

IN-HAS NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 25

WINTER 2023

# IN-HAS

Housing and Ancillary Services  
Employee Newsletter



# IN-HAS

## Housing and Ancillary Services Employee Newsletter

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### Calendar

|                |                                  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| December 16    | Great Hall-iday Party            |
| December 23    | Residences Close at 12:00 p.m.   |
| January 7      | Residences Re-open at 12:00 p.m. |
| January 8      | Winter Term Begins               |
| February 17–25 | Spring Reading Week              |

### IN-HAS Newsletter Committee

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The December holidays begin coming into view as we find ourselves visiting and hosting loved ones, starting our holiday baking or dressing in more layers to navigate the changing weather.

We are thrilled to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our HAS family, in particular our many new hospitality staff members! Your commitment to taking care of our community through exceptional customer service is key to our success and we are excited to have you onboard. As you embark on this journey with us, know that you are valued and we look forward to seeing your unique talents contribute to providing an outstanding experience for the entire Western community of students, staff, faculty, researchers and visitors – all while supporting the academic mission of the University.

A heartfelt thank you to all our current staff members for their incredible patience and support in training our new team members. Your commitment to fostering a positive and collaborative environment has not gone unnoticed. Together, we are building a community that thrives on teamwork, mentorship and shared success.

We've had an incredible fall doing what we all do best – taking care of the campus community. We had a very successful fall that included September start-up, Orientation Week, Homecoming, Fall Preview Day, Fall Convocation and a Diwali Celebration – all while putting our best foot forward. Thanks to everyone for contributing to these successful events.

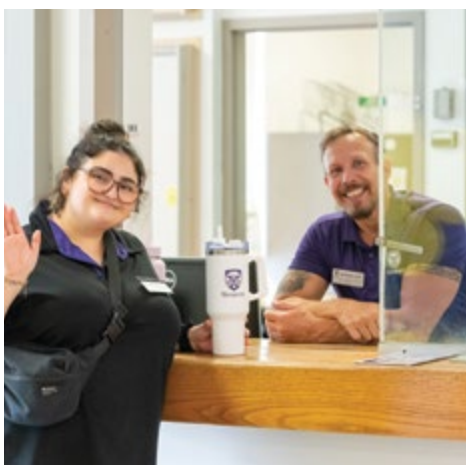
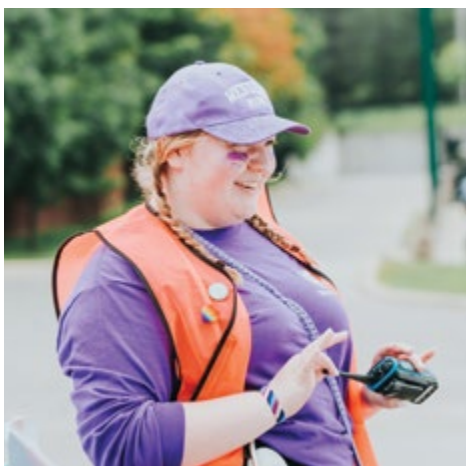
As we continue to grow and evolve, we are pleased to share updates on several important projects:

- **Renovated Bookstore:** Western Bookstore reopened its upper level with an amazing reno, which has been such a welcome facelift. It supports modernized merchandising, which has allowed us to highlight new collaborations launched this fall. I hope you were able to grab a Stanley tumbler!
- **UDR Residence:** Plans are well underway for the development of a 780-bed first-year residence. This space will include state-of-the-art facilities including a dining hall, large fitness and wellness area and multi-purpose room, which will contribute to developing a strong sense of community and belonging for all students. If all goes to plan, it should be opening in September 2026.
- **Community Hub:** Our vision for a vibrant Community Hub is taking shape. This hub will include a large campus food hall with at least 10 different concepts and serve as a central space for collaboration, engagement and community-building for the campus community.
- **Platt's Lane Estates:** Progress continues on a new student apartment at Platt's Lane Estates, which will be home to 300 upper-year and graduate students. We are committed to creating a living environment that reflects our values of sustainability and inclusivity.
- **Essex Dining:** Our dining experience is getting an upgrade! We are working on a significant renovation of the Essex Dining Hall. This facility was opened in 1997 and built to serve 500 students five days a week. We now feed over 900 students out of this dining hall every single day and it needs some significant upgrades to support these activity levels.

As we enter the final stretch of 2023, there is much to anticipate and be excited about. I'm so grateful to work with such an exceptional team. Wishing you a relaxing and enjoyable holiday break with your friends and family.

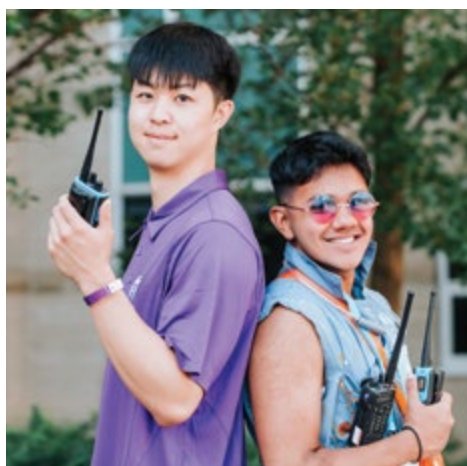
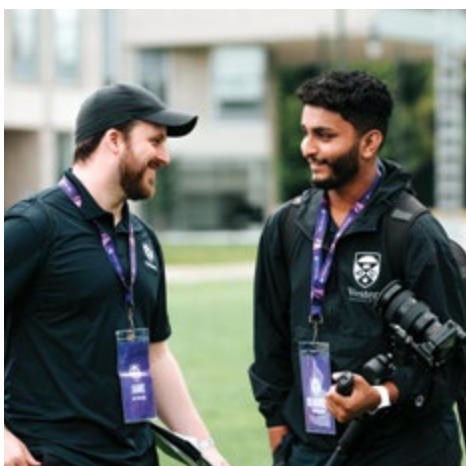
Chris Alleyne





## Thank you for another successful move-in!

From our front desk  
to dining hall to  
facilities staff, moving  
5,600 students into  
our buildings in three  
days is no small feat  
and it could not be  
done without all of  
your hard work.



# STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

## BEYOND THE NUMBERS

**Chris Lengyell**  
Director of Housing

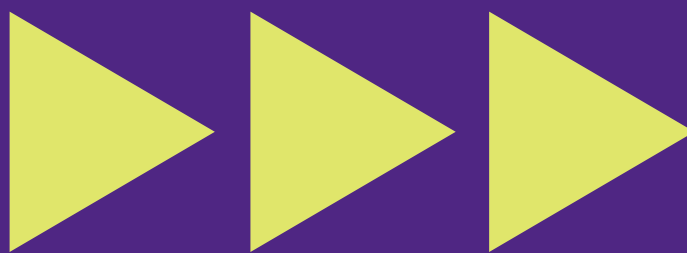
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Although it can feel difficult to pick up our heads from our daily tasks throughout the fall term, it is incredibly important to reflect, acknowledge and celebrate our shared successes as a Division. One of the things I take immense pride in, is who our students are and how we continually adapt our services to accommodate and support their evolving needs.

This fall, we welcomed our largest ever first-year class of 6,600 students to Western. With over 5,600 of them living in residence, we have the largest population of first year students living on one campus in all of Canada. As is no surprise to anyone within HAS, the process of getting these students here and supporting their needs as they transition to university life, is no small feat.

The reality is that our campus is growing, not only in numbers, but also in the diverse perspectives, identities and the lived experiences that our students bring to Western. Although numbers aren't everything, they are certainly telling in terms of how our student population is changing and how our services can be designed to match them.

**In terms of our first-year class, here's some stats to keep in mind:**



Within these numbers, each student brings their own individual identities, perspectives and strengths as they contribute to the colourful fabric through which our campus is woven. Whether it's through our accessibility process, mixed-gender housing options, innovative personal and academic support offerings, or affinity-based dinners, we provide a holistic environment for students to be, and become, their full selves. And that's something I'm definitely proud of. ●

**5,600** FIRST YEARS LIVING  
IN RESIDENCE



**77%**

FROM  
ONTARIO

**11%**

OUT OF  
PROVINCE

**12%**

INTERNATIONAL  
(122 Countries Represented)

## GENDER IDENTITY



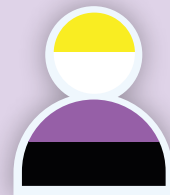
**52%**

WOMEN



**47%**

MEN



**1%**

NON-BINARY



MOVE-IN

**7%**

MOVE-OUT

**41%**

STUDENTS WHO ARE  
LEGAL DRINKING AGE

50% OF STUDENTS  
INCOMING AVERAGE ABOVE

**90%**



FIRST-YEAR END OF  
ACADEMIC YEAR AVERAGE

**73.3%**

IDENTIFYING AS 2SLGBTQ+

**17.4%**



**1,598**

19TH BIRTHDAYS  
WILL BE  
CELEBRATED  
THIS YEAR



**16%**

FIRST IN  
FAMILY  
TO ATTEND  
POST-SECONDARY  
EDUCATION





# Beyond Western's Gate: A Look at Off-Campus Housing

**Melissa Steadman**

Acting Associate Director, Off-Campus Housing

When embarking on the exciting journey of higher education, finding the right housing is an integral part of the university experience. It's a piece of the puzzle that can be overwhelming for many students, but fortunately, Western has a standout resource – the Off-Campus Housing team. This team offers a range of services to support students, making it a popular and practical choice.

The Off-Campus Housing team at Western is renowned for its dedication to assisting students in various aspects of off-campus life. With a remarkable 3,752 students and landlords supported last year, the team plays a pivotal role in ensuring a smooth transition to off-campus living. Their services encompass an array of areas, such as housing mediation, Fanshawe relationship management, connections with the City of London, neighbourhood relationships, education and engagement, rental listings and landlord partnerships, emergency housing and various additional services behind the scenes.

Housing Mediation is a vital service offered by the Off-Campus Housing team. It's a confidential resource that helps resolve problems between students and various parties, including landlords, other students and local residents, related to housing and lifestyles.

The Fanshawe relationship involves the team's Associate Director attending Fanshawe College weekly to support students, particularly focusing on housing accessibility and landlord relationships. This is particularly crucial given the high number of international students at Fanshawe.

The team collaborates closely with the City of London, especially in matters related to municipal compliance and

waste management. They help educate students about citizenship within London and are actively involved in the implementation of city-wide composting initiatives.

Neighbourhood relationships are also a priority, with direct communication between the team and Neighbourhood Association presidents in areas like London North, Broughdale, Orchard Park/Sherwood Forest, St. George/Grosvenor and others. This ensures that students can address concerns effectively through the Off-Campus Housing team.

The Off-Campus Housing team also provides education and engagement opportunities, including bylaw information, waste management guidelines, harm reduction strategies and fostering positive town-and-gown relationships. They are considering implementing a robust curriculum and annual cycle to enhance students' understanding of these topics.

One of the standout features of the Off-Campus Housing team is their extensive rental listing and landlord partnerships. They offer a platform that features over 5,000 listings and collaborates with over 1,000 landlords, making it the number one choice for students searching for off-campus housing. The team not only assists students in their housing search but also maintains strong relationships with the landlord community.

In response to the growing need for emergency housing, the team reserves a unit on-campus year-round to assist students requiring immediate housing support. They assess each case individually to determine the most suitable way to support the student's needs.

Behind the scenes, the Off-Campus Housing team conducts a range of activities to benefit the community. This includes distributing mailouts to neighbourhoods surrounding Western and Fanshawe's campuses, organizing the "Adopt a Street" program, running a Furniture Depot and providing useful extras such as blue bins and garbage tags.

To further enhance their support, the team employs Off-Campus Advisors (OCAs) trained to assist students with various issues, including rental law, roommate disagreements and bylaw questions. Additionally, international students can benefit from a dedicated Off-Campus Housing Advisor who offers personalized assistance for their unique housing search needs.

In conclusion, Western's Off-Campus Housing team is a beacon of support for students navigating life off-campus. Their comprehensive services cover all aspects of off-campus living, making the university experience more enriching and less overwhelming for students. ●



## What's New in Campus Eateries

### Madeleine Spezowka

HAS Marketing and Communications Coordinator

This September we welcomed three new concepts to our campus: Chatime, Jugo Juice and The Chopped Leaf.

Long-awaited by our campus community, Chatime opened in Weldon Library after many delays due to the pandemic. Chatime has been welcomed with open arms by our students and the iconic cups are often seen around campus.

Jugo Juice opened in two locations on campus, assuming the spaces vacated by Booster Juice. There was an initial mixed reaction to the new brand, however Jugo Juice is

performing extremely well and students appreciate Jugo's commitment to crafting their beverages with fresh fruits and vegetables. The move to Jugo Juice was influenced by demands for healthier options, as well as our own goals to increase our plant-based options.

Coming to Western as a grab & go option, The Chopped Leaf provides healthy and delicious options for a variety of dietary needs. You can find The Chopped Leaf wraps, bowls and salads in three locations at Western; Food Hub in the University Community Centre, Chambers in Law Building and Einstein's in Natural Science. ●





# Greetings from your Gift Giving Gurus

**Alexander Corbitt, Jessie Karn, Tegan Pfaff**  
Merchandise Buyers, Western Bookstore

If you haven't seen or heard, Western Bookstore got a facelift this past summer. With the new look came not only books but a new assortment of products that have been surprising and delighting customers all across campus. As we enter the gift giving season, our minds turn to how we can appreciate the loved ones in our lives in meaningful ways. The items we have brought into Western Bookstore not only look good with a bow on them but they bring joy, love and the opportunity to give back to your community. Here are some items that can warm our hearts in the coldest of days this winter.

## Bigwood Co.

Charcuterie boards, purple resin pens and wooden coasters oh my! Like a snowflake, each piece from Bigwood Co. is handcrafted by local wood worker John Sherwood. Elevate your table over the holiday season with beautiful Western University inspired pieces that will leave an ever-lasting impression.







## *Toques from the Heart*

Buy a toque, give a toque to someone in need. It is that easy. We understand how hard it can be during the cold Canadian winters, especially without a toque. Toques from the Heart is a business run by Matt Carter and Matthew Milne out of Hamilton, Ontario. Every style is crafted to fit and feel so great so you can take on winter more comfortably. Toques from the Heart has partnered with Western Bookstore to keep over 1,000 homeless people warm this winter. When you buy a toque for yourself or a loved one, know that one is going back to someone in need in the London community.



## *Fluffy Fleece*

Ever wonder what it's like to wear a cloud. Look no further, Western Bookstore has you covered this winter, literally. We have sourced through different suppliers to get the softest, coziest and warmest pullovers and blankets. Beat the cold Canadian winter and look stylish while doing it.

All items can be found in store or online. We will be having our holiday sale this season. Make sure to look out for our Western Bookstore newsletter for even more up to date products. Not finding the perfect gift? Maybe a custom order is what you need. Feel free to drop a line for more gift giving ideas.

P.S. Are you ready for YETI? ;) ●

# Talk with Tegwyn, Our Very Own Registered Dietitian

**Madeleine Spezowka**

HAS Marketing and Communications Coordinator



This year, Hospitality Services hired our first Registered Dietitian. Tegwyn Moshier, MScFN, RD is an award-winning Dietitian and previously worked at the East Elgin Family Health Team. She did her Master of Science at Brescia University College with a specialization in Food and Nutrition and has been a brilliant addition to our team. As a Registered Dietitian, Tegwyn helps students find food options on campus that fit their dietary needs and supports young adults in developing healthy eating habits that will last a lifetime.

I sat down with Tegwyn so that everyone in HAS can get to know her.

## **What made you want to become a Registered Dietitian?**

I've always been interested in food. My dad was the family cook growing up, he would never make the same recipe twice and he loved to take us out to try new restaurants. Some recipes were winners and some weren't, but it taught me to have an adventurous palate and try all sorts of new foods from all kinds of cuisines. I have also always been athletic and one day it just clicked about how food works to fuel the body and I never looked back.

## **What is your favourite meal and favourite snack?**

My favorite meal has to be avocado toast with eggs and my favorite snacks are Oreos or potato chips.

## **What do you like to do outside of work?**

I love being active—trail walks, running, yoga, etc. I also try to spend a lot of time with my family, especially my dog Ollie.

She's a four-year-old mini Goldendoodle! Aside from that, I really enjoy visiting new coffee shops and restaurants.

## **What has been your favorite part of your job at Western so far?**

I really enjoy the variety I see from day to day. The complexity of always having a new challenge is exciting. I also really enjoy working with the students. They are very into their own wellbeing and are easy to engage with.

## **When you get to know new people, what is the first thing you want them to know about you?**

Probably the first thing is how to pronounce my name, I know it's very uncommon and it can take a few tries to get it right.

*Note from author: it's pronounced Teg-win.*

I also want people to know that despite what preconceptions they may have about my job, I will never judge how other people eat. No one has perfect dietary habits and I am no exception.

## **What is the main thing people do wrong when they are trying to improve their eating habits?**

First, I want to say that everyone's dietary pattern is unique and they need to find what works for them. I find people generally try to change too many things at once, which is very hard to maintain. My best advice is to pick one goal and work until it feels consistent and then build from there! ●



# 2023 Long-Service Awards Honour Roll

Last spring, we took a moment to honour and recognize those who reached milestone years of service; including a couple of staff with an impressive 40 years with Western. Your loyalty and hard work have helped shape the culture of our Division. Congratulations on reaching these remarkable milestones and thank you for your unwavering dedication! ●

## 40 Years of Service:

Anna Houlton

## 35 Years of Service:

Mark Garvie  
Colin Hennessy  
Juan Platero  
Suzette Lamothe  
Marta Bladek

## 30 Years of Service:

Tammy Youkhanna  
Marshall Borja  
Charlene Kechego-Albert  
Chris Bumbacco  
Taylor Drakes  
Anda Kovacevic  
Silvina Teves

## 25 Years of Service:

Stacey Blois  
Dee Jefferson  
Jennifer Goulet  
Helena Vrabec

## 20 Years of Service:

Colleen Peckham  
Craig Clifford  
Chris Alleyne  
Jennifer Joseph  
Kristin Ballantine  
Connie Sararas  
Virginia Tsui  
Jack Cook  
Leslie Mulderrig  
Luz Zubieta  
Mai Ly  
Alok Agarwal  
Linda Castillo  
Mike Hart  
Zachary Smith  
Trisha Graves  
Pamela Reid  
Anastasia Kontos  
Mariann Szendofi  
Karin Decaluwe  
Darrin Barrow

## 15 Years of Service:

Doug Kormendy  
Juliet Casas  
Carlos Tenorio  
Sanita Becirovic  
Alessandro Malnati  
Rachael Czech  
Brian Fliss  
John Paul Brawley  
Leann Wheeler  
Kamila Szuminski  
Eric Harland  
Andre Yiu  
Yenny Hernandez  
Grace Rodak  
Ali Zhang

## 10 Years of Service:

Rusmir Havic  
Michael Norman  
Andrew Duhasky  
Luba Shilyuk  
Sudha Gopala Krishna  
Perumal  
Changhong Chen  
Vaibhavi Raval  
Marlyne Scott  
Diana Silaen  
Lai Ieng Woo  
Svetlana Tazhitdinova  
Linda Sobchuk  
Eli Brintnell  
Yun Xia Chen  
Savannah Collison  
Radmila Galic  
Shqipe Jumerovski  
Natalie Kinchlea  
Yolande Wilson  
Gyungsoon Yi  
Jouliette Giannacopoulos  
Elizabeth Harwood  
Lesley Lupa  
Wai Ling Ng  
Tamara Roe  
Ilia Younikha  
David Hassall

## 5 Years of Service:

Kassie Kay-Cole  
Jai Shim  
Smitha Biju  
Valentina Trglavcnik  
Chris Lengyell  
Michael Zaigh  
Hiroko Milligan  
Jovana Sibalija  
Gloria Monroy Useche  
Juan Du  
Mark Mariner  
Marta Bartlett  
Hee Jin Yoo  
Nikhil Sharma  
Haridas Ammanath  
Ana Conceicao de Sousa  
Huzaifah Latif  
Anthony Mavrikkou  
Shahnila Noman  
Qiang Tang  
Jan Warda  
Jessica Vreeken  
Insha Jesani  
Jean-Paul Robitaille  
Linda Mousa  
Gloria Karen Stirling  
Madison Romeril  
Miae Kim  
Manahil Ahmad  
Mary Carmel Collins  
Liao Deng  
Angella Adra  
Azardokht Aryaei  
Patrick Peers  
Sabina Tamang  
Arish Jasani  
Yan Ming Yang  
Zhifeng Liu  
Li Wang  
Solveig Janitis  
Burcu Argunsa  
Zichen Ma  
Susan Song  
Patricia Becerra Irarrazabal  
Sung-Sook Kim  
Zoran Njegovan





# Shaw's Ice Cream Comes to Western

## A Delicious Collaboration

**Jessie Karn**

Merchandise Buyer, Western Bookstore

Back in August of 2022, I was on my way home from Port Stanley and made my required stop at Shaw's Dairy Ice Cream Bar. With my scoop of chocolate chip cookie dough in one hand and a Shaw's t-shirt in the other, I was ready to head home. I decided to post an Instagram story wearing my new Shaw's t-shirt. That evening, Shaw's Ice Cream messaged if they could have permission to repost and I was thrilled. The wheels began turning and I mentioned how great it would be to do a collaboration with Western.



The shirt that started it all

Find Purple Reign in all dining halls, Food Hub and near the checkout in Western Bookstore



Shaw's Ice Cream was founded in 1948 by Carl Shaw in St. Thomas Ontario. It was then purchased locally back in 2001 by the McLaughlin Sisters Kim, Kelly and Kristine. Having operated their own scoop shop, Dad's Ice Cream, in their hometown of Tillsonburg, Ontario, the sisters had business experience. As the new owners of Shaw's, the sisters doubled down on the Shaw family's original vision of creating a high-quality product inspired by its small-town roots and community. Shaw's can now be found in scoop shops and grocery stores throughout Canada. Fun fact: One of the sister's, Kristine, is even a Western University Alumni.

We have now launched Purple Reign, Western branded Ice Cream with Shaw's. Western is the first University to have their own single serve, branded ice cream. We had been working hard to get taste, colour, packaging, branding and product launch lined up. In early March, we had students and staff taste test which flavour we would be offering – after much debate and reviewing of the results, it was decided that Birthday Cake would be our signature flavour. Purple Reign was served at the Student Fanfest during homecoming and is available in all dining halls, Food Hub and near the checkout in Western Bookstore. We even created our own ice cream bike to compliment Purple Reign, named Goose on the Loose. Purple Reign is available for order through Great Hall Catering. Orders with over 100 cups can be accompanied by Goose on the Loose. ●

**“Life is like ice cream, enjoy it before it melts”**

— Rahul Bajaj, Out of the Blue



Goose on the Loose



# Affinity-Based Welcomes: Building Community Through Shared Identities

**Samantha King**

Programming Coordinator, Office of Residence Education and Programs

Every year, we welcome our residents on the basis of their shared identity as new students. Together, we bring these new community members into the fold and teach them how we take care at Western; of the space, of ourselves and of one another. It's a beautiful thing.

For the last three years in September, we have welcomed our students in spaces that celebrated parts of their identity. This initiative aims to help them understand that they have a community of support here and to encourage them to put their roots down and flourish in understanding who they are.

This year we hosted five affinity-based welcomes: Black and Person of Colour (POC), Jewish, Muslim, 2SLGBTQ+ and Indigenous Communities and Allies. When these students come through our doors, they join the program at varying states of their own understanding of their identity. I was eager to use my background in student development theory to create a student support learning map two years ago, one that outlined a scaffolded approach to taking our students through self-reflection, self-discovery and self-awareness. This framework now guides how we support some of our affinity-based and equity-deserving groups and is grounded in learning outcomes that use exclusively Medicine Wheel verbs in an effort to Indigenize and decrease colonial influence on how we guide our students —to honour their lived experiences and build meaningful connections and relationships with others.

Our feedback and assessment cycle has demonstrated great uptake from students on understanding the learning outcomes. Our last set of Welcomes had 94% of attendees indicate that they felt they achieved the learning outcome associated with the event. Our ongoing support events, such as the dinners, had 100% of students at the Black Community Dinner indicate agreement with the learning outcomes and 91% at the POC Community Dinner. We also had over 50% of attendees complete the survey, which helps give us a good scope of understanding. Overwhelmingly, the feedback we receive is gratitude for the representation of their identity and belonging in finding others within their community.

What started as a modest program in its first year has continued to evolve and grow, with attendance at some of our welcomes growing to about a hundred students at a time. Our team looks forward to continuing to support our strong and diverse communities, and our students' self-awareness, intellectual engagement and citizenship along the way. ●







## Books to Look for

### The Woman in Me

By Britney Spears

Britney Jean Spears of Kentwood, Louisiana, unfolds her life in a highly anticipated memoir, addressing Justin Timberlake, Las Vegas, "Free Britney," and iconic moments like beating a car with an umbrella. Beyond the headlines, she reflects on her small-town upbringing, the challenges of motherhood, and the struggle to define real love amid global adoration and familial complexities. Spears, candid and charming, points fingers while sharing her story with a surprising folksy appeal.

**Recommended by Roy Penney from Western Bookstore**

### Original Gangstas: The Untold Story of Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre, Eazy-e, Ice Cube, and The Birth of West Coast Rap

By Ben Westhoff

One of the best-selling hip-hop books of all time! The book is based on five years of research and reporting. It's the definitive history of L.A. gangsta rap, revealing how a cohort of then-unknown rappers, including Eazy-E, Dr. Dre, Ice Cube, Snoop Dogg, and Tupac Shakur, grappled with rivalries, crime, drugs, gangs, racist cops and bad record deals to create the defining music of a generation. A book that any hip hop fan should read and own.

**Recommended by Jamie Bere from HAS Marketing**

### Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

By Gabrielle Zevin

Sam and Sadie, college friends who've never been romantically involved, join forces as creative partners in the enthralling realm of video game design. Their collaboration leads to a journey marked by fame, joy, tragedy, and duplicity, ultimately offering them a unique form of immortality. This is a love story, but it defies familiar tropes, presenting a narrative that transcends conventional expectations and explores the intricate dynamics between two friends turned collaborators in the captivating world of video games within the immersive landscape of their innovative creations.

**Recommended by Rachel Sandieson from Western Bookstore**

### Throne of Glass

By Sarah J. Maas

In this riveting fantasy novel, the Kingdom's most perilous figure vies for freedom through a lethal competition to become the King's Champion. Packed with unexpected twists and shadowy characters, the narrative defies predictability with betrayals and unforeseen kindnesses. Sarah J. Maas, known for her sprawling epics, delivers another enthralling tale in "Throne of Glass," the inaugural installment in an eight-book series. While it stands independently, the story's captivating allure invites readers to accompany its characters through the entire gripping journey.

**Recommended by Kiara Harriman from Western Bookstore**

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