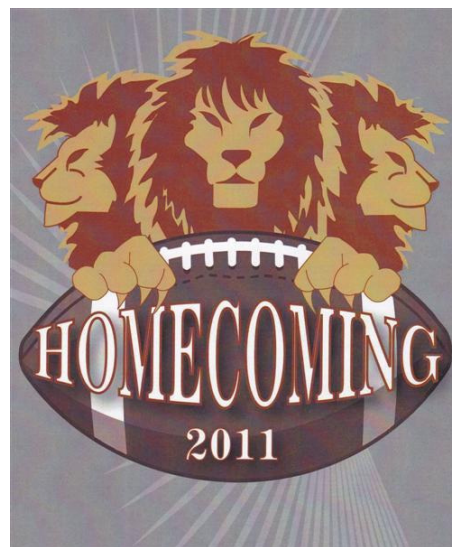
talgia wafting over them from former students who lined the upper ramp. Adding to that nostalgia was former Ottawa Rough Rider and Grey Cup MVP, **John Glassford** ('72), who returned to South's centre field nearly forty years later to deliver our ceremonial kick-off. (See profile p. 2)

Game Face

South Lions won both junior and senior games, and appreciated H.B. Beal Raiders' spirited competition. Engaging colour commentary was provided by **Jay Menard** ('92), and half-time entertainment featured singers and current students, **Emily** and **Alex Nunez**, as well as the **South Dance Company**, **South Dance Team**, and **Dance Steps**. Money was won, too! Our SCAA split \$576 from 50/50 tickets with Gerry Minke, father of Senior Lions' #55, Joshua Drenth-Minke.

And Giving Thanks

Since our evening together heralded in Thanksgiving weekend, it seems fitting we should recognize sponsors who made it possible: **Turner's Drugstore**, **Day 2 Knight Events** and **Smith Fruit Company Ltd.** Also, close to twenty alumni volunteers worked the event itself, as well as referees, janitors, student gophers, light erectors, and others. All our efforts must have created entertainment value, since local media gave us white space and airwaves! Thanks to **Mike Bloxam** ('01) for nudging coverage in SNAP magazine (see November's feature), The X (radio Fanshawe), London Community News, The Londoner, and London Free Press. We sure enjoyed a generous 15 minutes of fame.



The reason our Homecomings – one of only four by Canadian high schools on Wikipedia's list! – have been so well orchestrated is our leader, **Dan Knight** ('07), (www.day2knightevents.com). Please join us in recognizing Dan's magnificent contributions, patience, and vision as he now, understandably, moves on from our Homecomings to bring his passion to other projects. (He is, among other things, our 85th Reunion chair). He leaves on the heels of a smash hit, noting "another great success bringing back lots of alumni for a fun filled event".

And here's another marker of an event with impact. Among those enjoying the festivities was a South parent who's coincidentally with Tourism London, who remarked that we've "created an event that Tourism London considers a vital part of bringing sport tourism to London". How's that for building "Lions' Pride"?



L to R: Colour commentator, Jay Menard ('92), student performers, Emily & Alex Nunez and Homecoming Chair, Dan knight ('07)



L to R: Bente Rowe ('77), Randy MacLeod, husband of Darla (Pryde) MacLeod ('74), and Sue Simpson ('74)



L to R: Andrew McGregor ('85), South benefactor, Matt Giffen ('85) and John Watson ('85)



L to R: Homecoming Volunteers, Summer (Jones) Burton ('92), Rebecca Carruthers ('74) and Lynne Smith-Hevey ('74)

HOMECOMING PHOTOS by Geoff McMurray ('80). Geoff, whose father, **Bill ('49)**, uncle, **Neil ('56)**, and son **Riley ('08)** all played for the South Football Lions, is a photographer who works with local media outlets, including *SNAP* and *The Londoner*. Check out Geoff's website: www.geoffreymcmurray.com. Thanks again, Geoff!

John Glassford ('72) - All-Star Football Alumnus

South was privileged to welcome back alumnus, **John Glassford**, to perform the ceremonial kick-off before the senior game at this year's Homecoming.

John was a middle linebacker and fullback for the Lions from 1967 to 1971, leading them to the London Conference Senior Final against Westminster SS in 1970. He went on to play football for Laurier U, where he played on their Yates Cup winning team in 1973.

In 1976, he was drafted by the CFL, playing first for Saskatchewan, and then Ottawa. In Ottawa's 1981 Grey Cup game against the heavily favoured Edmonton Eskimos, John helped the Rough Riders come to within three points of victory, and was named **Outstanding Defensive Player** of the game.

In 1991, John was named to Laurier's Golden Hawk Hall of Fame, and last spring was named to their football **Team of the Century**, comprised of the school's thirty-three greatest football players of all time.

John, who retired from the CFL in 1982, now lives in Ingersoll and owns Glassford Chrysler.



75th Anniversary Award Winner: Allison Gamble

For the past nine years, the SCAA has been presenting this award to "recognize a staff member who has contributed significantly to making South a quality school". Every year we have been impressed by the candidates nominated, inspired by their commitment and service to this school, and this year's winner, **Allison Gamble**, is certainly as worthy a candidate as anyone previously honoured. Nominated by four different staff members, she was described as a person who "loves South and loves teaching". One nominator referred to her "great positive personality", while another made reference to her "tireless work" with the Musical Theatre program.

Although still a relatively young teacher, having arrived at South in the fall of 1998, Allison has dedicated herself to being a positive force within the school. In her first year, as a member of the Dance Department*, she developed an original performing group called "**The Fly Girls**" which continues to this day. The following year, she became department head, and over the last dozen years has expanded the annual **Evening of Dance**, showcasing the talents and activities of South's dance students. In 2003, Allison introduced a credit course called the **South Dance Company**, where students are required to audition to be accepted into a specialized performance-oriented branch of the dance curriculum. In 2004, she collaborated with the Music and Drama departments to introduce a **Musical Theatre** credit course, which now forms the backbone of the very successful musical shows produced at South every two years. Since 2003, Allison has choreographed every one of these musicals, most recently **Beauty and the Beast** in 2011.



Working hard to enrich the experiences of her students, Allison has arranged numerous field trips to out-of-town performances and workshops, as well as in-school workshops featuring guest choreographers.

In addition to all of these dance related activities, Allison still finds the time to coach the cross country and badminton teams, while at home, she and husband, **Todd Gamble ('95)**, History teacher and Head of South's Academy Program, are busy raising three young sons.

Clearly, Allison is an incredible teacher, an asset to the school, and someone whose accomplishments we can all feel proud of. She is, as one nominator stated, simply "awesome".

*Note: South's Dance Department was established in 1971, the first such program in an Ontario high school.

by **Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)** and **Pete Telford (Staff 1978-98)**

Commencement

Once again, South's annual fall Commencement Ceremony was held on the Thursday before Thanksgiving - October 6th.

163 graduates were recognized and welcomed as new members in the Alumni Association, with **Camila Houssian** accepting the position of 2011 Class Representative. SCAA President, **Pete Telford**, presented the 75th Anniversary Award to staff member **Allison Gamble** (article above). Alumni Awards were also presented to the 27 students who earned a minimum average of 90%. **Andrew Case** was the **Scholar of the Year** award winner, while **Basmah El-Aloul** won the **Scholarship and Participation** award.



Congratulations to the 2011 graduates!

INTRODUCING SOUTH'S NEW ADMINISTRATORS...

PRINCIPAL.... Catherine Davidson

Catherine completed all her post-secondary education at UWO, earning an honours degree in Science in 1986. That same year she was awarded an NSERC grant for a botanical research project. In 1987, Catherine completed her B. Ed., followed by an M. Ed. in 1993.

After teaching in Bowmanville for her first two years, Catherine moved back to London, where she taught science and math at Oakridge, Saunders and Thames. Her first vice-principalship was at Central, followed by a second one at SDCl in Strathroy. Last February, she came to South as VP, and was appointed principal last June, after the retirement of Larry Schneider.

Outside of the classroom, Catherine is married and the mother of two teenaged boys.

Welcome to South, Catherine!



VICE-PRINCIPAL.... Todd Woollings ('89)

South's new VP has a strong connection to both the school and the Old South community. He grew up on Briscoe Street, graduating from Wortley PS in 1984 and LSCI in 1989. His father, **Marty Woollings**, was the head of South's English department during that period as well (1987-92).

After earning a combined honours degree in English and Politics at King's College, UWO, Todd completed his B. Ed. and M. Ed. at the University of Toronto. He taught at four different London area high schools during the next 14 years, the last 7½ as English department head, first at Clarke Road SS, and then at Medway. For the past 3½ years, he was vice-principal at IDCl in Ingersoll.

Now, after an absence of 22 years, Todd is back at South, and happy to be here. He says that he's "*loving it*", that it's "*great to come back 'home'!*" The students, staff and community have been so welcoming."

The SCAA is pleased to welcome Todd back too, and thanks him for the support that he has already shown the association. Most significantly, he has agreed to attend our meetings as staff liaison. Thanks, Todd!



by Connie (Woods) Weir ('66), photos by Steve McNeill (staff)

Remembering the many "Keene" students who attended South Another Multi-Generational Story...

I was interested in your "*Generations at South*" article in last spring's issue.

Other generations might remember all the "Keene's" who graduated from South, starting with **Ken Keene ('37)**, followed by his sister, **Ruth (Keene) Insole ('39)**, now living in London. Ken married **Beth Reid ('37)**, and their five sons all graduated from South. **Rick Keene ('62)**, the eldest, is an entrepreneur in Mississauga. **Bob Keene ('64)** is a retired Windsor secondary school teacher, now living in Leamington. **Chris Keene ('66)** is a computer animator working for Disney Studios in Los Angeles. **Terry Keene ('68)** is a retired fire chief, living in Mississauga, and **Randy Keene ('72)** the youngest of the five, lives in London after retiring from Labatt's.

Ruth (Keene) Insole's daughter, **Barbara (Insole) Murphy** also graduated from South in **1965**, and is now a retired teacher living back in London.

by Ruth (Keene) Insole ('39)

UPDATE ON SCAA PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES...

85th Anniversary Reunion... Why school reunions are still worthwhile

E-mail, Facebook, Skype, Twitter... With all these ways to keep in touch with each other, some may wonder why we even need to have a reunion. While all these forms of social media definitely play an important role in communication today, they can never take the place of direct face-to-face social interaction.

Keeping in mind, however, that classmates now have the opportunity to stay in touch with each other as never before, the Reunion Committee is working to develop a program of special events that alumni will decide can simply not be missed. While planning is still in the preliminary stages, we can say that there will be more school-based events at this reunion, events that will involve some of your favourite teachers from days gone by.

We want the 85th Reunion to be a fun-filled weekend for attendees, but we also want it to be a truly memorable one, one that you could never have had at any other time, in any other place... **So plan to be there! MAY 24-26, 2013**

Interested in getting involved?

Much of the organizational planning has been done and most of the committee heads are now in place. What we need now are more volunteers, alumni who are interested in being involved in helping to make this the best reunion ever! Since most committees need additional volunteers, you will be able to select the area in which you are most interested.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dan Knight at dan@day2knightevents.com or (519) 280-8633.

The next Reunion Meeting is January 18th, 7 PM at South.

Help Wanted... Other SCAA projects in need of assistance

While we have had a couple of alumni volunteer to assist with **The Beautification Project**, aimed at making some landscaping improvements to the school grounds, preferably before the 2013 Reunion, we have had no one willing to head up a committee. The other project which we are hoping to complete prior to the Reunion is the **Student Council Photo Restoration Project**. There are still several photos yet to be restored, but we need a volunteer to look after getting the job done. Both of these are very worthwhile projects, so please consider volunteering.

If interested, please contact us at contact@southalumni.ca

Calling all entrepreneurial alumni!

The SCAA has initiated a free [directory of services](#) linked from our website's home page at www.southalumni.ca, to showcase alumni who are business owners. So, enjoy the satisfaction of doing business with a fellow *South* graduate or staff. (Also noted are any perks proprietors may offer if you mention you're a *South* alumnus.)

Sign Up

We're glad to include you in our opt-in listings – assuming you meet both criteria* (below), as an entrepreneur and alumnus – if you'll please use our [online request form](#) for your information and a 50-words-or-less profile/description. We expect to update the directory semi-annually, in December and May.

Read Up

We hope you'll use this [PDF-file directory](#) to find support and services for your projects, purchases and, to use a term coined by its manager, for "preferrals".

Any questions? The directory manager (herself a fellow alumna) will be glad to help: Sandy Ross, of Word's Worth, (519)472-5322 or email scaa-dir@sandyross.ca.

Criteria

* **Alumni**, as SCAA defines, are "any students or staff who completed at least one year at South Collegiate". And **entrepreneur**, for our purposes, requires that you be a principal owner of the business – either started independently (i.e. sole proprietor, partner, or a corporation) or bought into (i.e. franchise or direct sales).

Thanks, and pass the word so we may build on (and boast of) all the varied expertise in our SCAA community.

Two Upcoming Theatrical Events with a South Connection

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

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

At the risk of being accused of shameless self-promotion, I would like to encourage you to go see a newly scripted stage version of *Great Expectations* that will be playing at the **Wolf Performance Hall, Feb. 2 – 10, 2012**. A joint production of The London Public Library and Woodfield Productions, the play is being presented in celebration of the Bicentenary of Charles Dickens' birth, 1812-2012.

Since Dickens' novel was part of the grade 10 English curriculum for many years, I'm guessing that most of us over the age of 55 remember studying it (and possibly even reading it). To take a novel of this length and descriptive style and distill the essence of the story into a coherent two hour play must have been an incredible challenge, but the author of this new script, South grad, **Marion Johnson ('67)** has done a superb job meeting that challenge. The director of the play is another South grad, well known London educator and thespian, **Don Fleckser ('54)**. Marion's sister, **Nancy Johnson ('66)** is a producer, and yours truly is delighted to be playing the part of *Biddy*. **Caroline Dolny Guerin**, who taught English and Drama at South from 1995—2003, (and whose husband, **Doug Gordon**, was History head from 1982-89), has been cast in the memorable role of *Miss Havisham*. **Elizabeth Barker ('06)** will be playing the role of *Estella*, the beautiful young woman raised by *Miss Havisham* to exact her revenge and break Pip's heart...

For ticket information, please call **519-661-5122**.



BEARD... A Few Moments in the Life of Roy McDonald

The play, written and first produced by London actor and playwright, Jason Rip, at the Grand Theatre (2000), is being restaged at the **Arts Project** by the AlvegoRoot Theatre Company, **March 2 - 10, 2012**. (www.alvegoroot.wetpaint.com)

Roy McDonald ('57) is described on the AlvegoRoot website as "one of London's most enigmatic and beloved residents... Known for his long beard and almost bursting shopping bags, McDonald can often be seen busking in the downtown core. *BEARD* tells the unique story of Roy but also tells the story of a generation whose hey-day was a time harsher than history remembers."

CAN YOU HELP US IDENTIFY THE SOUTH STUDENTS IN THIS PHOTO?

The photo below, loaned to us by **May (Smith) Parkinson ('47)** shows South's Air Cadets, sometime in the 1940's. May, who says she had the photo because she once dated **Jim Beattie ('45)**, was able to remember the names of only eight of the other young men and asked for our help in identifying the remaining eleven.

FRONT ROW (L to R)

(Unknown), **Albert Jones ('46)**,
(Unknown), **Jim Wylie ('46)**,
(Unknown), **Charlie Walters ('45)**, **Jim Beattie ('45)**

MIDDLE ROW (L to R)

Dave Mason ('44), **Bill Armstrong ('46)**, **Stan Readings ('45)**, (Unknown), **Bob Hoffer**, (Unknown), (Unknown)

BACK ROW (L to R)

(Unknown), (Unknown),
(Unknown), (Unknown),
Herb McKegney ('46),
(Unknown)



THE SOUTH WIND

Before *The Oracle* there was *The Confederate*, and before that, there was *The South Wind*... LSCI's first student newspaper. Cost... one nickel.

Published for the first time in February 1948, *The South Wind* came into existence in the absence of a school yearbook. You may remember that there were no yearbooks during the war years, but in 1946, one final memorial edition of *The Oracle* was published. For the next nineteen years, South had no yearbook, until the rechristened, *Acta Meridiana*, was born in 1965.

With no yearbook to act as a record of school events, some senior students decided to create a school newspaper. The two grade 12 students most responsible for its creation were **Bill McMurray ('49)** and **Walter Stewart ('49)**, both of whom went on to have outstanding careers in their fields, Bill as a biochemistry professor at UWO (See *In Memoriam*, p.11), and Walter as a journalist, editor and educator, the author of more than twenty books.

The Staff Advisor was **Gordon Wonnacott**. Other student members included **Alex Gay ('49)**, **Dick Ball ('49)**, **Bev Cluff (Scully) ('49)**, **Lloyd Shirley ('49)**, **Colmar Russell ('49)**, **Pete Chisholm ('49)**, **Virginia Scott (Ford) ('49)**, **Pat Cooper ('49)**, **John Martin ('50)**, **Doris Murray (Ball) ('49)**, **Mary Moore ('49)**, and **Virginia Seigner ('49)**.

Reading through that first issue of *The South Wind*, as well as the other four published before its demise in December 1948, provides a fascinating snapshot of student life at South in the late 1940's. I was impressed, not only with the quality of the writing in terms of style, vocabulary and grammatical precision, but also with the depth of the background knowledge evident in much of the content.

Of course, as in high schools today, much of the focus was on social activities. That first issue described no fewer than seven school dances/parties. (Is it possible that they really did have more fun back then?) At the annual "Junior Dance", **Miss McRobert** and her committee served "*cokes, chocolate milk, hot-dogs and bon-bons*" to the Grade 9 & 10 students in attendance. Then there was the "HI-Y Hoppe" to raise money to help build YMCA's in Europe (a post-war effort) and the annual "Rugby Dance". In January, the Grade 11 students had a sleigh ride "*all over South London*", before returning to the school for hot chocolate and "*the highlight of the evening*". square dancing under the direction of **Miss MacFarlane**.

While clothing styles were certainly different, the girls were probably just as fashion conscious as they are today. There are references to the "*ballerina skirts and Gibson Girl blouses*", and to formal dresses that "*were the latest bare-shoulder style, with tiny nipped-in waists and full skirts with bustles*". A little later on, the student writer describes "*illuminated silhouettes of handsome young men gaily swirling their beautiful partners to the enticing melodies*".

In the Sports section, there was no reference to the Lions. In 1948, it was the **South Maroons**, and the senior basketball team, coached by **Mr. Freeman**, was at the top of the league after the first four games of the season. Of course, in those days there were only five teams: South, Central, Tech (Beal), Beck and St. Thomas.

In the Music section, we learn that the Glee Club had 65 members - almost 9% of the student population in 1947- 48... pretty impressive. The Orchestra's new director was **Mr. R. Maguire**, who did a number of the musical arrangements himself.

The South Wind also tried to include a healthy dose of humour in every issue. Lloyd Shirley's literary column was called "From a Padded Cell", and Walter Stewart's "Miscellaneous" columns were always articulately tongue-in-cheek. In the "Crossed in Love" column, Miss B. Have (alias Mary Moore) offered absurd advice to equally absurd inquiries.

Scanning quickly through the highlights of the remaining four issues...

March 1948:

- The South Maroons Senior Boys Basketball team won its second straight city championship. Leading scorers were **Ted Rowe('48)** and **Bob Gerry ('49)**.
- The Glee Club, assisted by **Mr. Earle Terry**, made its radio debut on CFPL.
- **Miss J. MacFarlane** directed a "*lovely Minuet*" at the annual Variety Night.
- **Bill McMurray** won 1st prize in the Writers' Club Literary Contest for most original story.
- The first Secondary School Concert (composed of students from the four London high schools) was directed by **Martin Boundy**. 25 of the 65 participants were from South.
- **Simpson's** ad on the back page: "*The junior-belle look whirls into young society. Gaily whirling skirts belling out below a waistline as tiny as can be, its whole outlook is 'reet as a boogie beat'. It's fashion news... gay news to ring the bell with juniors*".

May 1948:

- **T.S.H.Graham** celebrates 25 years as principal.
- South parent accuses school of "*snobbishness*".
- **Bill McMurray**, stepping down as editor-in-chief, writes his own obituary: "*To those who helped us, my thanks; to those who bought a South Wind, my apologies; to him who succeeds me, my sympathy.*"
- This issue's new advertisers: **Turner's Drug Store & Wishing Well**

(Continued on page 9)

IN LOCAL NEWS....



ANDREA KOZIOL ('88) performed at an Orchestra London concert last May at Centennial Hall. She provided backup vocals at the concert, part of the Jeans 'n Classics **Red Hot Weekends** series. The Toronto-based musician/singer's latest album, **Half Way Sweet**, not only showcases her strong vocals on thirteen original songs, but features Koziol playing piano, reed organ, glockenspiel, kazoo, and ukulele, an instrument she says she fell in love with, after a friend urged her to try one out for a week.



RANDALL COLE ('88), a writer and film director, saw the premiere of his third film at Toronto's International Film Festival last September. **388 Arletta Avenue**, a "stylish and atmospheric thriller", raises questions about how we maintain our privacy when "technology has run rampant". Cole says that it "plays with the notion that if you could scratch beneath the surface of what most supposedly ordinary people present to the world, and even to themselves, you would find very interesting and possibly very dark things." Cole directed **Nineteen Months** in 2002 and **Real Time** in 2008.

LISA SHACKELTON ('90) founder and owner of the **Yoga Shack** in Wortley Village was featured in a full page profile in *Biz Monday* (LFP, Apr. 18/11). As noted in our *Spring 2011* issue (p.6), Lisa returned to London from Calgary, following a serious car accident. In 2008, she purchased a heritage home on Bruce Street and opened a yoga studio. The studio has been so successful that Lisa opened a second one this summer at 140 Ann St. (former Lotus Centre). In addition to her entrepreneurial ventures, Lisa teaches a business ethics and globalization course at King's College (UWO) and runs a private consulting firm for broadband networks. From the gifted program at Mountsfield PS, to the executive MBA program at Queen's, to her present success as a business owner, this South grad is clearly a role model to be proud of.

DAN MENNILL ('93), Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Windsor, focuses his research on behavioural ecology and animal communication. This October he and his research colleagues published the cover article in the **Journal of Experimental Biology** showing that Red-winged Blackbirds change their song in response to traffic noise. Last summer, he received the University of Windsor Alumni Award for Distinguished Contribution to University Teaching. (www.uwindsor.ca/dmennill) Dan's father, **Paul Mennill ('62)** was South's principal from 1986-89.

ANDY ROBINSON ('96), was a visual effects supervisor with Cinesite on four Harry Potter films. One example of his team's work is the snake-like snout created for Lord Voldemort. In **Deathly Hallows: Part 2**, Robinson worked on more than 250 visual effects shots, integrating live-action footage and computer-generated imagery. Now based in London, England, Robinson says that working on the Potter films "has truly been a great privilege and I will treasure my experience on this project for my entire life" (LFP, July 15, 2011, C1). Other films Robinson has worked on include *Dark Knight*, *The Golden Compass*, which won the Visual Effects Oscar, and *Into the Storm*, for which he received a personal Emmy nomination. Andy's aunt, **Laura Robinson ('75)**, invented the game *Balderdash*, and his father, **Chris ('72)** is a noted jazz saxophonist.

ANDREW McCLENAGHAN ('97) founded **Echidna Solutions Corp.** in 1999 "as a vehicle for freelance web work". This past September, Echidna was named recipient of London's "featured company award" by the city of London and the London Economic Development Corp. Described as "a homegrown success story", the company "has evolved into a strong member of our IT community" (LFP, Sept. 26, 2011, D9).



PAT SEWELL ('03), a former South Lions basketball star, has made the final roster of the new **London Lightning Basketball Team**. The team began its first season of play this fall (National Basketball League of Canada). Not selected in the NBL Draft, Pat made the team via a strong showing as an invitee at the Lightning's training camp in October. He will be one of only two Canadians on the team, which will play its 16 home games at the John Labatt Centre. Congratulations, Pat!

VAUGHN MARTIN ('05), a 6-foot-4, 310 pound defensive lineman with the **San Diego Chargers** is one of the few Canadians playing in the NFL, and he loves what he does. "Even though it is a lot of work, it's been rewarding.... It showed me how much I love football" (LFP, May 4, 2011, D8). He is also happy to give back to others. Vaughn "is always the first guy to volunteer in San Diego for hospital visits and spending time at various military bases around the city." Vaughn has also given back to South. He purchased new football uniforms for the school, and last spring he held a **Pro Day** for any South student who played on a school team that wanted to take part. The after school event included a speed and agility clinic, a barbecue and talks by several pro athletes "who shared their success stories with the students".





MAIL BOX...



Letters and e-mails from alumni

PRAISE FROM FORMER STAFF MEMBER

The *Fall 2010* edition of *Lions' Pride* was a delightful hallmark of professional journalism. The scope of the articles, the quality of the photos and the clarity of the writing all contributed to (what is) arguably the best high school alumni newsletter produced anywhere. I must, however, point out one small error. You noted that Andrea (Fewster) Manias is a retired teacher. Given that I taught Andrea only a few years ago at South, this must surely be a mistake!

Despite the lapse, I am enclosing my \$10 to ensure that *Lions' Pride* continues.

Congratulations to all.

Ian Underhill (Staff, 1969-92)

EDITOR'S NOTE: My apologies to Ian for failing to include his letter in our last issue. Coming from such a highly respected English teacher, his words of praise mean a lot.

'42 GRAD REMEMBERS "HALLOWED HALLS"

I thoroughly enjoyed my five years within the hallowed halls of LSCI and am grateful for the teachers (and support during the difficult WWII years). My family home was a half an hour walk from LSCI, which together with activities, such as Brownies and work at the library, precluded much extracurricular activity at LSCI. For the record, my late husband and I have established a small bursary for a student attending each of our former high schools, who needs assistance to continue post-secondary studies. Don's was FFHS (Fort Frances) and mine was LSCI. The policy is to be activated when I depart this earth.

My very best wishes for a successful 85th Reunion.

Jeanne (de Jausserand) Gillies ('42)
Parkville, B.C

What a wonderful legacy!
Our thanks, Jeanne.

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

This is just a brief note to express my appreciation for all the work put into editing *Lions' Pride*. Even issues in which none of the names is recognizable are interesting; when one comes along that features someone I know, I read it avidly. That I can comfortably enjoy stories of past times, places long since left, but not forgotten, is in no small part due to the fact that annoying errors, misconstructions and signs of illiteracy never cross my path in *Lions' Pride* and I know that this is the result of the editor's meticulous effort. Thank you again.

Ernest Tucker ('66)
Toronto, ON

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was very gratifying to receive such a complimentary note from a former classmate. I would be remiss, however, not to give some well deserved thanks to SCAA director, **Bob Johnston ('56)** for the careful proofreading assistance he provides for every issue.

A FAVOURITE TEACHER REMEMBERED

Thank you so much for the excellent newsletters that you create for all of us. I was saddened to learn of the deaths of **Mrs. (Elizabeth) Smith** and **Mr. (Roy) Stephenson**, both of whom taught at South while I was a student there in the '80's. Mrs. Smith was a particular favourite of mine, and one of the first people ever to buy one of my photographs. Sadly, although I often thought that I should reconnect with her over the years, I failed to do so and now never will. If I had, I would have told her that her teaching has always stayed with me - that one should be kind to all creatures, that one should strive to do one's best, and that the most beautiful word in the English language is "zephyr." Thank you belatedly, Mrs. Smith, for being a great teacher so dedicated to your craft.

Mindy (Keller) Gough ('89)
www.photographsbymindygough.com

November 1948:

- Front page editorial, *Why the Riot*, criticizes the disrespectful student behaviour at morning auditoriums.
- **Walter Stewart**, new Editor-in Chief, says *The South Wind* is a not a paper but a magazine, whose purpose is to "get out the talent". He is disappointed in the student participation rate.
- **Bill McMurray**, now student president, writes a column discussing how to build up student spirit and pride in the school.

December 1948:

- Rebuttal editorial answers the criticism leveled in last issue's *Why the Riot*.
- Joke: Did you hear about the little moron who poked his eyes out for a blind date?
- *If you don't like these jokes and their dryness makes you moan, Just drop around occasionally with some good ones of your own.*

Unfortunately, *The South Wind* folded after just five issues. Perhaps it was because the students who were its main inspiration were set to graduate. Perhaps the controversy stirred up by *Why the Riot* deflated the students' enthusiasm. Or perhaps the newspaper's staff felt too disillusioned by the lack of student participation. Whatever the reason, it became simply a part of the school's history.

by Connie (Woods) Weir ('66)

NOTE: Watch for articles on the next two "reincarnations" of the student newspaper, *The Confederate* and *The Oracle*, in future issues.

MORE MEMORIES OF "JEANNIE" McROBERT...

We received a couple of very interesting responses to the article on **Jean McRobert (staff, 1931-1969)** in last spring's issue.

The first came from **Brock Rachar ('46)**. He shared with us the fact that in 1969, the year she retired, Jean was elected to the **Society Of Descartes Medalists** for "*Excellence in the Promotion of Mathematics Education in Ontario*". In the information that Brock sent us was a page from the booklet honouring the 1969 Descartes inductees. Beside a photo of Ms. McRobert, were the following words:

Friends of Jean McRobert say that she never liked the limelight, but her accomplishments as a teacher put her in it... She had a reputation for being a great teacher who was a stickler for detail, particularly in geometric proofs.

Brock says that he was just one of the students that Jean "inspired" with her teaching. A Descartes medalist himself, Brock is a retired London educator, who taught all grades before becoming the K-13 Supervisor of Mathematics for the former London Board of Education.

Another of Jean's students who had an impressive career in mathematics was **Dr. Ralph Stanton ('40)**. Dr. Stanton was the chief of mathematics at the University of Waterloo, a professor renowned for his teaching style and meticulous blackboard notes. He was also the founder of the All-Canada Mathematics Contests, including the Euclid and Descartes Contests for high school students. Dr. Stanton passed away, May 3, 2010, in Winnipeg.

The second response came from former staff member, **Wilf Fryday (1954-68)**, a geography teacher and coach.

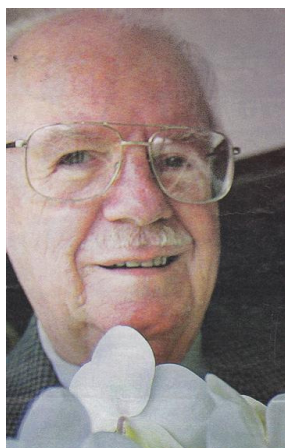
"I spent about 12 years teaching on the same staff with Jean. She was an amazing teacher. Math teaching was her complete life, which was perhaps unfortunate in some respects, but certainly she was remarkable. As the article noted (*Spring 2011*), she inspired many students through the years.

I recall two little stories involving Jean which may be of some interest:

The article mentions her sister, (I never knew that she had a twin sister) who was two or three lessons ahead of her. Jean, as department head, may have had four or five teachers teaching the same course at the same time. It was prescribed in the department that everyone had to be on the same lesson, (perhaps even the same question) at the same time in every class. "Dinny" Dinsmore had the most difficulty with that edict, and this caused some interesting 'discussions' between the two.

The time (of the second story) is the mid to late 50's. The electronic age was just developing. Once the new term was well underway, we often discussed, at staff meetings, the progress of students, particularly ones who might be difficult or who might be having difficulties. We happened to be talking about one student, we'll call him "Jimmie", who was having some trouble. Jeannie said that she was unaware that Jimmie had hearing difficulties. She reported seeing him using a hearing aid in her grade 11 algebra class. The male members of the staff started to snicker a little and tried their best to suppress it. They knew right away what was happening. It was the World Series of baseball and Jimmie's hearing aid was actually an ear piece connected to a pocket transistor radio. Jeannie was made aware of the truth later, privately, by a close associate."

Ken Smith... SCAA loses one of its founding members



Kenneth James Smith ('47) passed away Oct. 8, 2011, at University Hospital, after a short illness. Described as "*an adventurous, unique and talented man*", Ken was a proud alumnus of South. When the SCAA was being formed in 1999, Ken was elected to its first executive, and served two terms as a Director. Prior to that, he played an advisory role in the selection of archival material for the "Decade Rooms" at both the 50th and 60th Anniversary Reunions in 1978 and 1988.

After having his interest in photography sparked when he was a student at South, Ken went on to become an award winning news photographer for the London Free Press. This career lasted for over 35 years, but he is probably best remembered for his 50 years as the weekly **Garden Columnist**. Every Saturday, "*thousands of readers would take in his wise advice*".

When Ken retired from his post as LFP photographer, he collected glossy copies of all the photos he had taken that had anything to do with South. He donated over 100 photographs to the school, many of which are now framed and adorn the lower halls of the school today.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I had the pleasure of working with Ken in my first term on the SCAA executive. He was a truly classy gentleman, an alumnus to be proud of.

IN MEMORIAM

Madeline (Parsons) Dear ('32) passed away in London on May 1, 2011, in her 98th year. Survived by her son, Clare, daughter, Susan, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Marie Smibert ('36) passed away at Parkwood Hospital on Sept. 28, 2011 in her 93rd year. Dear sister of **Ross Smibert ('45)** and his wife June of London.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Marie sent a letter to us that was featured in the *Spring 2010* issue: *1936 Grad enjoys a lovely trip down memory lane* (p.3). Marie, the top academic student of the class of 1936, went on to become a teacher and the first female secondary school principal in Toronto.

Derk Pleiter ('39) passed away at University Hospital on June 14, 2011, age 88. Predeceased by his brothers John and Simon. Survived by his wife, Thelma, two sons, Michael and Philip, a daughter, Shelley, and two grandchildren. Derk graduated from UWO with a PhD in physics. After serving overseas as an RCAF pilot in WWII, he had a 30-year career with the Department of National Defence in Quebec City and Ottawa.

Mary (Oram) McKay ('40) passed away March 30, 2011, age 89, in London. Mary was predeceased by her sisters, **Edna Oram ('28)** and **Wynn (Oram) MacLachlan ('33)** and her brother, **Jack ('38)**. She is survived by one sister, **Margaret (Miggs) Ferguson ('41)**, two daughters, Melissa and Carol, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Edgar Wallace Lockwood ('40), age 89, passed away Aug. 28, 2011 in Toronto. Wally served in the Royal

Canadian Navy during WWII, surviving the sinking of the Corvette, *Windflower*, in 1941. After the war, he returned to school, earning an Honours BSc in Physics from UWO. He re-enlisted in the navy and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Commander, before leaving to work as a civilian employee at the Department of National Defence in Ottawa. After retiring, Wally returned to London, where he spent the next 23 years, before moving to Toronto last year. He is survived by his wife Betty and four children.

Bob Rowe ('43) passed away on June 1, 2011, in Calgary. Bob had an illustrious career as a geologist. After completing his BSc at UWO, he did his MSc at U of T and his PhD at the University of Wisconsin. He worked for several different mining companies over the years, in the oil industry in Alberta.

Melvin Stewart ('47), age 83, passed away on Sept. 21, 2011, in London. Mel had a varied career. He dabbled in real estate, developed and built nursing homes and owned and operated the Organ Company of Canada. Later in his career, he worked for the Christian Children's Fund as a fundraiser, which included participating in a bike-a-thon from Halifax to Toronto when he was 63. Mel is survived by his wife Marilyn, two children and three grandchildren.

William (Bill) McMurray ('49) passed away Aug. 2 2011, in his 81st year. Dear husband of Marilyn and father of **Geoff ('80)** and **Susan ('82)**. Grandfather of **Riley McMurray ('08)** and Liam, Hannah and Luke Bergman. Also survived by sister, Clare,

and brother **Neil McMurray ('56)**.

Dr. McMurray was a professor of biochemistry at UWO, and the Chairman of that department from 1983-93. Internationally recognized for his research, he was also a highly respected, award-winning teacher.

EDITOR'S NOTE: See the article, p. 7 of this issue on "*The South Wind*" the student newspaper started by Bill and several other senior students in 1948.

Donna (Rasmussen) Whitton ('51) passed away on May 29, 2011 at University Hospital after courageously battling Alzheimer's for several years. Beloved wife of **Wells ('51)** and mother of five: Jim, John, Bob, Sharon & Dave. After graduating from South, Donna became a nurse, but left to raise her children. She was an enthusiastic flower gardener and enjoyed yoga and craft work. Donna and Wells have stayed in touch with South via reunions and *Lions' Pride*.

George Goddard ('57) passed away recently, in London, details unavailable.

Donald Alexander Brown ('58) passed away on April 6, 2011, in Toronto. Survived by his wife, Judy, three children and five grandchildren. Predeceased by brother **Bill ('51)**. Don enjoyed a long & successful career as a partner at PriceWaterhouseCoopers. He also enjoyed golf, curling, playing the piano and time spent with family at Bruce Beach.

James Brian Potts ('59) passed away Aug. 1, 2011, in London, age 72. Survived by wife Lois, daughter Carolyn, two grandchildren and sisters, Marilyn & Shirley. Jim was a

teacher, a licensed pilot and an avid golfer. He played with a number of different musical organizations, including the Police Boys' Band (See *Fall 2010*, p.6-7), the Encore Concert Band and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Susan (Holland) Barr ('65) passed away suddenly on May 17, 2011 in London, age 64. Loving mother of five and grandmother of seven. Survived by her sisters, **Sharon (Holland) Link ('67)** of Parry Sound, and Anne (Holland) Hook of Kitchener.

STAFF MEMBERS:

Dorothy Bere (Staff, 1944-54) passed away on Sept. 8, 2011 in London, age 91. Dorothy taught French for ten years at South and was described as "*an inspiration to her many students and close friends in the French Club*".

Nora (MacRae) McAlpine (Staff, 1952-63) passed away on April 9, 2011 in London. Nora was the sole member of South's Art Dept. for 11 years. Predeceased by her husband, Kenneth. Survived by her sister, Joan, and three stepchildren.



John Benny (Staff, 1968-74) passed away suddenly on May 21, 2011 in his 69th year. John's career as a mathematics teacher spanned 33 years, six of which were spent at South. He is survived by his wife, Marlene, sons Jason & Paul and two grandchildren. John was an avid curler and bridge player and enjoyed time spent at his cottage near Forest.

CLASS REPS... WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Much of the success of the South Collegiate Alumni Association is due to the large data base that was created for our last Reunion in 2003. At that time, a person was approached from each graduating year and asked to assume the role of maintaining their class list.

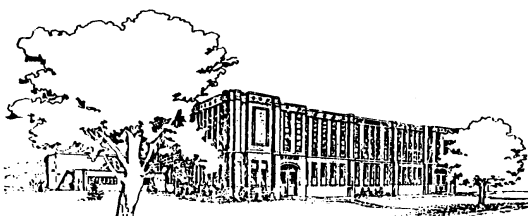
Unfortunately, over time, many class reps have left the position and we now have some serious gaps. As we begin planning for the **2013 Reunion**, it is critical that our data base be brought up to date. If you graduated in one of the following years, please consider volunteering to assume the role of rep for your class. It is not an onerous job, but requires comfort with email and other forms of contact. It may be done jointly with another class member or alone. Training is readily available.

Required years: 1939, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1947, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1954, 1955, 1959, 1961, 1968, 1976, 1978, 1983, 1985, 1988, 1990, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2008, 2009.

If you thought you were a class rep for one of these years, it means we have had difficulty connecting.

Please contact

andrea.manias@sympatico.ca.



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Remembering Jessie MacFarlane...

Those of you who still reside in Old South probably receive **Old South News**, a small monthly newsletter published by **Ken Ramer ('70)**, wife Jean, and son, **Mike ('01)**, sales representatives for Royal LePage Realty. The October issue featured a cover story on a woman known to generations of South alumni: **Jessie Madeleine MacFarlane**. Our thanks to the Ramers for the use of this material.

Jessie was born on a farm in Delaware Township in 1901. After attending Central (since South hadn't been built yet), she went to Western, where she excelled at both sports and academics. She was the first female individual track champion. She also sang in the Glee Club, while earning her Honours BA in English and History. According to the 1924 UWO yearbook, Jessie had a "delightful personality", with a memorable "capacity for enjoyment".

Jessie came to South in 1926, as the Head of Girls Phys. Ed. She also taught English and History. In 1957 she became Head of the English Department, one of the first women ever appointed to such a position. Two years earlier, she had become the first woman president of the UWO Alumni Association. She was also the first woman appointed to serve on the 26-member Board of Governors.

Many past students remember Jessie's red Mustang racing into the school parking lot at the last minute every morning. They remember her flamboyant personality, as she rushed to class, always well dressed and usually smiling.

Jessie retired from teaching in 1968, but after 42 years of teaching, she was truly a South institution! Outside of room 220, you will find a plaque indicating the room (once the MacFarlane Tostal) is named in her honour. Jessie died in 1990, but last month was honoured once more by the community. She was named this year's recipient of the OSCAR Award (Old South Community Organization Recognition) for her outstanding contribution to life in Old South.

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