

INTOUCH

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BUSINESS WITHOUT BORDERS

For these Ivey alumni, thinking globally isn't a reaction to uncertainty – it's been the strategy from the very beginning.

Also in this issue
**THE ART OF
STORYTELLING IN A
CHANGING WORLD
+
COMING HOME
NEVER GETS OLD**

Intouch Features

BUSINESS WITHOUT BORDERS | *Page 12*

With a global outlook and cross-border experience, four Ivey alumni are building businesses that span industries from green energy partnerships to healthcare, media, and finance.

THE ART OF STORYTELLING IN A CHANGING WORLD | *Page 20*

Ivey alumni are shaping storytelling in today's fast-moving digital landscape, helping brands connect with audiences, supporting content creators, informing the public, and amplifying diverse perspectives. We asked these leaders in news, media, and entertainment: What does storytelling mean today?

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Meet the class liaisons and volunteers strengthening Ivey's alumni community through engagement, philanthropy, and service as they celebrate Homecoming anniversaries this fall.

ON THE COVER

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Lauren Shanahan, EMBA '24, shifted from an executive role in HR to founding a curated stone studio featuring minerals, crystals, and ceramics that showcase the natural beauty of the earth.





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Novacap founder Marc Beauchamp, HBA '67, has fully embraced his lifelong passion for painting, working from studios in both the city and countryside during his retirement years.

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Lauren Shanahan, EMBA '24, shifted from an executive role in HR to founding a curated stone studio featuring minerals, crystals, and ceramics that showcase the natural beauty of the earth.

GIVING TO IVEY | *Page 34*

Siblings Rosamond Ivey, HBA '82, LLD '18, and Richard W. Ivey, HBA '72, LLD '13, are continuing their family's nearly 80-year partnership with the School by funding what business education needs next.

YOUR IVEY NETWORK | *Page 37*

Explore the latest from the Ivey alumni community, including Global Ivey Day 2026 highlights, this year's Alumni Achievement Award recipients, Salim Teja's new AI Fellow role, a tribute to Gerald Knowlton, HBA '55, and fresh updates in Class Notes.



Marc Beauchamp, HBA '67, paints several afternoons each week at a friend's atelier in Montréal.



INTOUCH ON THE WEB
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INTOUCH

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Editor's Note



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHLOMI AMIGA

Recently I visited an EMBA closing session, and I left feeling inspired. These soon-to-be graduates shared the transformational power of the program and the amazing perspectives their fellow classmates brought to the group. It was quite moving and reminded me of the impact these connections can continue to have on alumni.

In this issue of *Intouch*, we bring some of these stories to you.

In *Business Without Borders*, you'll meet fellow graduates who have built organizations that extend far beyond a single market or geography. Their stories highlight the strategic thinking, foresight, and global perspective required to navigate complexity and leading on an international scale. (see page 12)

In *The Art of Storytelling in a Changing World*, alumni working across media, journalism, entertainment, and marketing share how powerful narratives can shape culture, engage audiences, and inspire action. In a rapidly evolving digital landscape, storytelling remains one of the most compelling ways to create meaningful connections. (see page 20)

Our feature on reunion-year classes highlights another important form of impact: community. Across decades and generations, alumni continue to stay connected and strengthen the bonds that make the Ivey network unique. Their commitment demonstrates how relationships formed at Ivey continue to enrich lives long after graduation. (see page 28)

This issue also celebrates philanthropy and its power to shape the future. Rosamond Ivey, HBA '82, LLD '18, and Richard W. Ivey, HBA '72, LLD '13, have made transformative investments in two areas that will define leadership for years to come: artificial intelligence (AI) and leader character. Their generosity will help advance research, teaching, and innovation in AI while strengthening Ivey's longstanding commitment to developing principled leaders who create lasting value for society. (see page 34)

We are also pleased to welcome Caitie Spears back to Ivey as Executive Director, Advancement. Caitie returns to drive the School's fundraising and alumni engagement efforts at a pivotal time in Ivey's history. She builds on the foundation laid by Cathy Vitkauskas, who retired after serving the School for more than two decades.

Whether through business, storytelling, community building, philanthropy, or leadership, these stories share a common thread: impact grows with connection.

I hope you are inspired to amplify your own impact both with the alumni network and beyond.

Aindrea Cramp, HBA '98
Editor-in-Chief
Director, Alumni Relations

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOMINIC BLEWETT



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Dean's Message

Note: Nicole Haggerty is Acting Dean while Dean Julian Birkinshaw is on medical leave.

It's a year and a half since we launched our new strategy and I'm incredibly proud of the progress we have made toward our vision: To Reimagine Experiential Business Learning for the World. We call it our Bold Ambition.

We are moving from ambition to action across all four strategic priorities: expanding access to Ivey through new pathways and digital platforms, strengthening support for student success and career outcomes, advancing research and thought leadership, and extending our global impact.

Transforming Experiential Learning

For more than a century, the case method has been at the heart of the Ivey experience. Its enduring value lies in a simple but powerful premise: leadership and judgment are not learned by memorizing answers, but by grappling with real decisions under conditions of uncertainty. By placing students in the shoes of leaders facing consequential choices, cases help learners develop the analytical reasoning, critical thinking, and judgment that effective leadership requires.

Today, however, the environments in which leaders operate are changing rapidly. Organizations face unprecedented technological disruption, increasing complexity, and challenges that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries. As a result, Ivey is evolving its approach to experiential learning while remaining true to the principles that have always defined it.

At Ivey, experiential learning is not a single teaching method. It is a philosophy of learning through action, reflection, and application. The case method remains a cornerstone of that philosophy, but it is now complemented by a broader portfolio of experiences that place students in authentic situations where they must apply knowledge, navigate ambiguity, collaborate with others, and exercise judgment. These experiences include simulations, consulting engagements, field-based projects, leadership development opportunities, service learning,

client-sponsored initiatives, and technology-enabled learning environments.

Programs such as the Ivey Digital Innovation Studio (IDIS), Service Learning in Africa (SLA), and the Ivey Field Project (IFP) exemplify this evolution. In each, students move beyond discussing challenges to engaging directly with them. They work with organizations, communities, and stakeholders to address real problems, test ideas, adapt to changing circumstances, and reflect on the consequences of their decisions. These experiences transform knowledge into capability and help students develop not only competence, but also confidence, character, and leadership capacity.

For many schools, Artificial Intelligence is threatening the learning and teaching mission. Not so at Ivey – here it is creating new opportunities to extend and enhance experiential learning. Ivey has expanded access to leading AI technologies for faculty, staff, and students; integrated AI throughout its curricula; and launched the AI Fellows Program, believed to be the first initiative of its kind among Canadian business schools. Through the program, accomplished

practitioners and alumni bring current industry perspectives into the School, helping shape how AI is incorporated into teaching, research, and institutional practice. One such Fellow, Salim Teja, HBA '96, is profiled on page 43.

Across our programs, faculty are exploring ways to use AI to enrich experiential learning through simulations, coaching tools, scenario-based exercises, and redesigned cases. Just as importantly, students are learning not only how to use these technologies, but how to evaluate them critically, understand their limitations, and exercise sound judgment when applying them.

In January, Ivey launched Ivey Online, extending access to experiential learning through flexible digital formats that combine case-based learning, collaboration, and AI-enabled educational tools for learners around the world.

The technologies and educational tools available to us will continue to evolve. What remains constant is Ivey's belief that leadership capability is developed through experience. In a world where information is abundant and analysis is increasingly automated, the





ABOVE: Nicole Haggerty, HBA '89, PhD '04; Larissa Chaikowsky, MBA '04; and Paul Atkinson, HBA '86, at the Senior Leaders Breakfast in Toronto during Global Ivey Day 2026.

LEFT: Nicole Haggerty speaking at the 2026 Global Ivey Day Power Lunch in Toronto.

faculty as trusted voices on issues that matter to business leaders.

Expand Global Impact

This year, we launched the Ivey Global Opportunities (IGO) Fund, a competitive, donor-supported internal seed fund to accelerate initiatives that advance Ivey's global impact. The Fund is designed to catalyze new ideas, pilot scalable models, and strengthen Ivey's international presence through cross-school collaboration and high-impact global initiatives.

Through the 39 Country Initiative, 47 countries now have free access to Ivey's case-based teaching materials. In the last year, we have sent 13 trainers to 48 schools to deliver free case-teaching workshops to 1,589 faculty members. Workshops were delivered across Africa and Asia, including Ghana, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Tanzania. The 39 Country Initiative is on track to reach approximately one million students taught using Ivey cases by 2028.

Ivey Executive Education expanded into 13 countries this year – from Thailand and Japan to the UAE – with participants from over 40 countries. This growth reflects increasing engagement with large multinational organizations and strengthens Ivey's position as a globally competitive provider of executive education.

The global reach of Ivey Publishing continues to expand with sales in 129 countries and submissions from over 2,500 authors across 54 countries, alongside a 47 per cent increase in direct customer accounts – strengthening engagement with educators globally. Record case submissions further reinforce Ivey Publishing's position as a global publisher of choice for case-based business education.

As we continue to advance toward our vision, I want to thank alumni for all the support and encouragement you provide. This is a transformative time for Ivey. We can only move with your continued commitment to Ivey's success.

Nicole Haggerty, HBA '89, PhD '04
Acting Dean, Ivey Business School



Scan for a full update on how we are moving from ambition to action.

that build habits for success. Students are introduced to PRESET (preparation for case method learning), The Learners Studio (developing participation and deep capacity in the classroom), and RESET (recalibration during periods of academic strain). By helping students take ownership of their learning, we expect to enhance their feeling of engagement and belonging at Ivey. We also encourage students to use AI to enrich their learning, not shortcut it.

Create Insights that Matter

Ivey prioritizes research on the critical issues facing the world today and making it accessible to learners, business leaders, and policymakers around the world. To achieve this, we've increased funding for research and thought leadership and raised \$1.9 million in donor funding to support research and thought leadership activities.

Investments are paying off with increased external recognition of research strength. Ivey's *Financial Times* (FT) Research Rank moved up 10 places to 48th globally in the 2026 FT MBA Ranking. Ivey also rose five spots to rank 25th globally and first in Canada in the 2026 Research Impact ranking, a position which owes a lot to our expertise in case writing and publishing.

We're growing the reach and engagement of Ivey's research through our thought leadership hub, *Impact*. The *Impact* platform amplifies faculty expertise through articles, events, podcasts, and videos. Content spans critical topics such as AI, leadership, tariffs, investing, and sustainability, positioning Ivey

ability to exercise judgment, navigate complexity, and make responsible decisions becomes even more important. Experiential learning, in all its forms, remains how we help students develop those capabilities.

Open More Pathways

In April, we opened the stunning new Donald K. Johnson Centre, expanding our footprint in Toronto, doubling classroom and study space, and equipping it with advanced educational technology. This expansion supports growth in "while-you-work" programs and executive education while creating a premier space to convene leaders across business, government, and academia.

We launched the Graduate Diploma in Management, making Ivey's Accelerated MBA more accessible to professionals from non-business backgrounds. The first cohort started in May 2026. In conjunction, we doubled the capacity of the Accelerated MBA program, enabling more learners to pursue an MBA without stepping away from work.

We're rethinking student support through a coordinated suite of programs

The Big Picture



Five years of growth, connection, and impact

Ivey's Women in Asset Management (WAM) program celebrated its fifth anniversary by welcoming its largest and most diverse cohort yet – almost 50 students from universities across Canada. Believed to be the first program of its kind in Canada, WAM continues to advance gender diversity in finance by building national connections and supporting the next generation of women leaders in asset management.

PICTURED BELOW: Students from the 2026 WAM cohort pose on the stairs of the Richard Ivey Building.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRANDON MACINTOSH

Expanding Your Knowledge

Want to elevate your reading list and expand your business perspective? We turned to Ivey faculty and staff for their top podcast recommendations.

See what's inspiring the Ivey community right now.



Diane-Laure Arjaliès
Associate Professor,
Managerial Accounting and Control,
Sustainability

Recommends the podcast:

This is Wild

Hosted by the WWF



"This podcast explores the incredible species that call Canada home and the people working to protect them. I recommend it because it deepens my appreciation for our country's biodiversity and, through vivid storytelling, makes me feel as though I am travelling across these landscapes myself."



Edna Lopez Avila
Assistant Professor,
Finance

Recommends the podcast:

"The Daily," powered by The New York Times journalism

Hosted by Michael Barbaro,
Rachel Abrams and Natalie Kitroeff



"By breaking down complex issues in economics, finance, politics, culture, and global affairs through engaging conversations that go beyond the headlines, *The Daily* combines strong journalism and storytelling to make it easy to stay connected to what is happening in the world."

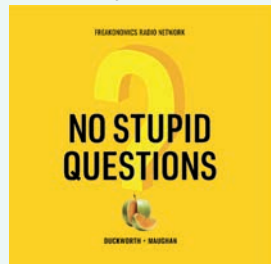


Rod Duclos
Associate Professor,
Marketing

Recommends the podcast:

No Stupid Questions

Hosted by Freakonomics



"Psychologist Angela Duckworth and Mike Maughan explore questions about behaviour, work, and relationships, making big ideas thoughtful, practical, and accessible."



Tony Frost
Associate Professor,
Business, Economics and
Public Policy

Recommends the podcasts:

Dwarkesh Podcast

Hosted by Dwarkesh Patel

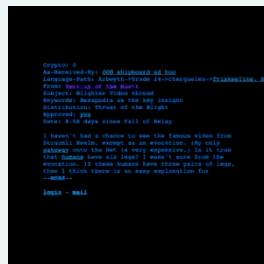


"Featuring interviews with leading thinkers in AI, technology, and geopolitics, the *Dwarkesh Podcast* explores how emerging innovations are reshaping the global landscape. It's particularly useful for unpacking big, often U.S.-driven ideas and considering their implications for Canada."

AND

Hexapodia Is the Key Insight!

Hosted by Noah Smith
and Brad DeLong



"Through wide-ranging conversations, economists and historians explore the deeper forces shaping societies over time. The podcast encourages listeners to think more conceptually about how countries like Canada fit into broader global trends."



Kelly Worton
Director of Campaign
Management

Recommends the podcast:

Power & Politics

Hosted by David Cochrane
with CBC Podcasts



"Featuring interviews with key Canadian decision-makers, *Power & Politics* offers an in-depth look at the issues shaping Canada and the world. It's my go-to for staying informed, thanks to its focus on thoughtful discussion and hard-hitting questions rather than simple talking points."



Mohammed Jomma, HBA '18
Director of Finance

Recommends the podcast:

How I Built This

Hosted by Guy Raz



"Through candid conversations with entrepreneurs and innovators, *How I Built This* uncovers the risks, challenges, and turning points behind some of the world's most recognizable brands. It offers valuable insight into what it really takes to build something from the ground up."

Passions

Novacap founder Marc Beauchamp, HBA '67, has fully embraced his lifelong passion for painting, working from studios in both the city and countryside during his retirement years.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PASSION! EMAIL INTOUCH@IVEY.CA

Interview by Mark Witten



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DOMINIC BLEWETT

As a child, my mother showed me a painting created by my aunt. She said I could change the world with the swoop of a paint brush. I was fascinated by that.

My lifelong interest in art began with drawing. As a boy, I drew my teachers in class when I was bored. I remember getting in trouble when some didn't appreciate their portraits.

I went on to have a long and exciting career as the founder of Novacap, a private equity firm. Yet, my passion for art was unwavering. Painting offered an outlet from a demanding career, and Monday nights were always set aside for it. For over 20 years, I was part of an art group, painting life models and holding exhibitions at the local YMCA. In retirement, painting became something deeper – helping me step away from Novacap, reclaim my time, and reinvent myself.

When I retired about eight years ago, I began spending four or five afternoons a week painting at a Montréal atelier with a beautiful 20-foot ceiling. There, I paint landscapes from photographs using acrylics, experimenting with colour to capture mood.

I also have a studio in a barn loft at our country property in Knowlton, Québec, where I paint oil landscapes in the summer and fall months. I often paint in Knowlton alongside my friend and mentor, a former painting professor at Dawson College, whose guidance on structure and composition helps refine my work.

I also love to paint while travelling. My wife is from France, and for 15 years I spent a week painting landscapes in Provence. Another favourite destination is Monhegan Island in Maine.

While I don't sell my paintings, I have supported the community through my art, including donating 45 pieces to a benefit auction in Knowlton that raised funds for a local theatre and hospital.

What motivates me most is that painting keeps me learning. Every painting is a journey into the unknown – it sharpens my mind, stimulates my senses, and pulls me beyond the day-to-day. When I return, I see the world differently.

Left Turn

Lauren Shanahan, EMBA '24, shifted from an executive role in HR to founding a curated stone studio featuring minerals, crystals, and ceramics that showcase the natural beauty of the earth.

MADE AN INTERESTING CAREER “LEFT TURN”? TELL US ABOUT IT! EMAIL INTOUCH@IVEY.CA

Interview by Mark Witten



PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS BOLLMANN

For more than 25 years, I built a successful career as a corporate HR professional in increasingly senior roles. I pursued an EMBA to broaden my understanding of business beyond HR and become a more effective executive.

But the program – specifically the entrepreneurship course – pushed me to look deeper and ask what I truly cared about. This created a shift in me. I had spent so much of my career focused on building others’ dreams, and I realized I wanted to apply the business knowledge I gained, both through work and Ivey, to build something of my own.

I’ve loved crystals for as long as I can remember. At age 10, I won a science fair with a project on crystals that explored how and where they form. I’ve been collecting crystals and minerals ever since, drawn to their beauty, structure, geological formation, and the stories they carry.

In February, I launched Atelier Lithic, a Toronto studio specializing in crystals, mineral specimens, and collaborations with Canadian artists in stone, ceramics, and crystalline materials.

My two main markets are traditional mineral specimen collectors and home décor enthusiasts looking to bring natural materials into their spaces – a relatively untapped market.

Since launching Atelier Lithic from my home, growth in sales has been incredible. Despite the market gap, I didn’t expect this level of interest, especially regarding unique statement pieces.

Looking ahead, I hope to open a private studio where people can come to see, feel, and touch the product. I’m also interested in partnerships with luxury gift concierges, personal shoppers, and interior decorators to bring these hand-selected pieces into people’s lives. Through TikTok LIVE streams, I’ve built a community, many of whom are interested in joining rock-hunting excursions, which would be a fun next step.

It takes a lot of courage to put yourself out there and say, “This is what I care about.” Ivey gave me the knowledge and confidence to make that leap.

Ideas that Ignite Change

IMPACT STARTS WITH A QUESTION

By Caitlin Core

At Ivey, every great insight begins with a question.

Across 13 research groups and eight centres and institutes, our faculty are asking the questions that matter – and using them to shape business practice in Canada and around the world.

Impact, our thought leadership hub, captures the pulse of this inquiry – from marketing insights to sustainability breakthroughs, and from startup strategies to leadership innovations.

In this feature, we spotlight four compelling pieces from *Impact* that do more than deliver answers – they challenge assumptions, reframe debates, and move business thinking forward.



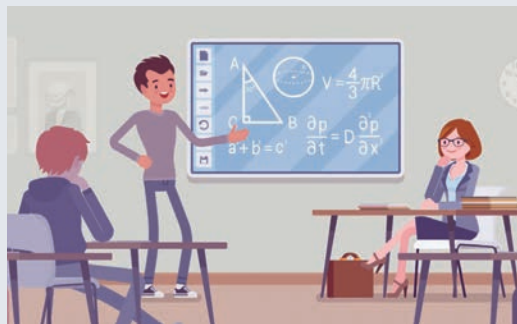
“When people have less confidence in their capabilities, they feel like they have to cheat to get ahead. The more confident you make somebody feel, the more ethical they’ll behave.”

— Hayden Woodley, Assistant Professor



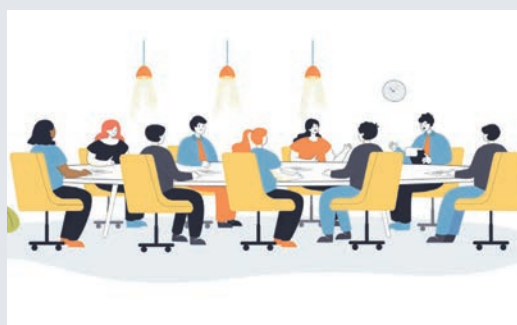
Can you trust AI with the bottom line?

Executives are trusting AI with more decisions, expecting it to do what’s best for the business. But new research from Assistant Professor Joshua Foster shows the models have their own ideas about what “best” means – and they don’t always line up.



Is the written exam finished?

Long before the written exam, students were tested through conversation. With AI now acing the written assessment, research from Assistant Professors Tiffany Bayley and Kyle Maclean, with EdTech Lab Director Tessa Weidner, suggests there’s value in going back to oral exams.



Are today’s boards prepared for what’s next?

As geopolitical, technological, and regulatory pressures intensify, the role of the board is being redefined. At an Ivey Impact Live panel, experts explored what it takes for governance to keep pace – starting with the need to take your eyes off the rearview mirror.



What helps leaders make the right call?

Experience and expertise matter in tough decision-making. But research from Assistant Professor Hayden Woodley reveals another factor that becomes critical when the stakes are high and the trade-offs are significant: how leaders understand emotions.



Business

*Four alumni who personify
global leadership done right*

Without

Borders

By **Pat Morden**

In January 2025, the world was turned upside down with the launch of the U.S. trade war. Many called it the end of globalization. Canada responded by focusing on diversifying trading partners and reducing inter-provincial trade barriers,

But there's a special breed of leaders who don't wait for a crisis to think global. They move wherever interesting work takes them and relish the opportunity to have a global impact.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHAUN ROBINSON





A Passion for the Planet, A Gift for Connection

Charles Newton Price, MBA '09, is one of those leaders. After graduating from Ivey, he became a consultant and then founded a company that provides credit cards for international students. Along the way, he became passionate about finding solutions to the climate crisis and the role of Indigenous peoples in the transition to a regenerative society. He travelled widely, from the U.S. and Europe to the Middle East, Australia and New Zealand, South America, Southeast Asia, Ghana, and beyond, often meeting and learning from Indigenous people. Wherever he went he saw people doing innovative work to address climate challenges but struggling to connect with others who shared the same interests.

He spent time with a small think tank, Future Horizons, exploring the intersection of climate, nature, and business. Then, in 2024, he was approached by the founders of Greentech Alliance to become its CEO. Founded in Germany in 2020, Greentech Alliance was a volunteer-driven non-profit helping connect investors with promising new climate technologies. "They were quite successful with what they were doing but recognized that they needed someone to take it to the next level," says Newton Price. "For me, it was a way of putting everything I was doing together in a way that made sense." →



**"We have to keep
connecting people
with one another. I see
the world as almost
without borders –
we are all the same."**

Charles Newton Price, MBA '09

Newton Price was in New Zealand when Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney delivered his remarkable “middle powers” speech in Davos, Switzerland. His colleagues at Greentech Alliance called him immediately and urged him to announce that the organization was expanding to Canada. He registered the organization as a non-profit in Canada, developed a paid membership business model, and embedded Indigenous partnerships as a key part of the organization’s programming. While Greentech Alliance transitions to the new model, it is moving ahead, building a network of Canadian investors, running an Indigenous youth exchange program, advocating for a regenerative economy, and presenting workshops and lectures. Recently, the Alliance organized the first-ever Climate Week in Calgary, Alberta.

Newton Price’s work is driven by a deep sense of purpose and focus. “There is no question that the transition to a regenerative economy must happen, and we need to share it with as many people as possible.” He also has a talent for making human connections and building collaborations across cultures and geographies. “We have to keep connecting people with one another,” he says. “I see the world as almost without borders – we are all the same.”



“There is no question that the transition to a regenerative economy must happen, and we need to share it with as many people as possible.”

Charles Newton Price, MBA '09





←
“There’s real
power in bringing
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That takes time
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and urgency.”

Teddy Kuhn, HBA '11

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SOPHIA BENNETT

Fuelling Global Collaboration to Save Lives

Teddy Kuhn, HBA '11, is also a global bridge builder. His international career started when he was working as a consultant with BCG. “I think I was always searching for a way to take the Ivey skill set and bring it to purposes with a social impact,” he says. The opportunity came when he saw a notice about a secondment to the United Nations World Food Programme. He packed up and was on his way to Rome within a week, launching a career focused on improving the effectiveness of multilateral institutions. He moved on to work with the Global Fund, an organization that invests billions in developing countries to defeat HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. There he worked in the office of the Executive Director, launching the organization’s performance management function to monitor progress and advise senior leadership on course-correction to improve impact.

Now he’s working with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private global health partnership created in 2000 to increase access to life-saving vaccines for children in the world’s poorest countries. Since it was founded, Gavi has vaccinated 1.2 billion children, helping to reduce childhood mortality by half in low-income countries. His work focuses on one of the most complex challenges in global health: improving how governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, and private-sector partners work together to deliver greater impact. He has led initiatives to strengthen Gavi’s grant design, partnership architecture, and cross-partner performance dialogues.

Given the number of stakeholders in global health, Kuhn says his work requires a delicate balance between consultation and action. “There’s real power in bringing together organizations with different perspectives and strengths to solve problems that none could tackle alone,” he says. “That takes time and patience, without losing focus on the need for action and urgency.” →

Kuhn says humility is also critical in managing across cultures and organizations. “Nobody has all the answers,” he says. “At Gavi, we have to remember that the real expertise lies with the in-country practitioners and impacted communities – they have the experience, they understand the context, and they know what’s needed. If we can enable and support them, we’ll get the best solutions.”

Growing Spotify

From Wall Street investment analyst to corporate strategist for a global music streaming giant, the career of Sheila Spence, HBA ’91, traces a path she describes as “less a random leap than a carefully dedicated path.” After graduating from Ivey, Spence began her career as an analyst for Salomon Brothers, one of Wall Street’s most storied investment banks. She completed an MBA at Harvard Business School, and then joined Primedia, a publishing and events business owned by private equity firm KPR. There, she found her niche as an expert in corporate development and strategy. After 10 years, she was eager for a bigger stage in a more complex industry, and was tapped to lead corporate development at WPP, the largest advertising and marketing services company in the world. The 50-plus acquisitions and strategic investments she authored there were critical for positioning the company for the digital future.

From there, Spence moved to Spotify, the Sweden-based music streaming service which had 300 million subscribers at the time. This time, she built the corporate development function and team from the ground up, which led to the company’s bold moves to expand beyond its music core through strategic acquisitions into new categories – podcasts, audiobooks, AI voice and more.

Spence travelled widely during her time with WPP and Spotify, seeking acquisitions in the U.S. and Europe. “Once a transaction gets pretty serious, you really want to be on site with the company, to see the team in their own environment,” she says. “I never shied away from travel because it always added more richness to the experience.”



“I constantly checked myself to make sure the projects I was working on were truly aligned with the company’s strategy, and to make sure that my team’s energies were focused on the highest priorities. It’s the most rewarding investment you can make with your time, because it’s creating the foundation that will propel their contributions to the company and advance their careers.”

Sheila Spence, HBA ’91

PHOTOGRAPHY BY IKE EDENI





Thinking Ahead

Global companies like WPP and Spotify must be thinking not just two or three years out, but 10 years ahead, Spence says. “You need to have a belief about where consumer demand is heading and then make the strategic bets that will position you to capture it.” At WPP, that meant investing in the capabilities to win in a rapidly digitizing world, strengthening the company’s offer to the biggest global marketers. “You have to be there to catch the rain when it falls,” she says. For Spotify, it meant investing in content categories and technologies that would deepen engagement and expand the platform’s relevance for the next generation of listeners worldwide. A follow-on effect of Spotify’s reach into high-growth regional markets, she points out, is the worldwide popularity of music genres like reggaeton and K-pop.

A key component of Spence’s success at Spotify was building and maintaining relationships with peers across the company. “That’s not always easy, given they’re in different time zones, with many competing priorities, but it was essential to driving new strategic growth at a global company level.” By the time she left in 2025, Spotify had grown to 750+ million users with a market cap of more than \$150 billion. Spence now advises a variety of early-stage companies.

Staying Focused

Like Newton Price and Kuhn, Spence points to the importance of staying on strategy in a global enterprise. “I constantly checked myself to make sure the projects I was working on were truly aligned with the company’s strategy, and to make sure that my team’s energies were focused on the highest priorities.” Equally important was building and nurturing a strong team, especially across geographies. “It’s the most rewarding investment you can make with your time, because it’s creating the foundation that will propel their contributions to the company and advance their careers.”

Spence reflects that her global career success came through a combination of focus, people, and timing. “They say timing is everything,” she says. “But you can’t take advantage of timing if you haven’t got the focus, the networks, and the strategic understanding to move when the moment comes.” →

Building a Global Business with New Tech

After his Ivey program, Vivek Morzaria, HBA '13, wasted no time going global. He moved from London, Canada to London, England, where he worked for International Hotels Group (IHG). From there, he moved across the Channel to Amsterdam to join Uber. "I really valued that experience," he says. "On the business development team, I got to work on deals across multiple facets of the business – payments, riders, drivers – and covered everywhere from Europe to the Middle East and Russia. A lot of the things I was put in charge with were simply a function of the fact there was no-one else to do them!"

Then it was on to San Francisco to take a job with Lime, a scooter and bike sharing startup that now operates in 30 countries and 230 cities. The next stop was New York, where he joined OpenSea, an NFT company, and then Zero Hash, a crypto payments company.

"I find myself consistently drawn to companies that are operating at the intersection of new technology and regulatory change," Morzaria says. Eighteen months ago, that interest led him to become a co-founder of Latitude Global Inc, an innovative payment company that enables cross-border payments using stablecoins in the background to enable instant settlement at lower cost. "Starting Latitude with my co-founders let me explore how stablecoins can be used alongside and instead of traditional payment rails. We hope that by lowering costs and making payments instant, we can make it easier for small businesses and creators to go global."

Morzaria says the relationships he built along his peripatetic career path have been critical to his success. "People pull you up and push you into new roles, and that's been tremendously valuable for me," he says. "I've come to realize that global networks are smaller than I thought they'd be!" His global experience has also taught him about the differences in business culture from one country to another, something that's critical in dealing with partners, customers, and employees at Latitude.





←
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Vivek Morzaria, HBA '13

PHOTOGRAPHY BY IKE EDEANI

“In the U.S., meetings tend to be structured, direct, and right to the point,” he says. “In some other regions, there’s a longer courtship involved. Partnerships form much faster in the U.S., but the ability to go deeper and longer exists when you have a deeper foundation.”

The Right Team, The Right Time

Working with the right people is key to building a global enterprise with speed, he says. “You have to have an exemplary team that you love spending time with. I’m proud that our team is working very productively together.” The right idea at the right time also helps: Morzaria says he and his co-founders raised an \$8 million seed round just as stablecoins were becoming a mainstream topic for large fintech companies. While advances to technology have made it easier to operate internationally, Morzaria believes in the value of meeting face to face. At Latitude, for example, the leadership team meets in person on a quarterly basis, in New York, San Francisco, Texas, or London, U.K.

He advises business leaders interested in building global careers to move as close as possible to the heart of the industry they want to enter. He made the move to San Francisco because he wanted to work in tech and found his job when he got there. “The opportunities that come from being at the centre are so much higher.” As his career trajectory suggests, he is a fan of taking risks and exploring opportunities with early stage, high growth companies. “The learning experience is invaluable.”

Morzaria, Spence, Kuhn and Newton Price are truly global citizens. Their enterprises operate seamlessly across borders, building resilience that goes beyond the news cycle. Regardless of the industry, these leaders have the vision, perspective, energy, and flexibility to make things happen, anywhere and everywhere. “Large global organizations attract incredible people, smart and deeply passionate, who bring diverse perspectives,” Kuhn says. “It’s inspiring in this current global climate to work with organizations that are impactful and prove we can work together to create good things.” ■

The Art of Storytelling



g in a Changing World



Akash Pasricha, HBA '19, on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE).

By Shelley White

In April, Akash Pasricha, HBA '19, was at the New York Stock Exchange shooting an episode of *The Information TV (TITV)*. As anchor of the daily tech news show which runs on YouTube, he regularly interviews prominent tech executives and investors. But doing it overlooking the NYSE trading floor was a first.

Just a few weeks earlier, Pasricha had another pivotal moment at the NYSE. He was invited to host a roundtable discussion with a couple dozen content creators and 'finfluencers' – YouTubers, TikTokers and Instagram personalities in finance and technology with hundreds of thousands of followers. Afterwards, the creators headed to the trading floor to create content and ring the closing bell. For Pasricha, the moment was a powerful symbol of how media is changing.

"It was such an eye-opening glimpse into what this new era of media looks like, seeing these creators on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange with their selfie sticks recording each other," Pasricha says. "Here is this old-school financial institution trying to go viral on Instagram [through these] influencers. This is the new group of people who can move markets, and this is the media that is going to shape the future." →

PHOTOGRAPH BY IKE EDENI

In an era where the only constant is change, few industries are changing more rapidly than the world of media and entertainment. From AI and social media to branded content and the creator economy, endless content is produced in myriad ways on multiple platforms, and competition for audiences is fiercer than ever.

Ivey alumni are working at the intersection of narrative and audience engagement in a fragmented, fast-moving digital landscape. They are helping brands tell their stories, supporting content creators, keeping the public informed, and amplifying diverse perspectives. We caught up with these news, media, and entertainment leaders to find out: What does storytelling mean today?



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—Akash Pasricha, HBA '19

Corporations join the content game

As someone who speaks with tech titans daily, Pasricha has his finger on the pulse of the intersection of media, content, and technology. He joined *The Information* – a tech and business news site founded by a former Wall Street Journal reporter – after spending two years consulting at Deloitte and a stint as a reporter at the *Seattle Times*.

Pasricha says he jumped at the opportunity to launch *TITV* on YouTube because he had always dreamed of being a broadcast journalist. Plus, he knew that YouTube would enable *The Information* to participate in a streaming ecosystem “that has been on fire lately.” Indeed, *Nielsen* reports that streaming regularly commands more TV viewing time than cable or broadcast TV, and YouTube is the number one streaming platform in the U.S.

One of the biggest trends in the media business is that corporations are becoming major players in the content creation game, Pasricha says. Instead of waiting for news organizations to tell their stories, corporations are going direct and creating their own content.

“Companies have entire editorial operations. They’re launching shows, they’re launching podcasts,” says Pasricha, who is based in New York City. “One of the hottest roles in tech right now is ‘new media’ talent, because organizations are constantly looking for ways to stand out.”

He points to some recent examples: OpenAI recently acquired the popular tech podcast *TBPN* for a reported nine-figure deal. Meanwhile, global fintech company Stripe launched a publishing imprint and a podcast, *Cheeky Pint*, where co-founder John Collison interviews fellow founders in a pub – or at least a set that resembles one. Payments company Ramp recently presented an “activation” in Manhattan’s Flatiron District featuring Brian Baumgartner of *The Office*, livestreaming him as he dealt with expense reports for seven hours.

Whether you’re a journalist, an executive, or a startup investor, “you are trying to invest in the thing that will get traction on these new platforms,” Pasricha says. “And it’s a bit of a puzzle because the platforms change so quickly.”

Natalie Diezyn, HBA '21, is well-acquainted with the challenge of helping brands stand out in today’s frantic media cycle. As head of brand at SickBird Productions, a female-led content studio with teams in Toronto, New York City, London, UK, and Santa Monica, California, she works with brands to create engaging content, primarily through video.

Diezyn says that in her view, good storytelling today is about taking an approach to an idea that hasn’t been taken before.

“It’s coming up with something that feels a little unusual to people, something that feels new,” she says. Often, that’s about speed – capturing trends and stories the moment they emerge.

“Twenty years ago, something could be relevant for a whole year, and now it’s relevant for two weeks.”

Diezyn notes that the nature of the online universe has enabled storytellers to find and explore cultural changes as they happen. “If you’re thinking about style, for example, years ago someone would be sent to the most stylish cities in the world to try to spot undercover trends. Now you can find that all online, which makes us able to react and move a lot faster.”

After co-founding femtech startup Marlow, Diezyn worked in marketing and publicity at major entertainment companies including Warner Bros., Disney, and The TARO Group. She says she enjoys working between the business and entertainment worlds. SickBird has created web series, podcasts, and digital content with brands including Billboard, SAG-AFTRA, Lotto Sports, Chime, and Anne Klein, as well as their own Intellectual Property (IP). One example is their series →



Screen capture of Akash Pasricha, HBA '19, interviewing Silver Lake co-founder Glenn Hutchins at the New York Stock Exchange.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY IKE EDENI

Natalie Diezyn, HBA '21



PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHLOMI AMIGA

Follow Her, which documents women around the world as they challenge the traditions and norms of their cultures.

When it comes to the work they do with brands, Diezen says the team strives to create content that is “social native” and doesn’t feel like an ad. That could mean something shot quickly on a mobile phone or a production that has a director of photography and meticulously planned cinematography.

“It really depends on the client’s vision and how scrappy they want it to look, because cinematic quality can definitely be eye-catching, but it doesn’t always perform better,” she says. “Sometimes behind-the-scenes content shot on an iPhone can perform really well, especially if the trend is blowing up.”



“The hope is we get people to form relationships with our columnists on YouTube and TikTok when they’re in their teens or 20s, then they develop this view that *The New York Times* is a worthwhile institution and they subscribe at some point in the future. I’ve been playing a version of that game my whole career.”

—Shannon Busta Riches, EMBA '20

Helping trusted sources share their insights

In a media landscape so crowded with content, what is the role of legacy media?

Shannon Busta Riches, EMBA '20, is head of operations and strategy for Opinion Shows at *The New York Times*, leading the team that produces the *Times*’ opinion podcasts. She oversees a diverse portfolio of podcast content, including recurring shows with political commentators Ezra Klein and Ross Douhat as well as a rotating cast of popular columnists discussing everything from Trump to the economy to gender roles.

“We recently merged our opinion audio and our opinion video department to reflect the fact that most podcasts are video now that we’re moving into this multimodal future,” says Busta Riches, who has worked remotely from Kawartha Lakes, Ont., since the COVID-19 pandemic.

She says that in an era where people are constantly being bombarded with information, providing diverse opinions across platforms is a way to fulfill the NYT’s mission: to help people understand the world. She points out that opinion content is some of the most engaged-with content on nytimes.com.

“Humans are so relational, and sometimes hearing an opinion that you disagree with or that surprises you helps you refine and form your own ideas.”

Busta Riches, who worked as a video producer and audience strategist at *The Globe and Mail* for eight years before joining *The New York Times* in 2019, notes that in the past, the role of newspapers was to provide information. In the early 20th century, for example, newspapers were the way North Americans found out what was happening on the front lines of World War I. People had an endless appetite for facts, but the supply of facts was limited to whatever could fit in a newspaper.

That is not the ecosystem we’re living in now, Busta Riches says. “Audiences are overwhelmed with information. Distribution is completely fragmented. And trust in the media has been declining for decades.”

According to a 2025 study by Pew Research Center, only 56 per cent of U.S. adults say they have either a lot or some trust in the information they get from national news organizations, down 20 percentage points since 2016. That number is even lower among adults under 30, who are about as likely to say they trust information from national news organizations (51 per cent) as information from social media sites (50 per cent).

In this environment, audiences are craving clarity, perspective, and trust, Busta Riches says.

“And that’s where I think the opinion space is really exciting, because we’re finding that our audiences are more likely to form relationships with columnists who are, because of the nature of their job, able to share their views and their perspectives and engage in those spaces in a way that our news reporters cannot.”

It’s particularly important to foster those relationships in the current moment with the spectre of AI looming, Busta Riches says.

“We need to find a way to form relationships with as many people as possible before AI is the only way they’re interfacing with the internet; before everything is just getting served to them in a ChatGPT module,” she says. To that end, *The New York Times* opinion content is disseminated via platforms like YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok, which helps attract interest from younger demographics.

“The hope is we get people to form relationships with our columnists on YouTube and TikTok when they’re in their teens or 20s, then they develop this view that *The New York Times* is a worthwhile institution and they subscribe at some point in the future,” Busta Riches says. “I’ve been playing a version of that game my whole career.”

The question of AI in content creation

In recent years, there is perhaps no topic as piping hot in the media and entertainment world as AI. The increasing popularity of generative AI platforms like ChatGPT, Claude, and Gemini have changed the way content is created and consumed.

For Alykhan Kaba, HBA '12, AI has the potential to democratize the content making process, especially in regions that lack resources. “It gives people a new stepping stone, a new gateway into IP creation that otherwise might have felt inaccessible.”

Kaba, who is based in Los Angeles, is founder of Aries Media Ventures, a fund that invests in early-stage media startups in emerging markets to enable media ecosystems to evolve and mature. Right now, he’s focused on sub-Saharan Africa.

“There is no shortage of entrepreneurs →

56%
of adults
trust information from
national news
organizations
— a 20-point
decline
since 2016.

51%
of adults
under 30 trust
national news
organizations,
compared with
50% who trust
social media.

Pew Research
Center (2025)

outside of North America and Western Europe. But they're systemically disadvantaged because the capital, the resources, and the knowledge that supports these industries is disproportionately concentrated in two or three cities in the world," says Kaba. "There's no reason Africa shouldn't be exporting their products, their talent, and their technology."

His first two investments are a venue booking platform in Nairobi, Kenya, and an influencer monetization tool in Lagos, Nigeria. "It's basically a two-sided marketplace where there are influencers who want to sell their services and brands who want to work with influencers."

Kaba says he's been intrigued by some of the ways technology, including AI, is enabling creators in emerging markets to make content.



"There is no shortage of entrepreneurs outside of North America and Western Europe. But they're systemically disadvantaged because the capital, the resources, and the knowledge that supports these industries is disproportionately concentrated in two or three cities in the world. There's no reason Africa shouldn't be exporting their products, their talent, and their technology."

—Alykhan Kaba, HBA '12

"There are companies that have new applications for things like visual effects, sound effects, and post-production editing, that can be used anywhere in the world. You don't need to be in L.A.," he says.

For example, he recently spoke with a startup that offers a "studio in a box" with large LED screens that mimic a Hollywood-style studio in any environment. "It's something that enables you to create a more diverse and complete range of content in a cost-efficient way."

Before he launched Aries Media Ventures, Kaba worked in a range of entertainment-related industries including television at NBCUniversal and gaming at Activision Blizzard. He says he can envision generative AI being used to create shortcuts in animation or gaming content, or filling a space in the vertical, mobile-first video on social media. But he doesn't think AI will mean the end of people making art.

"I liken it to mass-produced bread versus artisanal bread," Kaba says. "The artisanal bread is really good and it never went away. You'll pay more for it, and you'll always go for it when all things are equal. But we eat a lot less because now there's mass-produced bread that you can get from Walmart."



"I don't think there's a single right approach. Sometimes AI slop performs well. The reason that you watch it is that it's ridiculous. It's weird. But I don't think that's replacing content that humans have created. You can come up with a million campaigns created by AI, but taste and cultural relevance are not easily replicated. The core idea needs to be uniquely human."

—Natalie Diezyn, HBA '21

He points out that some entertainment companies are putting guardrails on the use of AI to protect creative jobs and actors' likenesses, and those companies are bound to attract talent.

"I think artists and creatives have more power than people like to admit, and if all of the great artists say, 'hey, I will only work with this company because they create content the way that I want it to be created', that actually does move the needle," Kaba says.

In Pasricha's view, AI is "turbocharging experimentation" for storytellers, enabling creators to try out different formats and shift their content strategy quickly and cheaply. He adds that as someone who needs to get up to speed on many different topics for his daily news show, AI summaries can be useful for research. But he notes that the proliferation of AI-generated content can also propel misinformation, reinforcing traditional journalism's value proposition.

"This is exactly the reason why it's still worth paying for journalism and original reporting," he says. "Fact checking is a slow, tedious process, but it creates trust and brand in news organizations."

Busta Riches says that while staff at *The New York Times* can use approved, in-house AI tools for tasks like brainstorming or data analysis, the newspaper's AI policy is that all published content must be the product of human reporting and creativity only.

"It's not a leap we're willing to make, especially when AI models still hallucinate and trust is already an issue," Busta Riches says. "We really believe that the people behind the journalism, whether they're columnists or news reporters, are our best asset in fighting this lack of trust in the industry."

At SickBird, Diezyn says her team leverages AI and data analysis tools to identify what's trending. "And that changes day by day, right? We can jump on those trends immediately in brand-safe ways that engage audiences."

She adds that SickBird remains a person-first production company, but like so many others in the media and entertainment industry, they are figuring it out as they go.

"I don't think there's a single right approach," she says. "Sometimes AI slop performs well. The reason that you watch it is because it's ridiculous. It's weird. But I don't think that's replacing content that humans have created."

It's important for content creators to remember that AI-generated content has inherent limitations, Diezyn adds, because it's entirely built on existing data.

"You can come up with a million campaigns created by AI, but taste and cultural relevance are not easily replicated," she says. "The core idea needs to be uniquely human." ■



PHOTOGRAPHY BY IKEDDEANI

Shannon Busta Riches, EMBA '20





By Pat Morden

Illustrations by Maya Nguyen

COMING HOME NEVER GETS OLD

Four Homecoming reunion organizers reflect on their connection to Ivey and why it's important to reconnect

Mention Circle R Ranch, an outdoor education centre near London, Ontario, to a member of the HBA Class of 1986, and you'll likely get a smile, maybe even a knowing chuckle. "It was an ice breaker, a way of getting to know one another at the end of the stressful first week," says Carol Trattner, HBA '86, MBA '89, a commercial real estate professional who is helping to organize the 40th reunion of the class. "I won't tell you everything that happened that night – as the saying goes, 'what happens at Circle R stays at Circle R!'"

Every Ivey class has memories like these, moments that remain bright and raise a smile years later. "Ivey was a very influential time in our lives," says Trattner, "providing a common foundation as we started out in our careers. It's a shared history that creates bonds and authentic relationships." It's that shared history that brings Ivey alumni back to the School and one another at Homecoming every five years, and often in between.

Trattner recalls arriving on the first day of class 40 years ago. "Many of us felt nervous, vulnerable, and overwhelmed," she says. "We sought support from our classmates who knew what we were going through, and that connection stays with you even decades later." With no cellphones or social media, the Class of '86 did everything in person, forging strong bonds especially with their study groups. To this day Trattner is close friends with several members of her original group.



"Ivey was a very influential time in our lives, providing a common foundation as we started in our careers. It's a shared history that creates bonds and authentic relationships."

Carol Trattner, HBA '86, MBA '89



Trattner's fellow convenor, Allison Christilaw, HBA '86, MBA '92, says the Ivey connection went beyond the years at the School. One of her professors helped her find her first job in marketing. Later, when she ran a consulting company, Ivey became the primary source of new consultants. Now her son, who is also an Ivey grad and a consultant, continues to recruit at the School on behalf of his firm. "Ivey gave us all a common foundation," says Trattner. "We can go months, even years, without seeing one another, and when we start talking, we just pick up where we left off."

Michael Bernstein, who is one of several organizers for the MBA '96 reunion, remembers a rocky start for his class. A classmate died by suicide within weeks of starting the program, while two other classmates faced serious health scares. "We were a particularly close class, and I think that had something to do with the early trauma," says Bernstein. Like HBA '86, the Ivey learning experience itself forged the strongest bonds. "It was just being in class with a variety of like-minded people, a sense that we're here to learn but also here to make friends and have fun." He remembers the stress of 48-hour reports and the give and take of classroom discussions, leavened by jokes. Also bright in the collective memory of the class: an all-night visit to the Windsor casino that produced some bleary faces in class the next morning. →

TOP RIGHT: Michael Bernstein, MBA '96, takes a selfie with classmates during a recent meet-up in Italy. Also pictured: Dan Nowlan, Dominique Fortier, Jon Ehrlich and Nan DasGupta.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Section 1 celebrates after their final exam in spring 1985.





“We were the first class to say that part of our responsibility was to think about future generations and help ensure that they could benefit from the experiences we had.”

Michael Bernstein, MBA '96





“I’m getting to the point that I’m realizing the value of my relationships and holding friendships more dearly. I want to be more intentional about helping to nurture this Ivey community.”

Wole Oluwole-Rotimi, MBA '16

Wole Oluwole-Rotimi is helping bring his class, MBA '16, together to commemorate their tenth anniversary. Oluwole-Rotimi joined Ivey from his home country of Nigeria. “I didn’t really have any relationships or network in Canada,” he remembers. “I was suddenly in a new group, trying to figure out the dynamic. But everyone was very welcoming and open, and supportive of one another.” He admits wryly that the academic load was “a bit of a firehose” early in the program but says it taught him the value of collaboration. “I quickly realized that I couldn’t do everything myself, that I had to team up, and that created a real bond.”

There were a number of international students in Oluwole-Rotimi’s section, which helped with the adjustment. “You never felt that you were on your own, unless you chose to be.” Not a social butterfly himself, he formed several close friendships while working hard to keep up with the demands of the program. And he says it paid off. “I came away from the MBA program very confident about entering the business world – I felt like I could do anything!”

Bernstein’s class started the tradition of a graduating class gift to the School with a \$96 for Class of '96 campaign. “We were the first class to say that part of our responsibility was to think about future generations and help ensure that they could benefit from the experiences we had.” The class has continued that tradition ever since, establishing an entrance scholarship worth \$40,000. Other classes have adopted the class gift concept, which has become an Ivey staple. Bernstein himself went on to serve as Chair of the Ivey Alumni Network at a pivotal time in its history.



TOP: Top two teams in the Hult Case Competition at Western. The winning team advanced to the regional round in Boston.

BOTTOM: Section 2 classmates reconnect during a night out.





“Ivey gave us all a common foundation. We can go months, even years, without seeing one another, and when we start talking, we just pick up where we left off.”

**Allison Christilaw,
HBA '86, MBA '92**

Not surprisingly, the HBA Class of '86 is now spread across the globe. Trattner and Christilaw expect a good in-person turnout for a Friday night event at the home of a classmate and dinner on Saturday at a restaurant. There are lots of other ideas too, including a visit to a local artist's studio, shopping, hiking, pickleball, and golf. To include classmates who can't make the trip, there's a plan to create two-way video messages. Bernstein's class will also get together Friday and Saturday evening for drinks, food, and an opportunity mingle. Among other activities, there are plans for a panel discussion with classmates talking about their career trajectories. Oluwole-Rotimi's classmates are busy mid-career and with young families but will have gatherings in London and Toronto. “It turns out that a lot of people can't make it to face-to-face events,” he says, “but talking about it has spurred conversations, and that's good.”

So why do Ivey graduates choose to reconnect? Trattner and Christilaw say many of their classmates have grown children, (some of whom have attended Ivey) and are starting to think about retirement. “We've all had busy, stressful careers, and now we're looking for a way to reconnect,” says Trattner. Bernstein's classmates are at a different life stage, often with adult children, aging parents, and careers at their peak. Their 30th anniversary holds special significance as the 25th fell during COVID-19. “We're entering a different phase of our lives, and that gives us a reason to pause and think about friendship, and our shared history,” says Bernstein. “I think this will be an inflection point for the class.”

For Oluwole-Rotimi, who just started a business in Houston, Texas, renewing the Ivey connection is also important. “I turned 40 this year,” he says. “I'm getting to the point that I'm realizing the value of my relationships and holding friendships more dearly. I want to be more intentional about helping to nurture this Ivey community.” ■



BUILDING WHAT'S NEXT

Siblings Rosamond Ivey, HBA '82, LLD '18, and Richard W. Ivey, HBA '72, LLD '13, are continuing their family's nearly 80-year partnership with the School by funding what business education needs next.

By Sara Kelly



The Ivey family's involvement with Ivey Business School and Western University spans nearly 80 years and three generations. The latest chapter builds on that legacy while focusing on the future, through recent faculty chair gifts from siblings

Rosamond Ivey, HBA '82, LLD '18, and Richard W. Ivey, HBA '72, LLD '13.

Rosamond sees these gifts as closely aligned with the School's strategy: "[They] fit within Ivey's Bold Ambition, which is to build on the School's legacy of leadership in business education in Canada, with an eye focused on what's coming." Rosamond's and Richard's generous gifts, combined with Dean's Chair Matches of \$5 million, represent a total investment of \$12.5 million to advance faculty excellence, research, teaching, and thought leadership.

"We look at our relationship as a partnership between the School, the University, and the family, financially, strategically, and even operationally," adds Richard. "The real driver for us has always been supporting excellence."

A Launchpad for Character

Rosamond's most recent investment will establish a Chair in Leader Character within the Ian O. Ihnatowycz Institute for Leadership. The new chair will play a central role in the Institute's vision to become a global incubator for leader character research and education.

The seed for the gift was planted when Rosamond read about businessman and philanthropist Stephen Jarislowsky's initiative to fund chairs in Trust and Political Leadership at five Canadian universities. Around the same time, she read an article in *Intouch* about Ivey's Ian O. Ihnatowycz Institute for Leadership, established in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis by Ian Ihnatowycz, MBA '82, LLD '13.

"That was really the spark of my interest," she recalls. Drawn to the Institute's focus on elevating leader character along with competency and commitment, she realized that "what Ivey is

"Ivey's education doesn't just focus on content. We focus on capabilities, from judgment to persuasion to resilience."

—Richard W. Ivey, HBA '72, LLD '13

creating through the Institute is something that's new."

"There isn't any corner of our society ... that wouldn't be enhanced by people having a greater vision of the common good," Rosamond believes. She recognizes the need for leaders whose humanity is "based on a broader vision than just the success of the business that they run."

Teaching character, Rosamond understands, is not obvious. "People think, 'What do you mean teaching character? It's too subjective,'" she says. "But the Institute has proven through its evidence-based research and programming that there is a real opportunity. The more I learned about what the research shows, the more enthusiastic I became about the Institute disseminating its expertise and the impact possibilities."

Rosamond hopes her investment will act as a launchpad. "A chair is fundamental to the entire vision of the Institute and what it wants to do: building strategic partnerships with global programs in higher education that include a leader character component. It will provide Ivey with an opportunity to carve out an important position based on its history of research in this area."

An AI Ecosystem

Richard's latest gift will establish the Richard W. Ivey Family Chair for AI in Business, along with a Research and Outreach Fund, Teaching Scholar, Post-doctoral Fellows, and AI Enhanced Learning Innovation Fund. Together, they will help advance the School's ambitions to create knowledge that matters on one of the most critical issues facing business and society today and also contribute to the School's desire to reimagine experiential learning.

It was important to him to create an ecosystem around the chair, "to ensure an institutionally integrated approach

to AI," he explains. "Not only dedicated research and faculty positions for research in AI in business but developing AI-focused curriculum, enhancing AI-supported teaching, and ensuring AI-focused knowledge mobilization."

Together, he hopes these pieces will help Ivey "emerge as a global thought leader in AI in business," and "deliver a more effective and engaged experience for students and faculty."

For Richard, AI's transformative potential drove the gift's focus. "AI is going to impact the entire world, for better or worse," he says. "And a big chunk of that will be business. In fact, the biggest impact may be in business."

"We've never lived in a time of greater change," he reflects. "Whether it's climate deterioration, wars, increasingly dramatic wealth inequality – and of course, AI – it's hard to keep up. These changes will impact business education in spades. Ivey needs to anticipate and adapt, and then do it again and again as these changes accelerate."

"Business education needs to reflect that by preparing students for this new world," he says. "Everything from how to use AI tools to create a competitive advantage, and how to implement AI tools responsibly and ethically."

He also understands that AI is a challenge to education itself. "Ivey's experiential learning is a little bit immune to a lot of the issues with AI in education," he asserts. He sees the case method as reinforcing the areas that AI can't reach. "Ivey's education doesn't just focus on content. We focus on capabilities, from judgment to persuasion to resilience. That's what we teach our students. We create confident, capable people."

Throughlines

Though independently made, when considered together, both siblings' gifts respond to the same underlying question: what kind of leaders will the world need from Ivey, and what will they need to understand? That's a question the Ivey family has been helping the School answer for three generations. And with these latest gifts, it's a question Rosamond and Richard are helping answer for generations to come. ■

"A chair is fundamental to the entire vision of the [Ihnatowycz] Institute and what it wants to do: building strategic partnerships with global programs in higher education that include a leader character component."

—Rosamond Ivey, HBA '82, LLD '18



We shared
the experience.

We share the
network.

We share the
pride.

Let's celebrate
our own... again!

**Celebrating
18 years**

**Global
Ivey Day**

May 13, 2027

iveyday.ca

#GlobalIveyDay

Your Ivey Network

Global Ivey Day 2026

From SoCal to Singapore, the 17th annual Global Ivey Day united more than 1,000 alumni across 25 events in eight countries – celebrating connection, shared experiences, and school pride worldwide

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New Ways to Make Memories

A message from Larissa Chaikowsky, MBA '04, Chair, Ivey Alumni Network

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Ivey Lives Remembered

Gerald Knowlton, HBA '55
1933-2025

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The Ghost in the Machine
Salim Teja, HBA '96, is helping Ivey explore AI's impact on business and education

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2026 Service Awards

Ryan Grant Little, MBA '06, and Nadia Ladak, HBA '20, were named the 2026 recipients of the Ivey Alumni Achievement Awards

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Ivey Class Notes

Tell us where you are, what you're doing, who you care about, and how you're staying in touch with your Ivey friends. Celebrate your achievements, activities, and interests. Let us know about the latest matches and hatches – these are your pages.

Submit your notes and photos for the next issue to: ivey.ca/alumni/classnotes or email intouch@ivey.ca

Homecoming Save the Date: September 25-27, 2026

Special reunion celebrations are being planned for classes with graduation years ending in '1 and '6.

Visit ivey.ca/homecoming for the full event schedule!

1955

Gerald Knowlton, HBA '55, is remembered in this issue of Intouch. See page 41.

earliest students. His time at Ivey was one of the highlights of his life. A wonderful business mentor to his family, including his grandchildren, Vic will be remembered with great pride and admiration.

1958

Victor Siroishka, MBA '58, passed away on April 17, 2026, leaving behind a remarkable legacy and deep connection to Ivey. Vic and his wife, Denyse Siroishka, attended reunions regularly over the decades, and he remained incredibly proud to have been one of the School's



Continued on Page 39 →

New Ways to Make Memories

A message from Larissa Chaikowsky, MBA '04,
Chair, Ivey Alumni Network

Powerful memories have stayed with me from my first Global Ivey Day as Alumni Chair.

Two colleagues at the Senior Alumni Breakfast who hadn't seen each other in more than 30 years, trading stories about family and career and making plans to get together as if no time had passed. Ryan Grant Little, MBA '06, and Nadia Ladak, HBA '20, receiving their Ivey Alumni Achievement Awards. I heard many times how people were "blown away" by the sophistication, technology, and beauty of the new Donald K. Johnson Centre when they saw it for the first time.

Those were just a few of the memorable moments shared across 25 regional events in eight countries that brought together more than 1,000 alumni. The Ivey bond is truly something special.

Strengthening that bond is why we went out with the Voice of Alumni survey, connecting with alumni at every stage of their careers. One thing was clear: there is no single solution that fits everyone. Yet one message stood out above all others. No matter where you are in your career or life journey, meaningful human connection matters.

Whether it is larger events that help expand your network early in your career or more curated learning and networking opportunities later, we are exploring new ways to better meet your needs.

Removing the geographic barriers that stand in the way of making new memories was also critical learning from the survey. By creating more opportunities both online and in person, we can help remove geographic barriers and bring our alumni community even closer together.

At the same time, we are refreshing our strategy to ensure we are focused on the right priorities and delivering even greater value to our alumni community. I look forward to sharing more about that and other exciting opportunities in my next message.



"No matter where you are in your career or life journey, meaningful human connection matters."

One final memory from Global Ivey Day: An HBA student attending the Sydney, Australia event while on exchange shared that she could see herself working there one day. Imagine how a single connection can shape a career, influence an industry, and even change a future.

If you are having a milestone year, I hope Homecoming 2026 creates memorable moments like these for you, and I look forward to hearing your stories.

1965

Allan Jackson, HBA '65, is mentioned in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 41.

1966

Jim Lawrason, HBA '66, has published a new trilogy for seniors through his publishing company, Peache House Press, titled *Brainy PUZZLERS*. Book 1 features 50 "Quick Quotes" presented in puzzle format to inspire seniors. Book 2 includes 50 *Jeopardy!*-type puzzles titled "What's the Question?" Book 3 contains 50 pages of trivia. The trilogy also includes information on brain health (neuroplasticity) and super-agers to engage, inspire, and encourage readers aged 50 and older to keep learning.

1967

Marc Beauchamp, HBA '67, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 9.

1968

Barry Goode, HBA '68, writes, "On behalf of my class: We graduated 58 years ago! That makes most of the 37 remaining class members at least 80 years old. Classmate **Dr. Michael Pearce** sums it up this way:"

How did this happen? I find it incredible that so much time has passed since graduation. I suppose we have had the usual pattern of reunions: at 5 years (bragging about our jobs),



Jeff Chaplin, HBA '67, passed away with deep love from those who knew him. Jeff built a distinguished career in the Canadian jewellery industry, beginning with Peoples Jewellers before founding his award-winning wholesale custom jewellery enterprise serving clients across Canada. In 1988, he established Jeffrey Alan & Associates, Inc., specializing in engagement rings, corporate and sports recognition pieces, and alumni jewellery. A gifted designer and natural entrepreneur, Jeff served six years as Director of the Canadian Jewellers' Association and spent 12 years as an on-air jewellery co-host on *The*



Shopping Channel, where his charisma and knowledge made him a beloved presence in homes nationwide. Jeff enjoyed travel, was a car enthusiast, always ready with a joke, story, or a warm smile – he never met a stranger. Predeceased by his wife, Fran Ross Chaplin, he is survived by daughters Elyse Chaplin, PhD of Sarasota, & Marni Lennon, JD., as well as grandchildren Jordanna and Jared Lennon. Jeff will be remembered for his distinguished career, integrity, kindness, generosity, and the warmth that defined his extraordinary life.

Submitted by Elyse Chaplin, daughter of Jeff Chaplin

10 years (bragging about our new kids), 15 years (introducing our new partners), 20 years (explaining our changed jobs), 30 years (comparing portfolios), 40 years (comparing retirement plans), 50 years (bemoaning our health problems), 55 years (retirement travel notes) and at 60 years (?).

I'm grateful to still be around, to be able to remember our shared time together at school, in fact, to be able to remember any-

thing for that matter. We've all had our joys and our difficulties. We've all met major challenges we didn't anticipate and tested our resilience. We have taken very different paths for careers, families, travel, and hobbies. We have always been an interesting bunch.

Maybe at this stage you're like me: not worrying about a career anymore but still busy. Each day when I wake up, I check my body to see what hurts and what isn't

Trending @ Ivey

See what's catching attention on Ivey's socials

1539 likes, 7 comments

iveybusiness
Congratulations, Ivey Class of 2026!

It was a wonderful day celebrating the accomplishments of the newest Ivey alumni! Degrees were conferred across Ivey's HBA, MBA, MSc, EMBA, AMBA, and PhD programs at two ceremonies today.

Read all about the celebrations including a listing of all Ivey Award winners and valedictorians at the link in our bio.

[@WesternUniversity #IveyGrad #WesternClassOf2026 #ClassOf2026](#)

311 shares

Trending @ Ivey

See what's catching attention on Ivey's socials



583 likes, 11 comments



iveybusiness

Three generations. One Ivey story. ❤️

When Rachel Millar, HBA '26, graduated this week, she became the latest in her family to walk the Ivey path, following her mom, Suzanne (Walter) Millar, HBA '91, and her grandfather, Peter Walter, HBA '62. Her brother, Markus Millar, HBA '27 candidate, is up next.

"What really drew me in was seeing how close my mom and her friends still are," Rachel said. "They live all over the place now, but they're still incredibly connected."

For Suzanne, watching both her children choose Ivey has been especially meaningful: "It feels really special that they chose it for themselves."

Read the full story at the link in our bio. 📌

[#IveyGrad](#) [#WesternClassOf2026](#)
[#ClassOf2026](#)

78 shares

working – but other than the typical health concerns of an 80-year-old, I revel in knowing I have a lot less stress in my life. That means lots of time for hobbies, travel, and family. I hope all of you are doing the best you can to enjoy life. We're in our 80's – so, carpe diem!

Barry and Judy continue to dream on Georgian Bay for their 24th summer and travel during the winter. This year, they spent a month in Crete and a month in Rhodes. Both volunteer, and Barry recently earned his Food Handler's licence to work as a volunteer cook at Huronia Hospice.

Rick Ampleford and his wife, both in their mid-80s, live in Barrie, Ont. Rick had a 34-year career in the Canadian packaging industry, working on products from beer to ketchup, and contributing to two major technologies that changed toothpaste and ketchup packaging markets.

Stan Blair decided to treat himself in retirement with an 80th birthday gift!



Bob Bulloch lives in Huntsville and continues to support the cruise industry! His recent favourites include Crystal and Silver Ray.

Brian Follett and Rita live on Vancouver Island and enjoy extensive travel. Their

great-nephew will be the third generation of his family to go through Western! Both turn 80 this year and are loving volunteer activities, woodworking, and sewing.

Chris Gadsby and Cheryl have lived on Salt Spring Island, B.C., for the past 21 years. "This community of 12,000 people and the isolation of an island provide some refuge from the turbulent world which we all seem to live in."

Lynn (Alexander) Glenn was awarded the Girl Guides Medal of Merit in 2025.

Tom Howe tried to claim Order of Canada – but most of us know it was Gordie Howe, not Tom! He and Janice are heading to see the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona.

Donald (Don) Loeb continues to work on real estate development investments in the Southern U.S. For several years, Don has also been pursuing cancer treatments worldwide for a close family member and is amazed by advances across many areas of medicine.

Richard McLaren is still working at Innovative Dispute Resolution Ltd. in London, Ont., and recently received an Honorary Degree from Western University. His career has taken him from local courtrooms to the centre of international sport, including exposing one of the largest doping scandals in sports history.

John Smith turns 84 in January. He has five

grandkids aged 18-25. He and Lois will travel to Scotland in the fall to see their grandson Luke play professional hockey!

1971

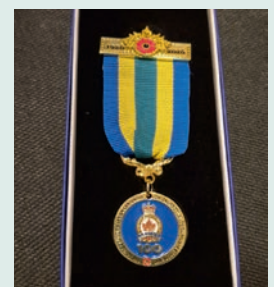
Greg Finch, HBA '71, writes, "I just retired from a 20-year career in the resort industry, most recently as CEO of a well-known ski area in Colorado. I have to grin at the memory of Bud Johnston noticeably upset at my very poor case presentation on what else? A ski resort."

1972

Richard W. Ivey, HBA '72, LLD '13, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 34.

1976

Rob Orser, HBA '76, served as co-chair of the highly successful Dominion Legion Cribbage Championships in 2023. In November 2026, the Royal Canadian Legion – and the Cochrane, Alta., Branch #15 – will celebrate their 100th anniversary. To mark this milestone, the branch will host the Dominion Darts Championships, welcoming players from every province across Canada. Pictured: photo of the commemorative 100th Anniversary Legion medal.



Gerald Loree Knowlton, HBA '55 1933-2025

Gerald Knowlton was a builder – of companies and skylines, but also of his family, employees, traditions, and futures.

By Sara Kelly

Allan Jackson, HBA '65, worked for 20 years at Knowlton Realty — the Calgary, Alta.-based commercial real estate company that Gerald Knowlton, HBA '55, built and expanded to six cities across North America. One day, Knowlton came into Jackson's office describing a complex land deal. Astonished by what he heard, Jackson asked, "When did you negotiate that?" Knowlton replied, "They don't know about it yet, but that's my plan." And that's how Knowlton willed the iconic, four-building Bow Valley Square in downtown Calgary into existence.

The son of a Canadian Pacific Railway stationmaster, Knowlton grew up in the Standard, Alta. railway station. "He learned the value of hard work at an early age," says grandson Harrison Méan, HBA '14. Grandson Alex Purdy, HBA '06, adds that his humble upbringing "shaped his appreciation for opportunity. He understood talented people don't always have the same resources or connections."

In a Fall 2005 *Intouch* interview, Knowlton recalled first hearing about Ivey, then the Western Business School, from a church visitor when he was 12, and the rest was history. At Ivey, he met Mary Janet, his wife of 62 years. Four of their five daughters and four grandchildren also graduated from Western. Granddaughter Emily Duggan, HBA '14, took the Ivey Pledge alongside her grandfather at her convocation.



"It was special how excited he was. Ivey always meant a lot to him ... once he got the ring, he never took it off. He wore it with pride and made sure I saw he was wearing it when I visited." — Emily Duggan, HBA '14

"It was special how excited he was. Ivey always meant a lot to him ... once he got the ring, he never took it off. He wore it with pride and made sure I saw he was wearing it when I visited."

Knowlton stayed connected with Ivey as an active volunteer and generous donor. He served on both the Western Board of Governors (1989-93) and the Ivey Advisory Board (1972-98), receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Calgary Alumni Chapter in 2014. Among his many gifts to the School was the Knowlton Family Rural Alberta Award, which provides students from rural Alberta with \$10,000 during their first two years at Western, with an additional \$20,000 if they attend Ivey.

"He never forgot the opportunities that education and hard work had afforded him. He wanted others from similar backgrounds to benefit from the same opportunities that had transformed his life," says Méan. Purdy adds that Knowlton's generosity was often directed at helping people build a better future.

"He didn't view philanthropy as separate from the rest of his life; it was consistent with how he led his family and business. He wanted to create the conditions for people to achieve their potential."

Knowlton's childhood also inspired a lifelong passion for trains. A favourite way to travel with family, he was also a collector — but not of models. In 1980, he bought a decommissioned railway station with the same layout as the one he grew up in and moved it to 54 acres south of Okotoks, Alta. Together with full-sized rail cars he'd collected and 1100 feet of tracks, he named it Champion Park and enjoyed the property for many years with family and friends before gifting it to the town of Okotoks and Foothills County in 2016.

From companies and skylines to his family and the railway park, Knowlton built things meant to last — including opportunities for students he would never meet. As Jackson says, "He left the world better than he found it and encouraged others to do the same."

Trending @ Ivey

See what's catching attention on Ivey's socials



407 likes, 1 comments



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This year, Ivey proudly hosted the 36th annual Scotiabank International Case Competition, welcoming 13 teams from five continents to tackle real-world business challenges on a global stage.

Representing Ivey, HBA students Isaac Irwin, London Luyks, Tristan Nemcek, and Shane Weinberger delivered an outstanding performance, earning a second-place finish. From intense preparation to high-pressure presentations, they put the case method into action. Read their full reflections on competing in the Scotiabank International Case Competition in the latest Inside Ivey Q&A, at the link in bio.

[#IveyBusiness](#) [#StudentExperience](#)
[#CaseCompetition](#)

46 shares

1977

Elaine Stanley, HBA '77, shares the passing of classmate **Stephen Ross, HBA '77**, in February 2026. He will be remembered for his many passions – especially his deep love of family – and will be greatly missed by his loved ones, friends, classmates, and golf buddies. More recently, eight HBA '77 classmates came together for lunch at Terroni in Toronto on May 13. Attendees included **Susan Stevenson Pennal, Nancy Humphreys Browne, Mary Killoran, James Werry, David Hopps, Bruce Hynds, Gary Grundman, and Elaine Stanley.**

so fortunate to reconnect and catch up with each other in the years since we finished our HBAs at the various functions and reunions supported by our alma mater.”



1982

Rosamond Ivey, HBA '82, LLD '18, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 34.

1985

Jules Atha, HBA '85, MBA '91, writes, “HBA '85 celebrated Global Ivey Day with a Zoom gathering. As always, there was a great mix of classmates including **Cathy Addison, Jules Atha, John de Roos, Chris Francis, Cathy Honor, Greg Johns, Gary Kornya, John MacDonald, Doug Murphy, Lorenzo Palumbo, Michael Sachter, Liz Schwenk-Yager, Todd Tomkinson and Cynthia Wong.** It was lovely to see everyone and catch up.”

Lorne Cutler, MBA '85, was confirmed by Engineers Canada as Ontario's latest director on the umbrella group of Canadian provincial and territorial engineering regulators after nine years on the Governing Council of Professional Engineers Ontario, much of that time as Chair of the Audit and Finance Committee.

Cathy Honor, HBA '85, writes, “Five years retired, and it is so joyful. I'm doing board work and enjoying sailing on Vancouver Island. We go back and forth to Toronto and Philadelphia to visit the kids – and we're grandparents... it's the best!”



Donna Porter, MBA '85, passed in April 2024. She is fondly remembered as the MBA 1985 Class Liaison for over a decade and organized wonderful reunions during that period.

Sean Shannon, HBA '85, writes, “After 42 years post-Ivey, I have retired! Time to stop and smell the roses. My career started at P&G in brand management and then moved to Cooper Sporting Goods, Molson, an Internet B2B start up, Expedia, Busbud, and finished at National Diabetes Trust as President and CEO. A wonderful journey, and I worked with so many outstanding colleagues. The greatest skills I learned at Ivey were asking good questions, challenging the status quo, and achieving success through others.”



Salim Teja, HBA '96



PHOTOGRAPH BY CAMERON FONG

The Ghost in the Machine

Fascinated by the potential of artificial intelligence (AI), Salim Teja, HBA '96, is helping Ivey explore how this technology will reshape learning, business, society, and even education.

By Cam Buchan

In an Ivey classroom discussion, in the not-so-distant future, HBA student Mina Concord is certain she has the answer: the CEO in the case should acquire the fast-growing competitor. Using her agentic AI learning companion, she analyzes the deal as it unfolds in real time.

"This is definitely the right call," she thinks.

"Mina," the professor interrupts her thoughts. "What's still keeping the CEO awake at night?"

...

Salim Teja was awestruck.

A glimpse into the foundational work of Canadian and 2024 Nobel Prize Physics honouree Geoffrey Hinton, whose research helped transform AI into a must-have technology for business, revealed the enormous opportunity AI offered.

It was an epiphany for Teja, who at the time held a leadership role at MaRS Discovery District.

"The first time I got to play with it was when ChatGPT came out in 2022," said Teja, now a Partner with Radical Ventures. "That's when I was able to touch and feel the magic of AI."

Under Teja's guidance, that magic now reaches the classroom through the Ivey Fellows Program, which invites leaders at the forefront of this technology to share their journeys with students and faculty.

"It's a great start," said Teja. "AI will certainly be a big theme the School continues to explore."

As a venture capitalist, Teja thinks about AI's potential to accelerate research, drive industry adoption, reshape education, and create both opportunity and disruption.

What should alumni and students focus on to ensure it's a win for them? AI fluency, critical thinking, and an understanding of risk and compliance are certainly vital.

"This period is going to shake everyone into continuous learning mode again, forcing them to reimagine their career journeys."

For Teja, the glass is half full. Partnering with agentic AI, advancing personalized education, and addressing global challenges like improving health-care outcomes, climate change, and reimagining manufacturing are all possible.

"It's a fantastic time."

...

Before Mina can answer, her AI companion poses another question.

"Which stakeholder has received the least attention in the discussion so far?"

"Employees!" Mina realizes. As the discussion intensifies, students offer competing ideas. Her AI tracks them in real time, surfacing data and questions tailored to the points being raised.

As she logs out, Mina feels she has spent the class not just studying a leader's decision. She has practiced making one.

Alumni Reconnect Worldwide for 17th Annual Global Ivey Day

On May 14, the 17th annual Global Ivey Day (GID) brought together alumni, faculty, and students around the world in a celebration of connection, shared experiences, and school pride.

From SoCal to Singapore, 25 regional events across eight countries brought together more than 1,000 alumni, showcasing the breadth and energy of Ivey's global community. In Sydney, Australia, an HBA student on exchange attended an alumni event and left inspired, able to picture a future living and working there – a small but powerful example of the global network in action.

The celebrations kicked off with an Alumni Community-led event, *Things They Don't Teach You at Business School*. The conversation featured a candid conversation with Anton Rabie, HBA '94, Co-Founder of Spin Master, moderated by Thompson Clarke, HBA '18. *Elevate Your Career* also returned a day ahead of GID, with alumni sharing stories of building their careers.

Engagement was strong across all locations, with more than 800 alumni attending regional events. In Toronto, celebrations included a sold-out Senior Alumni Breakfast, a full-capacity Power Lunch, and an evening event at the Donald K. Johnson Centre at First Canadian Place, welcoming more than 300 attendees.

"Seeing the level of pride and connection across the Ivey alumni community was incredibly meaningful, especially as an alumna myself," said Aindrea Cramp, HBA '98 and Director of Alumni Relations at Ivey. "Global Ivey Day is



a great reminder that strong alumni communities don't happen by accident. There's so much time, care, and hard work from alumni, volunteers, faculty, and staff that goes into bringing people together – it's really special to see that reflected in moments like these."

Programming throughout the week featured a wide range of professional interests, with alumni-led sessions exploring topics such as entrepreneurship, real estate, sustainability, and the not-for-profit sector. Corporate-hosted events at organizations including BMO, CIBC, RBC, and Info-Tech also drew strong participation. Signature events rounded out the lineup, such as the Power Lunch honouring Ivey Alumni Achievement Award winners Ryan

Grant Little, MBA '06, and Nadia Ladak, HBA '20; a purpose-driven governance webinar; and a virtual Pledge Ceremony.

A highlight of this year's GID was the celebration of the Donald K. Johnson Centre, a new 36,000-square-foot facility in Toronto made possible by a \$30-million gift from Donald K. Johnson, MBA '63, LLD '07. The centre expands Ivey's downtown Toronto presence while supporting growth in graduate programs, executive education, and corporate engagement.

A sincere thank you to the alumni, faculty, staff, and volunteers who bring Global Ivey Day to life each year.

Save the date for Global Ivey Day 2027, taking place Thursday, May 13. Visit iveyday.ca for more information.





Trending @ Ivey

See what's catching attention on Ivey's socials



Congratulations to Ivey alum John Chayka, HBA '14, on being named General Manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

John and his wife, [Kathryn Chayka](#), HBA '14, are founding partners of the [Ivey Sports Leadership Conference](#), Canada's largest student-led sports conference, and have helped create meaningful opportunities for students interested in the business of sport.

We wish John success in his new role with [MLSE \(Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Partnership\)](#).

[#IveyBusiness](#) hashtag [#IveyAlumni](#)

1076 likes, 23 comments, 9 reposts

Michel Tobler, MBA '85, writes, "Currently touring in Corfu, Albania, Montenegro, and the South of Croatia. Expecting a visit from Jean-Marie Brideau in late June in CH. Then summer in the Swiss mountains pursuing my goal to visit all the huts of the Swiss Alpine Club. Warm regards to all MBA '85."

1986

Allison Christilaw, HBA '86, MBA '92, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 28.

Carol Trattner, HBA '86, MBA '89, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 28.

1989

Carol Trattner, HBA '86, MBA '89, see note under 1986.

1991

Jules Atha, HBA '85, MBA '91, see note under 1985.

Steve Legler, MBA '91, writes, "I was recently awarded the designation of FEA Fellowship by Family Enterprise Canada, recognizing my leadership and commitment to advancing family enterprise advising in Canada. It was a humbling experience to be part of the inaugural cohort of five new fellows of this great organization. I attended Ivey so I could return to my family's business, but we ended up selling it shortly after my return in 1991. It took until 2013, when I enrolled in the Family Enterprise Advisor program, to find my true calling. Look-

ing forward to our class's 35-year Homecoming this fall, in Toronto (exceptionally)."

Gordon Perchthold, MBA '91, and his wife have embarked on a two-year journey through the Middle East, Europe, Canada, and South America before they settle into their newly renovated home overlooking Sydney Harbour. They will be in Kelowna during Homecoming and are sorry to miss the MBA '91 reunion.

Robert Presser, MBA '91, shared an update on his work as President at ACME Engineering Products. "Every two years we participate in the IFAT Show in Munich, an environmental fair that draws 200,000 visitors on a site previously occupied by the airport (now an exhibition centre). My business, Acme Engineering, brought together partners from Germany, India, Finland, and Canada in our booth and at the Bavarian Evening, I even got to wear my Lederhosen outfit!"



Sheila Spence, HBA '91, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 12.

Alan Wunsche, MBA '91, recently participated in one of Dean Birkinshaw's AI consultation calls and

continues working in the text-based AI space at AGENTWARE AI, while also self-publishing a story exploring our AI future. He will be in Bracebridge over Homecoming weekend helping run his family's golf course, established in 1967, which he has digitized using AI and is now expanding for use by other facilities. For Alan, golf is about creating joyful experiences in natural settings. On a personal note, the family also welcomed their first grandchild in December.

1992

Andrew Carroll, MBA '92, see note under 2004 (Chris Beaton).

Allison Christilaw, HBA '86, MBA '92, see note under 1986.

1994

Shelli Baltman, HBA '94, writes, "*Built for Breakthrough* is officially out in the world, and I'm proud to be able to share it. This book is the result of years spent in the real work of innovation since my HBA days, working with ambitious teams, complex organizations, tough constraints, big expectations, and ideas that had to become more than just a slide in a deck.

Over time, I started to see the patterns: where innovation tends to go wrong, what separates the ideas that succeed from those that don't, and what smart leaders can do differently.

That's what we aimed to capture in this book. It's designed for leaders trying to move something bold



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whatever comes next.

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2026 Ivey Alumni Achievement Awards

In celebration of Global Ivey Day's 17th anniversary this past May, Ryan Grant Little, MBA '06, Principal of RGL Strategic, and Nadia Ladak, HBA '20, Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer of Marlow, were named the 2026 recipients of the Ivey Alumni Achievement Awards.

By Beth Power



LEFT: Nadia Ladak, HBA '20, celebrates with her family after receiving her award.



TOP: Ryan Grant Little, MBA '06, joined the Power Lunch virtually from Ukraine.

RIGHT: Ryan Grant Little, MBA '06



The Ivey Alumni Achievement Awards (IAAA) recognize graduates whose accomplishments reflect integrity, humility, and a commitment to meaningful change.

The IAAA recipient is an established alum who demonstrates exceptional leadership, impact, and integrity, while the Emerging Leader Award, introduced in 2025, celebrates a recent graduate already making a significant contribution to their field and community. This year's recipients were honoured at Global Ivey Day's Power Lunch & Fireside Chat with Acting Dean Nicole Haggerty, HBA '89, PhD '04.

After co-founding CanadaHelps at 19, enabling more than \$4 billion in donations, Little built a diverse career spanning renewable energy, venture investing, and military aid. Since 2021, he has supported startups across Europe and Africa and launched a climate-focused podcast. His most impactful work has been in Ukraine, where he delivers aid, supports veterans, and mentors soldiers while living in a conflict zone. Through co-founding Invest in Bravery, he has connected more than 220 Ukrainian startups with nearly 100 global investors, championing

diverse teams and equitable innovation. Committed to inclusivity, he also assists marginalized refugees and advances more equitable approaches to global investment.

Reflecting on the award, Little shared: "I realize the work I'm doing falls a bit outside the purview of typical MBA stuff. But every day in this war, I've put lessons from the MBA to work: operations and logistics, making critical decisions under pressure, project planning, and execution. An Ivey degree is a multi-purpose tool, and I've been using it to fulfill the pledge I took upon receiving my degree – namely, to create impact in the environment in which I operate."

While still a student at Ivey, Nadia Ladak, HBA '20, co-founded Marlow, a FemTech startup transforming menstrual health and reducing stigma. Reflecting on the recognition, Ladak shared how deeply intertwined Marlow's origins are with her Ivey experience.

"Marlow actually began as a New Venture Project at Ivey, where our professors and Entrepreneurs-in-Residence encouraged us to take the leap and pursue it full time," she said. "To come back years later and have that journey recognized by the Ivey community feels full circle and deeply meaningful. I'm grateful to be part of a community that believes in entrepreneurship as a way to create impact."

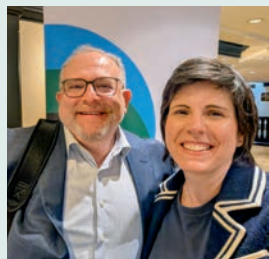
Now CEO, Ladak has grown Marlow into a fast-scaling Series A company known for its innovative, organic products, including the first lubricated tampon. Marlow gained national attention on CBC's *Dragons' Den*, securing a \$250,000 deal, and has been recognized as one of Canada's most impactful businesses. Ladak's leadership has earned her honours such as Forbes 30 Under 30 and Canada's Top 25 Women of Influence. She continues to expand Marlow's reach toward a future where menstrual wellness is prioritized, accessible, and openly discussed on a global scale.

Know an outstanding Ivey alum? Nominations for the 2027 Ivey Alumni Achievement Awards will open later this fall. Visit iveyday.ca/awards for more information on the Awards and 2027 nominations.

through a complex organization, and I hope it feels practical, clarifying, and helpful.”



Andrea Poptsis, HBA '94, writes, “It was great to catch up with **Brian Furman** on Global Ivey Day! It was also awesome to see several HBA '94 classmates play a key role in delivering GID events in Toronto (**Mona Malone** and **Anton Rabie**) and Ottawa (**David Barron**). Having recently joined the Ivey Alumni Network Board, it warms my heart to see our class so active in the Ivey alumni community!”



1996

Michael Bernstein, HBA '96, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 28.

Salim Teja, HBA '96, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 43.

1997

Nicole (Suen) Phillips, HBA '97, recently shared her expertise in real estate title fraud mitigation as a

panellist in a webinar organized by Stewart Title Guaranty Company (Stewart). Held during Fraud Prevention Month in March, the event reached more than 1,000 lawyers, notaries, and legal professionals across Canada. Nicole is Senior Counsel of Underwriting and Director of Projects and Fraud Mitigation at Stewart, a leading provider of residential and commercial title insurance in Canada.

1998

Aindrea Cramp, HBA '98, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 3.

1999

Carol Gassi, HBA '80, EMBA '99, see note under Arlene Palango (1980).

2001

Jeff Schwartz, HBA '01, President & CEO of Go Lime Inc. writes, “I’m pleased to share a major milestone for Go Lime. Basalt Infrastructure Partners recently acquired our company alongside the assets of Simply Green, creating one of Canada’s largest home equipment leasing platforms with approximately 90,000 residential contracts.

When we founded Go Lime, the goal was simple: bring transparency, trust, and choice back to the home comfort industry in Canada. Today, we provide water heaters, HVAC systems, and water treatment solutions nationwide, and this transaction significantly expands our reach and capabilities.

With Basalt’s backing, we’re accelerating our vision to build a customer-first, digitally enabled platform that simplifies how Canadians access essential home services. Always hiring – feel free to reach out at jeff@golime.com.”



2002

Jeff David, HBA '02, was recently appointed Consul General of Canada in Mumbai.

John Duffy, EMBA '02, writes, “Happy Belated Global Ivey Day! I hope it was a smashing success across the globe. A group of EMBA 2002 alumni gathered at Moxie’s in Mississauga to celebrate, including **Don Paddock**, **Helmi Ansari**, **Richard Wah Kan**, **Gavin de Mello**, **John Duffy**, **Nevil Corbeth**, **Fred Stremble**, and **Scott Hall**. We had a great time reminiscing about the program, our shared experiences, and our classmates – both those still with us and those we’ve lost. The Best Buy sign beneath the beautiful sunset in the photo feels like a fitting symbol of the value we all gained from the program.”



Trending @ Ivey

See what's catching attention on Ivey's socials



Congratulations to the 2026-2027 Forté Fellows! 🎉

This year, 45 outstanding students were recognized for exemplary leadership, diverse perspectives, and a demonstrated commitment to advancing women in business. It marks Ivey’s largest Forté cohort since joining the Forté Foundation in 2017.

“I want to be the connective thread who helps other women see their potential, access the right resources, and build the confidence to go after what they want. The real power of Forté isn’t just what happens during the MBA, it’s the network of women who continue to lift each other up throughout their careers.” — **Brittney C.**, MBA '27 candidate

This year, Collins Mathias became the first Forté Fellow at Ivey who identifies as male. He said his decision to apply was shaped by the women who influenced his life and leadership journey. Accepting the Fellowship, he said, was also a chance to reflect on allyship in practice.

These Fellows embody the Forté Foundation’s mission to create opportunities for women through business education, professional development, and a strong global community. In doing so, they are helping shape the future of leadership.

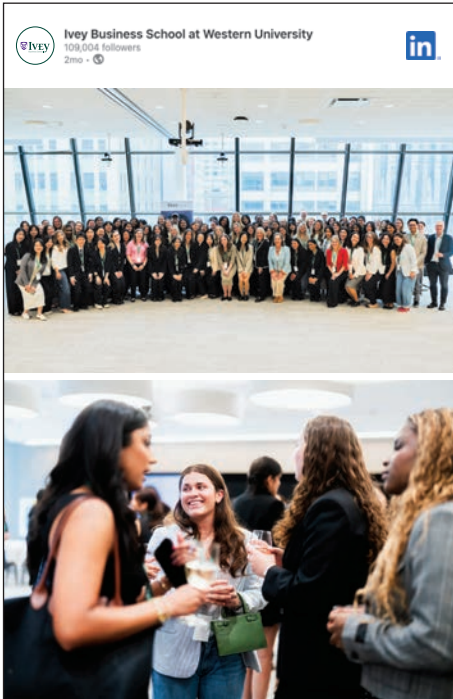
Read more about this year’s cohort: <https://lnkd.in/g/KRxvMKc>



180 likes, 6 comments, 16 reposts

Trending @ Ivey

See what's catching attention on Ivey's socials



Congratulations to Ivey's Women in Asset Management program on five years of growth, connection, and impact! 🎉

The Women in Asset Management (WAM) program launched in 2022 to address the problem of not enough women in asset management. Women accounted for just 14 per cent of global fund managers and only six per cent of chief investment officers at the largest U.S. institutional money managers.

Since its launch, WAM has expanded beyond **Western University** to include students from universities across Canada. The 2026 cohort has 49 students from 11 universities and the program now has approximately 175 alumni building careers across the industry.

Current students, alumni, sponsors, and faculty recently gathered to celebrate the anniversary at Ivey's new Donald K. Johnson Centre in Toronto.

Read more about the impact of the WAM program: <https://lnkd.in/ef4JSAZu>



238 likes, 6 comments, 27 reposts

Nick Kuzyk, HBA '02, MBA '08, writes, "I've officially launched Answir, an AI-powered investor relations platform designed to help public companies handle investor and stakeholder questions more efficiently. Answir acts as a 24/7 automated IR assistant that can respond to common investor inquiries, surface relevant company disclosures, and help management teams track engagement and insights from their shareholder base. The goal is to make investor communication faster, more transparent, and less resource-intensive for issuers. We've been building the platform over the past year and are now starting to onboard customers while also raising \$500K via a SAFE offering to accelerate growth. Check out answir.ai to see what we've built! Always happy to reconnect or hear your thoughts."

answir

2004

Chris Beaton, MBA '04 and **Andrew Carroll, MBA '92**, were both named to the Board of Directors of the Pacific Assistance Dogs Society (PADS). PADS breeds, raises, and trains fully certified assistance dogs that support people with disabilities and community care providers. Visit pads.ca to learn more.

Larissa Chaikowsky, MBA '04, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 38.

2006

Ryan Grant Little, MBA '06, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 48.

Alex Purdy, HBA '06, is mentioned in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 41.

2008

Nick Kuzyk, HBA '02, MBA '08, see note under 2002.

2009

Charles Newton Price, MBA '09, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 12. Charles writes, "For more than 12 years, I travelled the world writing in my journal about what I learned along the way. Then I met Carmina, a writer from National Geographic in Spain, who spent three years tracing my journeys and turning those reflections into something worth sharing. The result is my first book, *The Flip Side of Things: Living with Purpose*. It's about places, people, and the quiet ways experience shapes us. The time to share has arrived. Available on Amazon and at flipsideofthings.com. Hope you enjoy it."



2011

Teddy Kuhn, HBA '11, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 12.

2012

Candace Chartier, EMBA '12, writes, "I am very excited to share that I won The Power of the Pitch 2026, I Am Unbreakable, for women entrepreneurs! I launched my new company CheCS (Canadian Healthcare e-Compliance System) and have successfully entered the long-term care sector and senior living sectors. It's an AI-based intuitive system designed to support compliance in healthcare legislative requirements."



Alykhan Kaba, HBA '12, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 20.

2013

Richard W. Ivey, HBA '72, LLD '13, see note under 1972.

Vivek Morzaria, HBA '13, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 12.

HIRE CANADA'S TOP BUSINESS TALENT



As an Ivey alum, you know the value Ivey students bring and now is the perfect time to recruit top talent!

Ivey students, whether in full-time roles or internships, bring the expertise to drive success, giving your organization a competitive edge.

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Connect with Ivey's Corporate Recruiting Team to explore how we can help you hire top talent. Email us at recruit@ivey.ca to schedule a call.



Visit our website.
ivey.uwo.ca/recruiter

2014

Emily Duggan, HBA '14, is mentioned in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 41.

Harrison Méan, HBA '14, is mentioned in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 41.

2015

Melissa Williams, HBA '15, is celebrating the launch of HorminaCare – a virtual healthcare platform focused exclusively on women's hormone health. The platform addresses conditions such as PCOS, hormonal acne, and perimenopause by combining lab results with personalized lifestyle and supplement guidance, helping women identify root causes and regain balance – without referrals, long wait times, or guesswork.



2016

Wole Oluwole-Rotimi, MBA '16, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 28.

2018

Rosamond Ivey, HBA '82, LLD '18, see note under 1982.

2019

Akash Pasricha, HBA '19, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 20.

Neneh Thapar, MBA '19, was recently honoured with the Joule Young Women in Energy Award for her leadership and contributions to Canada's evolving energy sector. As a strategy leader specializing in power and utilities, she has supported large-scale grid modernization initiatives focused on resilience, innovation, and long-term infrastructure planning, impacting how millions of Canadians interact with the energy system. Beyond her professional work, Neneh is passionate about mentorship and leadership development. She has co-founded mentorship

initiatives connecting Ivey MBA students with experienced women leaders and has supported programs focused on attracting and retaining diverse talent in the energy sector.



2020

Shannon Busta Riches, EMBA '20, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 20.

Natalie Diezyn, HBA '20, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 20.

Nadia Ladak, HBA '20, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 48.

2024

Lauren Shanahan, EMBA '24, is featured in this issue of *Intouch*. See page 10.

2026

Rovita Nawbatt, EMBA '26, writes, "Connecting back with our classmates at graduation was surreal and so energizing."



In Memoriam

Hugh John Cook, HBA '56
Don Dickison, HBA '57
Ross Hutchison, HBA '57
William Stinson, DBA '57
Victor Siroishka, MBA '58
Adam Telfer, HBA '58
Gordon Bales, MBA '59
Casper Bloom, MBA '59
Michael Rudkin, HBA '59
Dave Burrows, HBA '60
James Dowie, MBA '60
Bob Hodgson, HBA '60
Ralph Addison, MBA '61
Thane Crozier, HBA '61
Karl Hinds, MBA '61
Graham Post, HBA '61
Ed Siwiec, MBA '61
Tom Bailey, MBA '62
Peter Landolt, MBA '62

Harry Dennis Madden, MBA '62
Denton Miller, HBA '62
John Seagram, MBA '62
Art Crooks, MBA '63
Robert Street, MBA '63
Robert Gatfield, HBA '64
Charles Honeyman, MBA '65
Frank Brown, MBA '66
Dave Collison, HBA '66
Derek Bright, MBA '67
Jeffrey Chaplin, HBA '67
Ron Browne, MBA '68
Theodore Metzger, MBA '68
Michael Longworth, HBA '69
Douglas Macaulay, HBA '69
Bob Cummings, MBA '71
Dave Prentice, HBA '71
Wayne White, MBA '72
Howard Bigham, HBA '77
Stephen Ross, HBA '77
Paul Richards, MBA '78
Carol Gassi, HBA '80, EMBA '99
Tim Lutton, MBA '82
Donna Porter, MBA '85
Rene Fortier, MBA '87
Patrick Shaw, EMBA '00
David Morris, EMBA '02
Niki Choo, MBA '07
Navneet Kaur, MSc '24

Share your news with fellow alumni

Submit your notes and photos for the next issue:

Online: ivey.ca/alumni/classnotes
Email: intouch@ivey.ca

Please note all submissions may be edited for content and length.



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Join us for an exciting
homecoming weekend!

2026 → September 25-27

2027 → September 24-26

2028 → September 22-24

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