Senate OKs new fall break

By Paul Mayne

On Friday, Senate passed a motion to include Fall Study Days at the end of October, starting in the 2013-14 academic year. These break days will take place on the last Thursday and Friday of October.

This approach has been used at other universities. Supporters say the introduction of a fall study break will alleviate the pressure associated with course work and improve the overall mental health of the undergraduate student population.

Student senator Caitlin Harvey said a break has been something Western students have been asking for since 2003. “We believe the addition of a two-day reprieve from classes will help students at a critical period in the academic year and demonstrates Western’s commitment to supporting mental health,” she said.

John Doerksen, vice-provost (academic programs and students), said the students have advocated for a fall study break for years, and that “it’s great to see the campus community coming together to make it happen.”

“The Fall Study Days provide students with a block of time to begin end-of-term projects and essays, to catch up on other course work or simply to catch their breath,” he said. “I’m hopeful the break will help mitigate some of the anxiety students may feel as important course deadlines approach.”

Doerksen added one of the main considerations leading to the Fall Study Days proposal was the increased anxiety many students experience as the term progresses. Also, Western has moved to offering many more half than full courses, so the need for a study break for fall-term half courses became more pressing.

Next year, it is necessary to change the structure of the academic year to accommodate the two-day break and still maintain the 62 lecture days for the fall term, as mandated by Senate. Currently, two study days scheduled in December will be reduced to one (Dec. 7), and the exam period will be shifted to Dec. 8-19, with the winter holiday break starting Dec. 20.

In other action:

→ King’s University College will introduce a major in Middle East Studies next September, with the core studies dimension of the module based on history, philosophy and religious studies and language. The major fulfills the university’s commitment to interdisciplinary and internationalization in teaching and research and is parallel to the major and minor modules in Jewish Studies. It will be jointly administered by the History Department on main campus and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies at King’s.

→ The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry is dissolving the Department of the History of Medicine, effective Jan. 1. Dr. Paul Potter, who held the Hannah Chair of History of Medicine since its establishment in 1999, retired in 2009. He was the only faculty member remaining in the department. While the department will close, the Hannah chair will continue and the new holder will continue to deliver the history of medicine education to medical students as well as carry out scholarly work.
Coming Events

NOV 22 – 28

@WesternScience1
A terrific night with Bill Nye! Congrats to the SSC for bringing him to Western!

pic.twitter.com/fHHWcADD

LUNCHTIME FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS
Faculty and staff are invited to a free workshop to get some good advice on making the most of your pension plan, sorting out your savings options and on personal financial management. No registration is required. Saving 1, 2, Free. How to save more efficiently using your voluntary pension account at Western, an RRSP or a Tax Free Savings Account at your financial institution, and take advantage of the tax relief available.
12:05-12:55 p.m. Physics & Astronomy, room 34.

CANADIAN BLOOD DONOR CLINIC
New donors and walk-ins welcome.
Visit blood.ca
10 a.m.-3 p.m. Huron University College Dining Lounge.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH VISITING SPEAKER SERIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH ROMANTICISM
Desiree Lynch, University of Toronto. The Future of the Romantic Book: Readers with Scissors. 4:46 p.m. UC 224A.

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR AUDIOLOGY

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
8 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

FRIDAY

LUNCHTIME FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS
Faculty and staff are invited to a free workshop to get some good advice on making the most of your pension plan, sorting out your savings options and on personal financial management. No registration is required. Investing 101: Your Western Pension. Western offers 15 investment options for your pension savings, so that each of us can personalize our exposure to risk. Learn about the options as you choose the mix that is right for you.
12:05-12:55 p.m. UCC, room 53.

DR. MAUD L. MENTEN MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES
Liliana Attisano, Department of Biochemistry, University of Toronto. Multidimensional highthroughput screening reveals crosstalk between the Wnt and hippo pathways. 10:30 a.m. MSB 384.

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY AND CELL BIOLOGY
Daniel Dufort, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, McGill University. Multiple role of Nodal signaling in the establishment and maintenance of pregnancy.
12:30 p.m. MSB 282.

WESTERN LAW
The Claude and Elaine Persia Lecture in Human Rights. Senator Romeo Dallaire. The will to intervene.
12:30 p.m. Faculty of Law, room 38.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
CanFest. Duo Concertante: Juno Award-winning duo Nancy Dahn, violin, and Timothy Steeves, piano. Performs works by R. Murray Schafer, Staniland and Denis Gougeon.

12:30 p.m. von Kuster Hall.

EARTH SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM
Don Laston, University of Calgary. Post-earthquake seismic reflection survey, Christchurch, New Zealand. 3:30-4:30 p.m. B&G 0153.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Toronto at Western. 6 p.m.

MEN’S HOCKEY
Waterloo at Western. 7 p.m.

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Toronto at Western. 8 p.m.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Stéphane Sylvestre joins Orchestra London to perform J. Evangelista’s Piano Concertant. Western’s Symphonic Orchestra plays Paul Frehner’s Subliminal Media. Performances by percussion and chamber ensemble, ending with the combined orchestras presentation of Jacques Hétu’s Anninone.
8 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

SATURDAY

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
Lakehead at Western. 12 p.m.

MEN’S VOLLEYBALL
York at Western. 2 p.m.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Ryerson at Western.
6 p.m.

GENDER FAILURE
Student Donation Fund, Women’s Studies and Feminist Research and English present Ivan Coyote (Writer-in-Residence) and Rae Spoon (internationally acclaimed singer and writer). 7:8 p.m. Conron Hall (UC 224).

MEN’S BASKETBALL
Ryerson at Western.
8 p.m.

SUNDAY

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
Lakehead at Western.
1 p.m.

MEN’S VOLLEYBALL
McMaster at Western.
3 p.m.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Trio Albonata: Annette-Barbara Vogel, violin, Marcin Swoboda, viola and Mateusz Swoboda, cello, perform string trios by Beethoven and Dohnanyi. 5 p.m. von Kuster Hall.

MUSEUM OF ARCHEOLOGY
Annual art and craft sale - Aboriginal artisans and ‘Trail of Tears’ quilt. Craft vendors, demonstrations, bake sale, children’s Christmas craft activities, Penny sale. $5 adult, $4 senior and student, $3 child, $12 family. 519-473-1360. Visit www.ca/museum/events.html.
10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. 1600 Attawandaron Road.

MONDAY

MCINTOSH GALLERY
Adrian Norvid. Showstoppers, Whappers, Downers and Out of Towners. Runs until Feb. 16, 2013. mcintoshgal. lenexa.com

THE CHINESE PROGRAM AT HURON
Lunch Hour Conversation. Anyone wishing to speak Chinese is welcome. Email hwu1@huron.uwo.ca.
12:30-1:30 p.m. International Lounge, Huron.

TUESDAY

SENIOR ALUMNI PROGRAM
John Leonard, Department of English. Western. Paradise Lost and Exoplanets. Milton’s prediction of astronomical discoveries and how the universe has been misrepresented for 260 years.
9:30 a.m. McKellar Room, UCC.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Mother and Child Chorale and Les Choristes present a program of seasonal choral music.
12:30 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Preparing for multiple-choice tests. Western Student Services, room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/learning. 1:30-2:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS
Build your confidence in public speaking. Visit 9119 toastmastersclubs.org/ Contact Donna Moore, dmoores@ uwo.ca or 851-597-12 -1 p.m. UCC, room 147B.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Jazz Ensemble.
12:30 p.m. Paul Davenport Threate.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Essay Exam Essentials. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/learning.
3:30-4:30 p.m. Western Student Services, room 3134.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
La Tertulia. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish welcome. Email tertulial uwo.ca.
Research

Postdoc explores roots of math in brain

BY PAUL MAYNE

QUICK, WHAT’S A 15 per cent tip on a $67 lunch bill? Is it time to do your taxes yet? Are you ready to renew your mortgage?

So, are you anxious yet? If so, you may be one of the 20 per cent of people who not only get edgy and panic with the idea of math, but actually feel physical pain leading up to the inevitable number crunching.

Psychology postdoctoral fellow Ian Lyons said the idea of math anxiety could, in some ways, be compared to other phobias, such as driving or heights.

And he has brought a curiosity around the topic with him to Western.

“For example, driving, you want to be vigilant, but you don’t want to stress out about it too much,” he said. “Think of it as a U-shaped function. You don’t want to be totally not paying attention, but at the same time, you don’t want to be freaking out so much you can’t focus on the task at hand.”

As a graduate student at the University of Chicago, Lyons and fellow researcher Sian L. Beilock studied brain activity of subjects preparing to do math problems. While subjects showed no ill effects when doing the actual equations, it was the lead-up to the task at hand that prompted the brain activity similar to that of instinctual pain, Lyons said.

“One of the things we found interesting about the study was that it’s really a psychological event,” Lyons said. “Driving has the potential to kill you; heights and falling from a tall building have a potential to injure. Is it ok to have a certain anxiety about these things? Sure, you definitely want to express these things because they can do you harm.”

“But some people take that to the extreme and just have a very strong fear, more than the norm.”

But why math? Math can’t physically hurt you.

“There are good, neutral and bad things about, say, a tall building,” Lyons said. “Only focusing on the worst possible outcome is what we think is happening with math anxious people.”

As an explanation, Lyons saw a social construct driven by experience.

“It is a high-stakes thing, let’s be honest. You don’t want to fail a test, but at the same time, if you let the fact that it’s so high stakes get to you, then you could, ironically, do terrible.”

Lyons was attracted to Western just over a month ago to work with Psychology professor Daniel Ansari, Canada Research Chair in Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience.

Lyons hopes to continue his work on math anxiety, as well as on the overall neural and cognitive mechanisms underlying mathematical thinking.

He is interested in exploring why young children learn their native language seemingly effortlessly, but typically take years to learn basic math skills. Also puzzling to Lyons is why some children can grasp even complicated math concepts with minimal instruction, while others struggle with basics their entire lives.

And most recently, Lyons has become interested in how the brain changes as people acquire symbolic versus non-symbolic numbers.

“I am trying to understand the crucial properties that distinguish symbolic numbers from their approximate, perceptually grounded counterparts,” he said. “My hunch is that understanding how the brain processes these properties will be key to unpacking the neural foundations of more complex math abilities.”

Symbolic numbers are typically Indo-Arabic numerals, 0-9; non-symbolic numbers are an approximate number in arrays of objects and sequences of events. For example, it’s the difference between the specific number 10 versus a general sense of ‘10ishness’ and when looking at a collection of objects.

“One of things I want to do here is learn how that comes to be,” Lyons said. “How do kids acquire these numbers? Do they use that non-symbolic system to bootstrap themselves into the symbolic system, or do they ignore that altogether and build up this system from scratch? If we know exactly how that’s going, then hopefully we can make better recommendations for education.”

Ian Lyons, a Department of Psychology postdoctoral fellow, is researching the idea of math anxiety, along with the overall neural and cognitive mechanisms underlying mathematical thinking – in particular the acquisition of symbolic and non-symbolic numbers.
Science Guy: The end is ‘Nye’

Bill Nye – ‘The Science Guy’ – spoke to a packed Alumni Hall Tuesday night. He encouraged the cheering crowd of mainly students to be innovative thinkers, ever-ready to find solutions and live responsibly in a world where climate change is inevitable and population is rapidly increasing. “We’ve got to do more with less so we can change the world,” Nye said.
Student Life

Student brings passion, dedication to world’s stage

BY ADELA TALBOT

AT JUST 18, Victoria Chok will be among the youngest delegates at the 2012 Global Youth Summit, taking place Nov. 25-Dec. 1 in London, England. And she knows she’s in for a whirlwind week.

“This will be an unparalleled experience because not every day do you get to collaborate with people from around the world,” the first-year Biomedical Sciences student said.

The Global Youth Summit is an initiative of the British Council, comparable to the United Nations, directed toward connecting youth around the globe. The summit brings together 60 individuals aged 16-21 for workshops and sessions in which they collaborate and create action plans to address global issues and bring about positive change in their communities.

“Around the world, youth have great initiatives but geography is the barrier that really separates us. We have a great voice and as long as we are passionate about something, we can make a difference,” Chok said.

From more than 3,000 applicants, Chok was selected as one of 100 finalists, and, finally, selected as one of 60 global youth who will meet next week. She believes her entrepreneurial drive and passion for the arts made her stand out and helped her make the final cut.

Back home in Markham, Chok co-founded a charity when she was in Grade 9. Called Markham Getting Together, the charity gives opportunities to artists, musicians, dancers, etc. to showcase their talents through talent shows and showcases while raising pledges for charitable causes. It gives artists much-needed exposure, while raising funds for local and international not-for-profits.

“Artists don’t get the opportunity athletes do. I feel like we’re the underdogs in society, not heavily funded. The only way an artist can get out there is to have an opportunity to showcase themselves,” said Chok, a professionally trained ballet dancer.

Chok and a friend started to put together talent showcases in seniors’ homes, hospitals and other venues, while the artists raised pledges for charitable organizations, among them local shelters and a project to build a clean water well in Malawi, Africa. Markham Getting Together is now a registered charity, with a new branch in Kingston and other local youth taking up the torch Chok left behind.

“I thought that if I could provide impact on a local level, why not collaborate with people across the world on a bigger project,” she said of her motivations to attend the summit.

“I want to work in my existing charity and I’m really interested in social entrepreneurship. I was thinking of expanding the charity to a national level, and from (the summit), I want to collaborate with youth internationally.”

She looks forward to meeting other like-minded and driven youth, who will be divided into workshops to focus on issues ranging from global health, policy, education and entrepreneurship. She is excited to hear their ideas, make connections and share resources to bring about change at home and across the globe.

Chok is also part of Nspire Innovation Network, a group of young leaders passionate about business and technology. The organization aims to foster Canada’s next generation of innovative leaders in the two fields and here, Chok, an aspiring entrepreneur, says she feels alive.

“Entrepreneurs disrupt mindsets. It’s about breaking boundaries. Entrepreneurs solve problems by thinking in a different way to find solutions, and by creating your own job, you get to make a change you want to make. My ultimate goal is to start something of my own,” she said.

“The best way to learn is to do things on your own. People can give you a to-do list, but you don’t learn from that. You learn from doing and from your mistakes. And for the Summit, I’m just so excited.”

AUSTIN TALBOT, WESTERN NEWS

At just 18, Victoria Chok will be among the youngest delegates at the 2012 Global Youth Summit, taking place Nov. 25-Dec. 1 in London, England.
SURVEY OF GRADUATING STUDENTS

* These numbers spotlight a handful of thoughts from Western’s 2011-12 graduating class as reflected in the recently released report on the survey of graduating students. 2011-12: The survey, with findings posted publicly this week at tiny.cc/cogfmr, was distributed to 5,556 undergraduate, certificate and diploma students who were expected to graduate at the fall 2011 or spring 2012 convocations. Of these, 556 questionnaires (15.4 per cent) were returned. Western had conducted the survey since 1996.

92.6% WOULD RECOMMEND WESTERN TO A FRIEND.

27.6% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT ETHICAL ISSUES.

37.6% PLAN TO CONTINUE EDUCATION IN A GRADUATE PROGRAM, PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

40.2% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT WORKING ON THEIR OWN.

14.7% WERE SATISFIED WITH PARKING FACILITIES, LAST IN THE CAMPUS PHYSICAL FACILITIES CATEGORY.

27.5% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT OTHERS.

60.4% CITED GOOD SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE AS AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR ATTENDING WESTERN.

28.2% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT LEADERSHIP.

27.5% HAD A JOB ARRANGED PRIOR TO GRADUATION.

89.7% OF THOSE WHO HAD A JOB ARRANGED FOUND ONE AT LEAST SOMewhat RELATED TO THEIR STUDIES.

77.8% CITED QUALITY OF PROGRAMS OFFERED AS AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR ATTENDING WESTERN.

75% GRADUATE WITH BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IN $27,000 IN STUDENT LOANS.

79.3% WERE SATISFIED WITH CAMPUS SAFETY, TOPS IN THE SUPPORT UNIT CATEGORY.

14.5% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT MATHEMATICAL PROFICIENCY.

10.4% WERE SATISFIED WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, LAST IN THE SUPPORT UNIT CATEGORY.

42.5%
Study calls for drug-driving crackdown

BY PAUL MAYNE

DRUG-IMPAIRED DRIVING is a growing problem in Canada that remains dramatically under-enforced and, if enforced at all, is time-consuming, unwieldy and fails to identify the vast majority of drug-impaired drivers, according to a study released by Western Faculty of Law professors.

Studies show driving after drug use is more prevalent among some young people than after drinking – 39.8 per cent of 15-24 year olds reported driving within two hours of using cannabis during the last year compared to 20.9 per cent who reported driving under the influence of alcohol.

"It is surprising that so many young people are driving after drug use. This generation has been told about the dangers of drinking and driving for a long time, and that they understand," said Erika Chamberlain, Western Law associate dean (academic), who along with fellow Western Law professor Robert Solomon, released, Drug-Impaired Driving in Canada: Review and Recommendations for MADD Canada. "They don't have the same understanding of the risks with driving after using drugs. Perhaps they don't see it as risky. Young people think they'll be caught if they drink and drive, but not so much for drugs. They are used to RIDE programs, but we don't have the same enforcement mechanism for drug-impaired driving, and that's what we're trying to change."

The study recommends the Canadian government should work toward introducing roadside saliva screening to test for the most commonly-used drugs.

While 800 law enforcement officers across Canada are trained for Drug Recognition Evaluation (DRE), only about 500 are active. Chamberlain said it's a long, cumbersome and expensive process – requiring close to 130 hours of training and costing $17,000 per officer. Because of those barriers, Australia and a number of European countries are moving to saliva testing instead of using the DRE method.

Similar to a roadside breathalyser test for alcohol, the saliva test results would not be admissible in court, but would act as a screening mechanism that would precipitate further testing police.

"They have been doing this in Australia for a while and it takes just a few minutes," Chamberlain said.

With the ability to test for THC (marijuana), ecstasy, methamphetamine – and using an absorbent collector placed in the mouth or touching the tongue – an officer can test for a positive result in less than five minutes. These tests will not detect the presence of legally prescribed drugs or common over-the-counter medications.

While a positive saliva test in Australia results in an immediate charge, Chamberlain said it might be a bit more complex here.

"I think the problem in Canada, because of our Constitutional structure you run into, is 'yes' you're positive, but our criminal offence is driving while your ability is impaired. The fact you test positive doesn't necessarily mean that your ability is impaired," she said. "We would need more research in terms of what the limit is to be. Yes, positive for marijuana, but what sort of concentration?"

Like most changes to enforcement practices, Chamberlain expects the idea of random stopping of drivers and arbitrarily testing their bodily fluids for drugs will undoubtedly give rise to challenges under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"Given the negative policy implications of a zero-tolerance law in Canada, the study said it is preferable to establish per se limits. This would allow the government to target specific, commonly used drugs, and would establish a more rational link between drug use and impairment of driving-related skills."

Like the 08 per cent blood alcohol concentration per se limit for driving, this would require defining a level at which a typical driver's skills would be impaired by a given drug.

While there may be hundreds of DRE officers trained to spot drug-impaired drivers on our roads, it is not translating into charges being laid, according to the study.

The number of drug-impaired driving charges in 2010 (915) constituted only 1.4 per cent of the total impaired driving charges laid (65,183). While the total number of persons charged with a drug-impaired driving offence did increase by almost 15 per cent from 2009 to 2010, it is not clear if this trend will continue.

Only six provinces/territories have enacted specific short-term administrative sanctions for drug-impaired driving in the absence of a Criminal Code charge, while two others have enacted general administrative sanctions for drivers who fail a Standard Field Sobriety Test or refuse to take the test.

Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec still have no drug-related administrative program on the books.
Campus Digest

Dean, alumnai named among influential women

RICHARD IVEY SCHOOL of Business Dean Carol Stephenson, above left, along with five Western alumnai, have been named among Canada’s most influential women by the Women of Influence Magazine in the Canadian publication’s 2nd annual Top 25 Women of Influence list, released in its Winter 2012 issue. The Top 25 Women of Influence program celebrates women who have demonstrated, over the last year, strong and unyielding leadership in one of five distinct sectors. The women listed have an unparalleled reach and influence, today.

“Creating access to role models is the most compelling reason why these achievers must be celebrated,” said Carolyn Lawrence, Women of Influence president and CEO. “The women we profile have made an important impact in their chosen fields and they are all using their influence to change the world, for the better. It is important that they are recognized because they serve as role models for Canadian women and girls.

“It was how I got inspired at the start of my career, and we’ve been returning the favor every day since.”

Carol Stephenson, on the list for the second time, was named in the Public Sector category for her work developing Ivey’s new $110 million building, including fundraising, site selection, design details and construction plans and bringing the school’s current dispersed programs under one roof.

Western’s alumnai also made a huge splash, occupying a fifth of the list. They are, from left: Sylvia Chrominska, BA’73 (Economics), HBA’75, Scotiabank, Global Human Resources and Communications group head, was named in the Business category. She was recognized for re-launching the bank’s Advancement of Women initiative, making executives more accountable for the advancement of female employees.

Carol Hansell, BA’81 (History), Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, senior partner, was named in the Professional Services category. She was honored for creating a reliable corporate voting system for the benefit of the issuer and their shareholders.

Rosemary McCarney, LLB’77, Plan Canada, president and CEO, was named in the NGO category. She was recognized for the Because I Am A Girl campaign, a global initiative to end gender inequality, promote girls’ rights and lift millions of girls, and everyone around them, out of poverty. This campaign led to the United Nations designating Oct. 11, 2012 the inaugural ‘International Day of the Girl.’

Bonnie Schmidt, BSc’86, Dip’88, PhD’93 (Physiology), Let’s Talk Science founder and president, was named in the NGO category. She was honored for her program’s ability to transform the thinking of young people who see science as an important part of society, but not relevant to them. She gets kids to see so many job opportunities will be closed if they don’t have an open attitude toward these fields.

Karen Stinz, BA’92, Dip’93 (Political Science, King’s), Toronto City Councilor and TTC chair, was named in the Public Sector category. Stinz was honored for her ultimate vision to see a TTC — and community — better off in 2014 than when she found it.

With any questions or concerns about logging in, please visit Campus Digest, which appeared in Western’s Magazine’s Theory’s 2012 Winter issue.

A Fallacious Concept':

Richard D’Alessandro, recently received a scholarship for a scholarly article awarded by this peer-based learning society.

Music Theory professor Peter Frantik recently received the Society for Music Theory’s 2012 Outstanding Publication Award for his article, ‘A Fallacious Concept: Invariable Counterpoint at the Twelfth within the Ursatz’, which appeared in Music Theory Spectrum. The award, given for a distinguished article by an author of any age or career stage, is the highest honor for a scholarly article awarded by this peer-based learned society.

London pilgrims of the Camino de Santiago are spotlighted in an exhibition now in the Spencer Gallery, Weldon Library display cases and Schweitzer Gallery in the Archives and Research Collections Centre.

The pilgrims of the route, popularized in the film The Way with Martin Sheen, have assembled paintings, photos and artifacts of their journeys in Spain and France on the ancient pilgrimage routes. The show runs until Jan. 4. This exhibition is a collaboration with Visual Arts professor Kathryn Brush’s Visual Arts History 2923E: Romanesque and Gothic Art.

Western student Joanne Afghani has been awarded one of the four grand prizes across Canada in Sam-sung’s Campus Mobilers program, recognizing the most passionate students with funding and technology to pursue what they love most. Afghani raises awareness about youth health and funds for the Cohn’s & Colin’s Foundation of Canada.

With her $1,500 award, she was able to host a recent fundraiser, Cooking for a Cause, where close to 100 people from the London community participated in an interactive cooking class and learned about the importance of good health and nutrition from expert fitness instructors and nutritionists.

With any questions or concerns about logging in, please visit Campus Digest, which appeared in Western’s Magazine’s Theory’s 2012 Winter issue.
**NEW ADDRESS**
71 Carriage Hill Drive, London (minutes north of campus • free parking)

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**ACADEME**

**PHD LECTURES**

Elizaveta Atabakhsh, Biochemistry, Characterization of a tumour suppressor function of RanBPM, Nov 22, MSB 384, 1:30 p.m.

Jennings Thompson, Sociology, Gender Neutral? An Empirical Test of Life-course Theories of Criminal Behaviour, Nov 23, SSC 4020, 11 a.m.

Ravindran Atpunali, HRS, Physical Therapy, Following Shoulder Rotator Cuff Repair, Nov 26, EC 150C, 12:30 p.m.

Daniel Montanera, Economics, Essays on Health Insurer and Provider Interactions, Nov 26, N/A.

Elo Anthony Cino, Biochemistry, Experimental and computational analysis of the structure and dynamics of intrinsically disordered proteins, Nov 27, DS 166, 12:30 p.m.

Ria Miyoshi, Geophysics, Strategies for visco-acoustic waveform inversion in the Laplace-Fourier domain, with application to the Nankai subduction zone, Nov 27, B&G 1069, 1:30 p.m.

Ali Akbar Mohseni, Statistics, On the Distribution of Quadratic Expressions in Various Type of Random Vectors, Nov 28, UGC 50, 10:30 a.m.

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**Western University, Canada**

**Faculty of Science**

Applications or nominations are invited for the position of Chair, Department of Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science. Applicants or nominees must be tenured faculty members at Western University, Canada. A record of commitment to high quality undergraduate and graduate education, a strong research record, and some administrative leadership experience are preferred. This position is an opportunity for the selected candidate to show leadership in teaching, research, administration, outreach, and development. The new Chair is expected to facilitate the implementation of a departmental academic plan that is consistent with Faculty and University plans and that would aim to position the Department within the top tier of those departments offering programs in Applied Mathematics.

The application package should include a cover letter and a curriculum vitae. The term of the appointment will be for a maximum of five years; the appointment is anticipated to commence on July 1, 2013.

Nominations and applications should be sent to:
Dr. Charmaine Dean, Dean
Faculty of Science, Western Science Centre
Western University, Canada
London, Ontario, N6A 5B7

Consideration of applications will commence on January 15, 2013.

Positions are subject to budget approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Western University is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.

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**Western University, Canada**

**Faculty of Science**

Applications or nominations are invited for the position of Chair, Department of Applied Mathematics, Faculty of Science. Applicants or nominees must be tenured faculty members at Western University, Canada. A record of commitment to high quality undergraduate and graduate education, a strong research record, and some administrative leadership experience are preferred. This position is an opportunity for the selected candidate to show leadership in teaching, research, administration, outreach, and development. The new Chair is expected to facilitate the implementation of a departmental academic plan that is consistent with Faculty and University plans and that would aim to position the Department within the top tier of those departments offering programs in Applied Mathematics.

The application package should include a cover letter and a curriculum vitae. The term of the appointment will be for a maximum of five years; the appointment is anticipated to commence on July 1, 2013.

Nominations and applications should be sent to:
Dr. Charmaine Dean, Dean
Faculty of Science, Western Science Centre
Western University, Canada
London, Ontario, N6A 5B7

Consideration of applications will commence on January 15, 2013.

Positions are subject to budget approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Western University is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.
Activism

‘Vitamin tour’ brings health south

BY PAUL MAYNE

LAST YEAR, BRITTNEY Grondin realized a lot of what she was doing in life was because others wanted her to do it. This past summer, the third-year Science student decided to change that.

Out of the blue, albeit with her parents a bit apprehensive, Grondin ventured on a solo trip to Costa Rica, but not to lounge on a beach. Motivated to help local children in one of Central America’s poorest communities, Grondin spent three weeks volunteering at a local daycare, bringing with her 5,000 multi-vitamins.

“I kind of realized how prevalent malnutrition is there, so that’s why I started,” said the 19-year-old Essex, Ont., native. “Health is just so much a given here, and I realize you need your health to be able to pursue anything else, such as education. There are initiatives giving money for schools, but you need to be healthy in the first place in order to attend. Being healthy makes a huge difference.”

Thanks to a part-time job, Grondin paid her own way. Through a couple of presentations to local Rotary clubs, and the generosity of friends and family, she raised enough money to pay for 5,000 vitamins, shipped ahead of time and the generosity of friends and family. Grondin was matched with the local generous area known for its high crime.

The street from a shantytown and danger zone is matched with adults with intellectual disabilities, and with ChicksClic, where she raised enough money to pay for 5,000 vitamins, shipped ahead of time to Costa Rica. She even had money left over, which she used to buy clothes and other items for the children.

Through International Volunteer HQ, Grondin was matched with the local project and were able to meet with other volunteers there. “I wasn’t really nervous at all,” she said. “We, either a little bit, because they only spoke Spanish down there. I picked up a couple words, but for the most part, it was a lot of hand gestures.”

Grondin stayed with a sponsor family in San Pedro, but spent her days at the daycare in San Jose, located just down the street from a shantytown and dangerous area known for its high crime.

“Girls weren’t supposed to walk alone, even during the day,” said Grondin, who is working toward a career in pharmacology. “Most people don’t think of Costa Rica being that poor, but there are some sad stories there.”

Grondin admits her ‘vitamin tour’ is far from over. In the next year or so, she plans to make a similar trip, this time Guatemala, and this time with 10,000 vitamins.

Between her schooling and planning her next trip, Grondin also volunteers her time with Best Buddies, where she is matched with adults with intellectual disabilities, and with ChicksClic, where she works with Grade 7 and 8 girls as a role model for postsecondary education and how to be a strong woman.

So how does one person do so much? “I’m lucky in the fact that maintaining my high grades is easy for me, but I have learned that there is more to life than school and getting 90s versus 80s. It doesn’t make a difference long term,” Grondin said. “I have fun doing it and I feel that it’s very important. I especially enjoy doing things to benefit children because they have so little control over their situation.”

Mentioning the names Andres, Eduardo, Fabiola and Kristal to Grondin will quickly generate a smile of her time with the children in Costa Rica. She wishes she could be getting updates on her young friends.

“Things went by so quick. I’m ready to go back,” she said.

Events

Euro zone’s future put in spotlight

BY JIM DAVIES

DOES THE EURO zone have a future? A panel of Western economists organized by the Economic Policy Research Institute recently examined that question.

The panel, comprised of David Laider and Michael Parkin, two former Western Economics chairs (and presidents of the Canadian Economic Association), as well as Jim MacGee, Bank of Montreal professor, agreed the future of the Eurozone was in doubt unless fundamental and far-reaching actions were taken.

Laider argued a flawed Euro zone structure has unfortunately made policy responses there – driven by incompatible national interests – into outstanding examples of economic policy-making’s three Ds: ‘denial’ of the fundamental nature of the flaws in question leads to ‘dither’ in the form of a series of inadequate quick fixes which, increasingly likely with every passing month, leads to ‘disaster.’

He noted flaws in the Euro zone structure were recognized long before the crisis. In the 1990s, Laider and other leading monetary economists warned of the risks of launching a European currency without creating institutions to manage the politics of its interactions with national economic policies. That’s not to mention the pre-setting of the first rules with knowing exactly how it would work or the damage a botched system’s failure could inflict.

While many saw the Euro as part of an ongoing post-war political project to bind Europe closer together, it was also seen as a way to lower trade costs and encourage poorer (mainly southern) European nations to undertake needed economic reforms. Combined with a stable macroeconomic climate (backed by the European Central Bank), this was a faster rapid economic growth in the poorer Eurozone countries.

This expectation, combined with a belief that other nations in the Eurozone would step in to prevent defaults, initially led investors to treat the debt of all countries equally. MacGee argued many of the anticipated structural reforms to labour and product markets unfortunately did not happen, resulting in recent investor concerns that slow growth, high unemployment and high fiscal deficits will not reduce the likelihood of defaulting.

Until concern about the long-run solvency of these countries is successfully dealt with, “eurozone membership: higher trade, real incomes and stable currencies,” said Laider.

Euro zone membership: higher trade, real incomes and stable currencies. Moreover, leaving the euro would be extremely difficult, due to questions about how to redenominate numerous contracts written in Euros as well as how to convince people to trade-in their Euros for a new currency.

Since a country that left the euro would have little to gain, Parkin argued the Euro zone should survive so long as “ignorance or irrational inattention does not replace rational self-interest.”

Unfortunately, all of the panelists felt further mistakes were a real risk, and the most likely chance of Euro zone policy makers was to continue to delay on making the tough choices required to end the crisis – leaving the future of the Eurozone an open question.
Science meets Hollywood

Science met Hollywood Monday night as actor Alec Baldwin joined Western’s Robarts Research Institute for a symposium on the latest advances in spinal cord injury research. The evening featured the presentation of the J. Allyn Taylor International Prize in Medicine to Reggie Edgerton of the University of California. Following an afternoon symposium, the evening came to a close as Baldwin was joined by Western alumna and CBC News anchor Heather Hiscox, MA’87, for a question-and-answer session surrounding Canada’s innovative role in spinal cord research.

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