

Western's

Parent Connection 2017

Brewing up a new solution

Alan Kalbfleisch had grown tired of looking for a better coffee press – so he brewed up his own.

Starting as a \$20 prototype dreamt up for a class assignment, Pascal Press – an all-in-one pressure brewer and travel mug – has turned into a full-time business garnering more than \$60,000 in crowdfunding from around the world, later matched by \$60,000 from the Ontario Centres of Excellence SmartStart Seed Fund.

Today, Kalbfleisch is quick to laud the opportunities he leveraged at Western to get his business off the ground, from the support of Propel, Western's entrepreneurship accelerator, to the continued mentorship of Ivey Business School professor Darren Meister. Without them, Pascal Press may still just be a \$20 class project.

Kalbfleisch is one of thousands of Western students who can now pursue their dreams of becoming self-made thanks, in part, to the supports offered by

Western Entrepreneurship, the university's entrepreneurial-focused ecosystem.

Since 1878, Western has been marrying the unrivaled strengths of the university setting with the energy of those who possess great ideas capable of changing the world. Our job, however, is not about a single idea, or a building, or a particular industry, or even a startup. We are about the person – we are about creating citizens who can think, innovate and problem-solve like entrepreneurs.

And every member of this university community who wants to develop their entrepreneurial thinking – be they faculty, student, staff, alumni, donor or friend – should be afforded that opportunity.

Our vision, as an institution, is to be the university community that best develops entrepreneurs. Thanks to donor support, combined with institutional investment, we are making that happen today.

To learn more about entrepreneurship at Western, visit: uwo.ca/entrepreneurship



Name: Alan Kalbfleisch

Age: 26

Hometown: Waterloo, ON

Program: Mechanical and Materials Engineering

Students express thanks

"Your award not only inspired me to continue to take on projects that were to the benefit of the greater Western arts community, but it alleviated some of my financial stresses so that I could focus more on my studies."

- **Camille Intson**
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Year 3
Arts and Humanities Student Council Award
Recipient for 2016-17

"When financial burden is alleviated, there is an increased drive to do well, not just for yourself but because there is a donor out there who believes in you and is supporting you."

- **Tehmina Ahmad**
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Year 4

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Western 

Supporting tomorrow's leaders today



Today's students are tomorrow's leaders. Western proudly partners with parents and donors to ensure these students receive the best supports possible.

As Western's Provost & Vice-President (Academic), I take great pride in helping to lead an academic community that aspires to make a positive impact on a global scale, yet never loses sight of making a difference in the lives of each and every one of our students.

We are committed to providing our students a challenging, world-class experience and a safe environment in which to pursue their dreams and develop into tomorrow's leaders. Your donations through the Western Parents' Fund can help us achieve these goals.

In this edition of Western's Parent's Connection, you'll read about students such as Alan Kalbfleisch, a Master's engineering student with dreams of entrepreneurial success who is benefiting from the guidance and support of Propel, Western's entrepreneurship accelerator.

We'll introduce you to Hannah Gregor, a nursing student and president of the Western-Fanshawe Nursing Students' Association who, thanks to the Parents' Fund, was able to step back from working part-time to focus on her studies.

And you'll learn about some of the innovative supports in place to help our students succeed, such as our Western Foot Patrol program — a campus safety initiative established by alumni and donors that provides safe escorts for students, deters crime and promotes safety awareness on campus.

Thanks to support from parents like you, we're better able to offer this type of assistance to our students. Thank you for your ongoing generosity, and best wishes to your son or daughter for continued success at Western.



Sincerely,

Janice Deakin
Provost & Vice-President (Academic)
Western University

Growing as a nurse, and a leader

Hannah Gregor wanted to get involved in leadership roles with student organizations at Western, but with the demands of her full-time nursing program, and those of her part time job, it just wasn't feasible.

After she won Western's Parents' Fund Award, that all changed.

Every year, parents of past and present Western students donate to The Parents' Fund, which is designed to help Western continue delivering the best student experience in Canada, and to make a positive impact in students' lives.

"I was thrilled to be the nursing recipient," said Gregor. "The Parents' Fund Award afforded me the opportunity to step back from working part-time, focus on my studies, and explore taking on additional roles within the nursing student community."

Gregor wasted no time, and is now the president of the Western-Fanshawe Nursing Students' Association. In her role, she founded an academic mentoring program designed to connect upper year students with first year students who may be feeling overwhelmed.

"First year students have so many sources of stress and so many questions about the program, I thought there needs to be a better way for students to get help," said Gregor. A success out of the gate, the program now has more than 200 students involved.

Gregor is also busy completing her fourth year of study, where she's finishing a rotation on the oncology unit at London Health Sciences Centre. She's applied to continue her education further by specializing in paediatric critical care, a move spurred on by the confidence she gained through winning the Parents' Fund award.

"It's a big relief to know Western parents are looking out for students, and helping us through," she said. "The Parents' Fund award inspired me to be the best leader I could be, to improve the Western nursing student experience and to grow overall as a leader and as a nurse. Thank you to all the parent donors for their generosity and for helping to inspire and financially support students to pursue their goals."



Name: Hannah Gregor

Age: 21

Hometown: London, Ontario

Program: BScN Candidate '18

Parents express thanks

"I support Western because it is a tremendous contributor to the London community, and now my son goes there, too!"

- Robert Poultney, BA '91

"I supported The Parents' Fund because everyone needs a little help sometimes."

- Kathleen Bustard, proud parent

"I supported The Parents' Fund because I believe every child has a right to receive continuing education that maximizes their individual potential."

- Valerie Keld, proud parent

"I support Western because my daughter and I are #PurpleandProud alumni!"

- Robert Kyle, BSc '79

App off on the right 'Foot'



Foot Patrol volunteers have been helping keep Western's campus safe since 1989.

That safe walk home just got a whole lot easier, in fact, it's now just a push of a button away.

Launched this semester, the Western Foot Patrol App allows students easy access to the organization that provides safe escorts, deters crime and promotes safety awareness on the main and affiliate college campuses. Within the app, students can use either a chat function similar to texting or a call

Council, the foot patrol was founded through donor and alumni support, and was one of the first foot patrols at a Canadian university. During the first years of its operation, campus crime rates fell dramatically, and the program and its volunteers continue to keep the campus safe today.

The program's new app also includes a map, lost-and-found bulletin and a button to report concerns if people see something

"If students are in the library, in a quiet zone, and they want to make sure they get a walk home without disturbing the people around them, the app allows them to do that without having to call us."

button that dials the service directly without looking up the phone number.

The app is an easy and straightforward way to connect, explained Samantha Johnstone, Director of Western Foot Patrol.

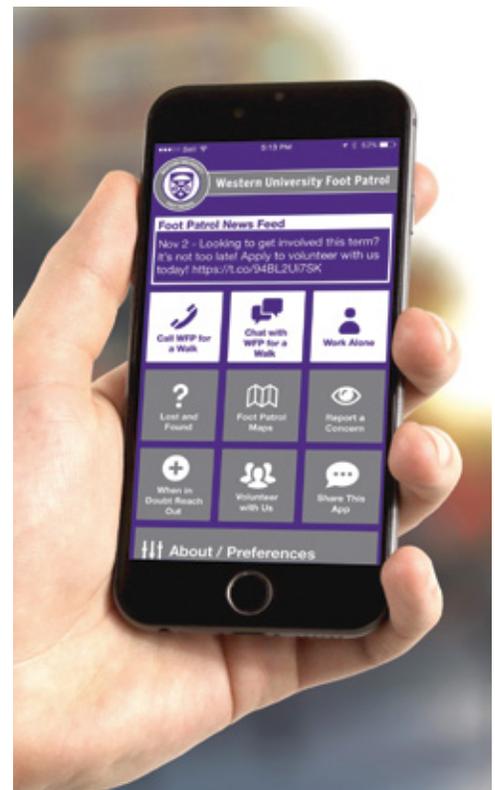
"It's similar to Uber where you order your cab, never have to speak to anyone, and it arrives," she said. "If students are in the library, in a quiet zone, and they want to make sure they get a walk home without disturbing the people around them, the app allows them to do that without having to call us."

Started in 1989 by Western's Student

that isn't an emergency but they want to let Foot Patrol know about it. There is also an area with mental-health resources that are available at Western, as well as a newsfeed pulled from the Foot Patrol Twitter account, @uwofootpatrol.

"We all know dialing a phone isn't a big deal, but sometimes you just want to text instead. We're in tune with how our students are communicating and we wanted to give them an option for that," Johnstone said.

Students can download the Western Foot Patrol App from Google or Apple stores.



The app allows customers to chat online with our dispatcher to request a safe walk. It also includes a call button, an area to report a concern (non-emergency), a map of our service areas along with other features! Available in the Google and Apple stores.