Western, GTA reach tentative agreement

Western University and the Public Service Alliance of Canada Local 610, the union representing Western’s 2,300 graduate teaching assistants, have reached a new three-year tentative agreement. The group’s last contract expired Aug. 31.

Details of the agreement won’t be released until after ratification by the union and the university’s Board of Governors.

Grapefruit part of a deadly mix

By Adela Talbot

That glass of grapefruit juice you usually have with breakfast isn’t as healthy as you think—if you’re taking certain medications, that is. Perhaps you already knew that.

“We discovered the interaction 20 years ago. The science of grapefruit-drug interaction has been extensively studied. The science of the interaction is well known, but I don’t think it has been applied the way it needs to be now,” said David Bailey, professor emeritus in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry’s Division of Clinical Pharmacology.

Bailey, along with colleagues George Dresser and J. Malcolm Arnold, recently published Grapefruit-medication interactions: Forbidden fruit or avoidable consequences? The paper extensively outlines a rapidly growing list of medications that, when taken by individuals who consume grapefruit, could cause serious adverse effects, the most serious among them being sudden death from cardiac arrest.

“It is an educational document and it’s based on our concerns about the number of new drugs coming on the market with a potential to interact with grapefruit juice that results in very serious toxicities,” Bailey said. The number of drugs that could cause adverse effects is rapidly growing, while the caution that should accompany the prescriptions isn’t exactly in tow.

“From 2008-12—that’s four years—the number of drugs with the potential for serious adverse effects (when consumed by people who drink grapefruit juice) has gone from 17 to 44. That’s an average of more than six new drugs per year coming on the market. This is the reason we felt we had to write it.”

The word is getting out. In the last week, the study has found its way out of the medical journal and into the mainstream press around the globe.

Bailey explained it is necessary for both patients and health professionals to understand grapefruit-drug interactions and for doctors and pharmacists to apply this information to the safe and effective use of medications in their practice.

“We were really afraid (the new drugs on the market) would slip through the cracks because the information is not really easily accessible,” Bailey noted. He explained grapefruit-drug interaction is generally included in the medication’s monograph, but isn’t exactly accessible to the average patient.

Bailey and his team put together an accessible, eight-page document outlining medications that should not be taken with grapefruit juice.
Coming Events
DEC. 6 – DEC. 12

WESTERN FILM
MCKELLAR THEATRE
RM 290 UCC
519 661-3616
Dec. 7-13, 2012

ARGO
Rated PG 14A (115 min.)
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. 485 Windermere Rd. 4th floor auditorium.
HUME CRONYN MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE
A public lecture is provided several times throughout the evening while astronomers help visitors explore the skies through telescopes and answer your questions. Free. Open to the public. No registration required. Visit physics.uwo.ca/outreach/public_nights.html.

PITCH PERFECT
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1:30 p.m. P&As, room 100.

// THURSDAY

STUDY DAY

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM
Jay Strader, Department of Physics & Astronomy, Michigan State University. Black Holes in Globular Clusters. 1:30 p.m. P&As, room 100.

// FRIDAY

STUDY DAY

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY AND CELL BIOLOGY SEMINAR
Simon Beggs, Neurosciences & Mental Health, Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto, Centre for the Study of Pain. Microglia-neuronal signaling in neuropathic pain. 12:30 p.m. MSB 282.

ST. PETER’S SEMINAR
The Rev. Gustavo Gutierrez The Cry of the Poor Today in the Light of the Second Vatican Council. Free. Co-sponsored with King’s University College. 7:30 p.m. Labatt Hall, room 105.

EARTH SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM
Environmental Science 4909F: students. Community Services Learning and Plastic Pollution. 3:30-4:30 p.m. B&G 0153.

// SATURDAY

MID-YEAR EXAMINATION PERIOD BEGINS

SISTER’S OF ST. JOSEPH
Trust and Hope in the Darkness, Living with Loss at Christmas: A green sweater will Sprout. Registration $65, includes lunch. Contact Mary at network.ministries@csj.london.on.ca or at 519-432-3781 x 567. 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. 485 Windermere Rd. 4th floor auditorium.

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A public lecture is provided several times throughout the evening while astronomers help visitors explore the skies through telescopes and answer your questions. Free. Open to the public. No registration required. Visit physics.uwo.ca/outreach/public_nights.html.

7-10 p.m.

// MONDAY

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION, SEMINAR & BOOK LAUNCH
Elizabeth Anne Kinsella, Allan Pitman, Kathy Hibbert and Fred Elett discuss the book Phoniness as professional knowledge: Practical wisdom in the professions. All welcome. RSVP to Stella Ng or Lisa McCorquodale at sng9@uwo.ca. 2-4 p.m. Althouse College.

MCINTOSH GALLERY
Adrian Norvid: Showstoppers, Whoppers, Downers and Out Of Showstoppers. 7-10 p.m.

COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL SPEAKER SERIES
Faculty of Education. Lilya Nafikova, Postdoctoral Fellow Faculty of Education and recent graduate, National Dragomanov Pedagogical University, Kiev, Ukraine. Role of Music Education in the Socialization of Visually Impaired Children in Ukraine.

7:30 p.m. 4th floor auditorium.
HUME CRONYN MEMORIAL OBSERVATORY OPEN HOUSE
A public lecture is provided several times throughout the evening while astronomers help visitors explore the skies through telescopes and answer your questions. Free. Open to the public. No registration required. Visit physics.uwo.ca/outreach/public_nights.html.

7-10 p.m.

// TUESDAY

SCIENCE HERE AND NOW - THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT?
A series by Western Science professors to let Londoners know about the fascinating science research happening at Western. Talks are aimed at a general audience and are free. An astronomy professor and an anthropologist professor separate fact from the fiction around the popular myth the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012. 7-8 p.m. Central Library, 251 Dundas Street, Wolf Hall.

TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS
Build your confidence in public speaking. Visit 9119.toastmastersclubs.org/ Contact Donna Moore, dmoore@uwo.ca or 85159. 12-1 p.m. UCC, room 147B.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
La Tertulia. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish welcome. Email tertulia@uwo.ca. 4:30 p.m. UC 205.
Academics

Competition celebrates postdocs, research

STORIES AND PHOTOS BY ADELA TALBOT

WESTERN’S FIRST POSTDOCTORAL 3 Minute Research Competition, held last week in the Great Hall, saw more than 30 scholars sharing their research with the campus community. The research communication exercise – modeled after the Three Minute Thesis Competition (3MT), which features graduate students and was held at Western for the first time this spring – gives scholars the opportunity to share their work and its impact with a diverse, interdisciplinary audience, in three minutes or less. The competition strengthens communication skills, encouraging scholars to explain their research in an accessible manner and engage a wider audience.

The winners at the competition last week were:

Katrina Laurent
The Great Lakes Futures Project
First prize ($1,000)

By way of scenario analysis, Laurent’s project examines the possibilities in store for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin, over the next 50 years. Scenario analysis is a structured approach to envision alternate futures that could unfold; it provides a context for evaluating the consequences of current and future management and policy decisions. By envisioning alternate futures for the basin, Laurent and her research team will be able to look at current policy and suggest recommendations to get the basin on a trajectory that will lead to a desirable future. The aim is to provide input to the revised Canada/U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by suggesting areas of governance and policy reform and strategic research frameworks.

Catherine Martel
Inter-Species Chemical Warfare
Third prize ($250)

Martel’s research focuses on the interaction between spider mites – a herbivore that eats a variety of crop species – and the tomato plant. Spider mites, damaging Ontario’s agriculture, particularly its greenhouse production of tomatoes, take a big bite out of the local economy and Martel and her research team are trying to understand how tomato plants respond to and defend themselves against spider mites, while also looking at ways the pest manages to evade the plant’s defenses. By understanding these processes on a molecular level, the hope is to generate plants more resistant to spider mites. Now that the genome of both the tomato and the spider mite has been sequenced (the latter by Western’s own Miodrag Grbic), the approach to dealing with the pest is easier. The ultimate goal is to design new strategies to improve resistance to spider mites in agriculture.

Shelley Sandiford
The Effects of Free Radical Production on Skeletal Muscle Development
Second prize ($500)

Growing muscle cells in a dish, Sandiford’s research looks at what can be done to improve the growth and development of muscle tissue. Muscles deteriorate as we age, and if research can show what is happening to muscle tissue – which can, and does, dramatically shrink – over time, a possibility of designing therapies emerges. Sandiford is looking at NIP1, a naturally occurring protein in muscles, that when found in high levels causes a multitude of problems in muscle cells, preventing them from growing or developing properly. Sandiford’s research is looking toward therapeutically targeting this protein in order to address muscle degeneration, part of the aging process.

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Rotman Institute names new director

Carl Hoefer has been named the director of the Rotman Institute of Philosophy, effective July 2013. Currently ICREA Research Professor of Philosophy at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), Hoefer’s primary interest is in the metaphysics of nature, and his recent work concerns the nature of objective probability as revealed by its uses in many branches of science and other human activities. His previous appointments include the University of California, Riverside, and the London School of Economics, where he was the director of the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Sciences. Since autumn 2002, Hoefer has been an ICREA and member of the UAB philosophy department. He is also editor-in-chief of a new international journal, European Journal for Philosophy of Science, published by Springer.

Group provides ‘Spark’ for students

BY PAUL MAYNE

WHEN IT COMES to developing solutions for today’s challenges, youth can often be overlooked. Well, look no more, as a group of curious, resourceful and passionate university students are ready to leave their mark.

Social Spark, a non-profit that aims to trigger change by cultivating the socially conscious and entrepreneurial spirit in youth, has launched at Western and two other Ontario campuses (Ryerson and Toronto, where four students initiated the program).

Nancy Li, community manager of the Western program, said the focus is on empowering young leaders to solve problems through education and training.

“I saw this and got really interested in it,” said Li, a second-year Neuroscience student. “I like that it is a student-run start-up and that was exciting. This is doing something new, this one has a social focus to it, which I think is lacking now.”

Up and running since September, the group is open to both graduate and undergraduate students wishing to pursue sustainable solutions to complex social issues, through hands-on and mentoring opportunities.

“It’s a wide-open target field,” Li said. “It’s really for anyone interested in innovation, social causes and entrepreneurship who want to have a positive impact on society.”

Along with a monthly speaker series and case competitions, Social Spark features a Social Venture Challenge, where four student teams (three at each university), participate in an eight-month program with the goal of creating thriving social ventures. Participants will be provided with more than 90 hours of mentorship and education from experienced professors and practitioners, as well as access to the opportunity to pitch to investors.

Western’s social initiatives include:

- Addressing the issue of intra-hospital infections by increasing accountability and transparency within each hospital;
- Applying a crowd-sourcing model to charities, with the hope of decreasing administrative costs and increasing the quality of certain tasks; and
- Organizing a scalable free-trade clothing network that pays two to three times more in wages, and creating a platform and infrastructure to allow locals to export to foreign markets rather than over-saturated local markets.

Within the next three years, Social Spark intends to reach more than 75 ventures.

“Social Spark is a springboard to future careers for them,” Li said. “I want this to be a starting point for them to become social entrepreneurs. This is a springboard to future careers for them. I like seeing the challenges they work through. I’m learning so much about social causes just from watching the ideas of the students who are part of this. It’s so interesting to see what they come up with.”

FIND OUT MORE

VISIT SOCIAL SPARK AT THESOCIALSPARK.ORG, @SOCIALSPARK OR ON TWITTER AND FACEBOOK.COM/THESOCIALSPARK.
Offering up a number of thoughts on letters

BY LAURENCE DE LOOZE

SINCE CHILDHOOD, I have loved the ‘Note on the type’ one finds at the end of many books. It generally says something like: “This book was set in Janson from matrices first cut by the Dutchman Anton Janson, a practicing founder in Leipzig during the years 1668-1687. The delicate serifs of Janson give a sense of peace and repose, while the sturdy hasty stroke convey strength and stability.”

As a teenage reader, I was amazed at both how old some typefaces were and how many affective qualities were attributed to them.

The book editors already understood something I was slow to grasp: Typefaces do have an effect on the reader.

Yes, we all know italics and boldface and ALL CAPS give a different ‘feel’ to a text. But so many other subtler differences.

Sans serif fonts (the words ‘sans serif’ here are set in Gill Sans, one of the most famous typefaces to do away with the wedged ‘serifs’ at the ends of letters) have been seen as straightforward and sleek, while such a one as Didot, a famous script with serifs, has been hailed for how it connotes clarity and stateliness.

The font that has become almost ubiquitous in our current world is Helvetica, a sans serif typeface developed in Switzerland after the Second World War.

Helvetica has been used on countless posters; it is the typeface for the BMW, American Apparel, Jeep and American Airlines logos; and it is what is used for the whole New York City subway system. There has even been a documentary – a good one, by the way – made about Helvetica, and while some see the typeface as cold, impersonal and hyper-modern, others see it as accessible, inviting and democratic.

What the ‘Note on the Type’ made me realize in my youth is that typefaces often have long histories.

Times New Roman, which is often used for scholarly writing (and which is the font of these paragraphs), was developed in 1931 for the British Times. The ‘New Roman’ portion of the name refers to the fact if one traces the forms into the past, they go back to the Roman Empire, whose magisterial inscriptions on stone monuments were almost all written in what we now call Roman capitals.

No one understood monumentality like the Romans, and the Latin inscriptions they left (on, for example, the base of Trajan’s Column in Rome) still convey a sense of grandeur, stability and – well – MONUMENTALITY. To this day, Roman capitals are used for inscriptions on government buildings and public memorials. Most people do not know why, in historical terms, those letter forms suggest solemnity and gravitas, but they certainly know they do so.

That so many typefaces go back to the 16th and 17th centuries is due, of course, to the needs of the printing presses in the Early Modern era.

After movable type was introduced in the second half of the 15th century, the first fonts cut were made to look like the handwritten Gothic scripts of medieval scribes. But the letters in medieval manuscripts were dependent on the positioning and slant of the stylus or pen.

After about 1500, printers realized they could reshape letters, and they wrote treatises that proposed new fonts.

My favourite is the 1529 book Champ Fleury by the Frenchman Geoffroy Tory, in which he designed every letter of the alphabet so it mapped onto both a 10x10 grid (100 was, of course, a perfect number) as well as onto the male nude body (there is a facsimile copy of the book in the D.B. Weldon Library). He also had a theory according to which every letter referred back to the nine muses and to the seven liberal arts. Tory, in other words, loaded the whole of the Renaissance and its return to Antiquity onto each and every letter. Leonardo Da Vinci and Albrecht Dürer also designed typefaces.

Different periods have favoured different letter styles.

The 18th century went a bit overboard with florid cursives. 19th-century advertising crammed many font styles and shapes into a single ad – anything to get you to look. Early 20th-century poets began to mix fonts on a page for effect. Some current artists play with ‘asemic’ writing that looks, at first glance, to be actual letters, but turn out to be evocative lettristic shapes, for which reason an attempt to find ‘meaning’ slips away.

Now, in the age of the computer and the e-book, we have never had so many typefaces at our disposal.

The dropdown menu in any word-processing program typically has more fonts than any one person will ever use. What is more, those ‘letters’ are no longer really letters. After all, the alphabetic forms we see on our screens are just groupings of huge quantities of zeros and ones that our software is manipulating.

The letters in our computers and e-books have thus disappeared entirely, and, as Pythagoras is reported to have said in the 6th century BCE, ‘All is number.’

Laurence de Looze is professor of Modern Languages. Trained as a medievalist at the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto, de Looze has published books and articles on medieval English, French, Icelandic and Spanish literature. He teaches a wide range of courses in the Department of Modern Languages and Department of French at Western.

Opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of or receive endorsement from Western News or Western University.
**Killam Prize winners share ideas on ‘Ideas’**

**London Rocket fizzles before launch**

THE LONDON ROCKET, a new student-run start-up originally set to operate a low-cost bus service to students travelling from Western to the Greater Toronto Area during the winter exam period, has been forced to shut down due to a legal dispute initiated by Greyhound Canada.

According to London Rocket representatives, the student team has sent a cease-and-desist letter by Greyhound Canada, demanding a full stop to all operations, citing the start-up’s lack of license to operate a bus service from the Ministry of Transportation as the primary reason.

Students who have already purchased a ticket will be issued a full refund.

“We know this may be a major inconvenience for many of you, and we sincerely apologize; unfortunately, these circumstances have been entirely out of our control,” said a statement issued by the Rocket.

“We’re 19-year-old students. We don’t have money for lawyers and we don’t have the resources to defend ourselves.”

- Adela Talbot

**NEWS AND NOTES**

- The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) awarded 36 scholarships to students from 11 Western faculties. The awards, funded by the UWOFA membership, were handed out at an event yesterday, Dec. 5 in the Great Hall, Somerville House. The winners include:
  - Faculty of Arts and Humanities: Daidid Cieluszczyk, Laura Johnson and Jamie Rooney;
  - Faculty of Education: Matthew Parsons and Kathleen VonEw;
  - Faculty of Engineering: Thomas Kujawa, Daniel Rozhko and Kevin Zhou;
  - Faculty of Health Sciences: Petrina Barbas, Heidi Martin, Amanda McIntyre and Jason Vincent;
  - Faculty of Information and Media Studies: Francine Navarro;
  - Faculty of Law: Matthew Prager;
  - Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry: Amnara Shumman and Wendell Mascarenhas;
  - Faculty of Music: Bryce Lansdell;
  - Richard Ivey School of Business: Michelle Brillert; Faculty of Science: Erin Duffy, Michael Che, Mitchell Grace (Allan Henricke Memorial Scholar), Nuru Logathan, Soad Shanta (Part-Time Student Scholarship), Qi Yao and Ariele Yehezkeli;
  - Faculty of Social Science: Lindsay Bonjte, Sophie Chang, Rachel Devon, Christine Ingram (Part-Time Student Scholarship), Andrew Nevin (G. Edward Ebanks Scholarship for Sociology), Alysha Sharma, Veronika Stefanis (W. Balderston Memorial Scholarship for History), Zi Jun Tan and Elizabeth Wiona;
  - Past President’s Award – James Compton (FIMS): Gregory Brown;
  - Sarah J. Shorten UWOFA Scholarship (Philosophy): Aidan Bell.

- The Richard Ivey School of Business recently received the inaugural Education Excellence Award from the Canada China Business Council for outstanding international achievements in expanding Canada’s relationship with China through education, research, alumni relations and student/faculty exchanges. Ivey was unanimously chosen by independent judges to receive the Gold Award in the Education Category.

  The award was presented by His Excellency Zhang Jun, ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Canada, at a gala event Tuesday in Montreal. Paul Beamish, director of Ivey’s Asia Management Institute and Engaging Emerging Markets Centre, and Jan De Silva, Ivey Asia, associate dean, accepted the award on behalf of the school at the awards ceremony. The event was attended by David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, as well as other dignitaries.

  “In the midst of busy life on campus, we all experience those moments that make us truly appreciate, even if just for a second. It could be a stranger helping you pick something you dropped, rushing to grab a coffee before class and discovering no line at The Spoke or getting the last seat on the bus.

  Inspired by the best-selling Book of Awesome, Western’s Health and Wellness Support Service wants you to share your Wonderful Western moments with us by tweeting them, with or without a twitpic, with the hashtag #WOWestern.

  These moments will then be uploaded to a dedicated twitpic, wonderfulwestern.twitpic.com, for you to scroll through when you need that little reminder Western really is wonderful.

  For more information, email Sam Krishnapillai at health.wellness@usc-uwo.ca.

**Campus Digest**

**London Rocket fizzles before launch**

Western Economics professor John Whalley, second from right, joined his fellow 2012 Canada Council Killam Prize winners at the first Killam Prize Symposium held on Nov. 20 at Rideau Hall. The symposium, entitled How do we find things out? What are the ideal conditions for discovery?, was hosted by David Johnston, Governor General of Canada. Presented by CBC Radio in collaboration with the Killam Trusts and the Canada Council for the Arts, the discussion was broadcast on CBC’s Ideas with Paul Kennedy on Nov. 30 on CBC Radio 1. Kennedy moderated the event. Visit the CBC archives at tiny.cc/517qow to hear the show.
Book explores the research magic of Alan G. Davenport

BY HEATHER HUGHES

No matter what corner of the world you are in, the name Alan G. Davenport is synonymous with wind engineering. A new book explores how this ‘Wind Wizard’ took to the world stage and shaped the future of Civil Engineering.

Freelance science journalist Siobhan Roberts knew Davenport by name and reputation before she started digging into his biographical history, having interviewed him for a New York Times article in 2007 on the Insurance Research Lab for Better Homes.

“I heard Alan called the ‘King of Wind’ by many of his international colleagues, as well the father of modern wind engineering,” said Roberts, who penned Wind Wizard: Alan G. Davenport, the Art of Wind Engineering.

Davenport joined Western Engineering in the early 1960s, which was a faculty in its infancy. He garnered international attention for the establishment of the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory (BLWTL). Since it opened in 1965, the BLWTL has been used for research and testing some of the most notable structures in the world.

After a long struggle with Parkinson’s disease, Davenport died in 2009 at the age of 76. His work as an engineering consultant on the World Trade Center in New York City in the 1960s set the template for future wind engineering. Davenport applied a seemingly simple equation – which he referred to as the ‘wind loading chain’ – to all of his projects: wind load = wind climate + influence of terrain (roughness, topography) + aerodynamic response + mechanical response (stresses, deformations, accelerations) + criteria (strength, deflections, comfort).

To this day, wind engineering is still done with the same template and many methods of testing owe their origins to him – albeit tweaked here and there by technological and theoretical advances – that have transpired the many labs like Alan’s that sprouted up internationally over the last half century,” Roberts said.

Under his leadership, the BLWTL has been involved in the wind testing of some of the world’s tallest and longest structures, including the Sears Tower (now the Willis Tower) in Chicago, the CN Tower in Toronto, the proposed World Trade Center in New York City in the 1960s, the Messina Straits Crossing, in Italy, Normandy Bridge in France, the Great Belt East (Storbaelt) Suspension Bridge in Denmark and the Tsing Ma Bridge in Hong Kong.

Over the years, the BLWTL has taken “almost an epidemiological approach” to its work, Davenport told Roberts. “You understand diseases through not just one sick patient, but through groups of patients. … We’ve tested 100 very tall buildings, and from that experience we now have a good idea of what the general characteristics are of this group of structures. That is knowledge we could only get at piece by piece.”

Davenport viewed this accumulated wisdom as a repository that could be used to serve the public interest, she explains.

The book’s title, Wind Wizard, refers to Davenport’s “clever and creative” and “wizardly” ways of measuring wind and fortifying structures against its forces.

While his legacy continues to be seen in the work of the BLWTL today, Roberts sees Davenport as “a man who simply loved tackling the problems nature presented.”

The book is available through Princeton University Press, as well as bookstores and online retailers (including Chapters and Amazon).
Environmental Issues for the Twenty-First Century and Their Impact on Human Health

Richard B. Philip
Bentham Science Publishers
benthamscience.com/ebooks

Many are the books that remind us of the threats that undermine our Earth’s well-being, and within this genre is a raft of readymade solutions to promote a radical attitude shift if only there was political, corporate and citizen will to do so. Richard B. Philip’s book may not strike a particularly different chord among the already converted, but he does present readers with a holistic approach to the effects of pollutants on health, relying on meticulous studies. Ranging from the deleterious effect of oil sand extraction to the measured impact of the Walkerton crisis, from fracking to e-waste, from the wind turbines debate in Ontario to the effects of aerial fumigation, the reader is presented with a thoroughly researched text so densely woven that it is difficult to believe the motley of issues could be contained in so relatively few pages.

Marked by evident literature review in each of its gnomic chapters, Philip succeeds in providing a balanced approach to the underlying problematic: the complex integration of our air, water and land resources with respect to chemical threats to our health. Although fact-studded, Philip’s passion and strong concern for the subject emanates from the page.

Moreover, for those of us (like this reviewer) who match environmental concern with proactive change in everyday practice, this book is a trusty reference. And, although many of the concluding recommendations for change are already well known by some, they do bear reiteration, and we cannot simply rely on government regulations to lead the way: it is for each of us to take responsibility for our own actions, and to place keen pressure on polluting industries that continue to embrace unsustainable and destructive practices.

- Kane Faucher

The Fridgularity

By Mark A. Rayner
Monkeyjoy Press, 294 pgs.

Hot on the heels of?Pirate Therapy and Other Cures, Mark Rayner’s incisive and satirical wit strikes again. In a nightmare that even George Romero could never envision, imagine if a sentient refrigerator were to pull the plug on the Internet. The antagonist of this novel is a HAL-9000-esque appliance named Zathir who has achieved the artificial intelligence grail of the technological singularity. Meanwhile, to resurrect our reference to Romero, the population stumbles about in a zombie-like haze, confused and in withdrawal from the Internet.

At the center of this singularity and the resulting chaos is the ostensible owner of Zathir, Blake Given, who is pitching woo to Daphne.

Written in a humourous parodic prose that merges the apocalyptic genre with the contemporary mores of digital technologies, Rayner succeeds in transforming the lurking anxieties with advanced bots and voice-recognition software a la Siri on iPhone and refrigerators that are digitally enabled into both a risible and even touching story about our diminishing place in a world of technological intelligence run rampant.

As any good science fiction does, Rayner presents us with the underlying critique of unbridled technological integration. And, hey, who could turn down a novel that stars a megalomaniacal talking fridge? There is indeed an app(pliance) for that!

- Kane Faucher

Book Notes

Bow Grip, a novel by Western’s most recent Writer-in-Residence Ivan Coyote, was on the Top 5 list for the British Columbia and Yukon region of CBC’s 2013 Canada Reads competition. The novel focuses on a small-town Alberta mechanic who stays in a rundown Calgary motel learning to play cello after his wife leaves him for another woman. The book won the 2007 ReLit Award for best novel.

Screening the Face

By Paul Coates

Leering from an ancient Greek frieze, the tongue of the Gorgon lolls as Perseus holds it aloft. The grotesque close-up of the beheaded Medusa is represented as a symbol of heroism triumphing over the abject. Paul Coates weaves a cogent exploration of the tense conceptual borderland between faces and masks, film and philosophy, exploring the dialectical question of face and mask with agile erudition and applying considerable critical pressure. Taken as general stock and unacknowledged binary in film from Eisenstein to neo-realism, the symbolic, semiotic and cultural perspectives on what role facial representation plays receives more than simply a ‘close-up’ under Coates’ treatment.

We are reminded, in turn, of the increasing interest in facial representation including Siegfried Kracauer’s writings on photography up through more poststructuralist preoccupation with the fundamental significance (if not semiotic regime) of the face in history and linguistics in Deleuze and Guattari’s A Thousand Plateaus.

Coates’ strong critical theory perspective on film lifts the symbolic mask to reveal the filmic face, tracing the conceptual arc from Bergman to Batman.

- Kane Faucher

Graduate Program in Neuroscience - Seminar

Dr. Susanne Ferber
Department of Psychology
University of Toronto

“Work(ing memory) in progress.”

Monday, December 10, 2012
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Following Labatt down his ‘Different Road’

BY JASON WINDERS

YOU KNOW THE name, but you may not know the 17-year-old kid pictured on the green BSA motorcycle. And if you tell Arthur Labatt that kid looks a tad bit like Marlon Brando, well, let’s just say he won’t argue with you.

Starting when he was 12 years old, Labatt collected war savings certificates—depositing them in a bank account for years. When he was 1/2, he was ready to cash in and went into a local dealer looking to buy a Whizzer, a small motor kit that turned bicycles into motorbikes. But the salesman would talk him into “a real motorcycle”– a green 125cc Birmingham Small Arms (BSA).

“I had quite a small stash of money. My father was amazed I had done this. That’s why I went out without asking anybody and bought my first motorcycle,” said Labatt, who included a picture of him atop that first ride on the back cover of his book, A Different Road A Memoir.

“I just loved it.” Labatt would ride all over in all conditions – dirt and gravel roads, main highways in rain, storms, once sliding beneath a car a driver pulled in front of him. After one too many close calls, his father would offer him a trade—sell your motorcycle and he would buy Labatt a car.

“I was delighted to accept,” he said with a laugh.

The story is one of, literally, thousands of memories Labatt crammed into his recently released memoir. Part family history, part business textbook, part travelogue, the reflections of this long-time friend of Western, and honor degree recipient this past fall, provide quite a window into the man, his famous family and his life.

“He was born into privilege, the youngest child of John Sackville Labatt, who, with his brother, John Jr., ran the family-owned brewery, London’s glory days.

Labatt was born into privilege, the youngest child of John Sackville Labatt, who, with his brother, John Jr., ran the family-owned brewery, London Labatt Limited in London. Arthur spent his youth looking forward to, and enjoying, summers at Port Stanley on Lake Erie and Camp Ahmek in Algoma Park.

But he admits he felt like an observer of his own life in his early years. What was he supposed to do next? Where would his decisions take him? What would it all turn out? Labatt was always keenly aware of the blessings – and the burdens – of a famous name.

“I was always afraid I would be drinking under-age, and a photographer would come in and my picture would be taken and on the London Free Press,” he said. “It’s a prominent name, and it was on a lot of beer. But I really did want to get out of London.”

“And so I was always happier in Monroe,
treal where the name meant something, but not much. And I enjoyed living in France where it didn’t mean anything. But you learn to live with it.”

His brother and son, both named John, carry a heavier burden of history, Labatt said. “At least I was Arthur,” he laughed.

Cast in what he sees as his father’s mould, Labatt describes himself as “shy and a bit introverted,” not the easiest personality traits when one wants to write a memoir. During the process, he found a new appreciation for the written word, and those who use it.

“You have to be quite a disciplined self-starter to write. I have always respected authors, but I have a real respect for them now. It’s a tough job, but I wanted to do it myself. I wanted to see if I could do it.”

On these pages, he would explore all corners of his life. For instance, he dedicates a chapter of the book to the shadow cast over his family by the famous kidnapping of his father in 1934. He was only vaguely aware of those dark days.

“I knew virtually nothing about my father’s kid-napping,” he said. “It happened the year I was born and it wasn’t talked about at all at home. I learned a great deal about that.”

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— Arthur Labatt

A Different Road: A memoir
By Arthur Labatt
BPS Books (Sept. 20, 2012)
$26.95

His education took him on a decidedly zigzag itinerary through an assortment of Roman Catholic and public schools. And by the time it was his turn to join Labatt’s, his father had died, the firm was on its way to being sold and he had taken a detour from his studies at McGill University, becoming a char-tered accountant under the auspices of Clarkson, Gordon & Company.

Things began to make more sense to him after a period of career moves at Clarkson’s and then investment dealer McLeod Young Weir (MYW). After four years in Paris selling Canadian securi-
ties to institutional investors in Europe for MYW, he joined with portfolio manager Bob Krembil and mutual fund salesmen Michael Axford to launch Trimark Investment Management Inc., a mutual fund company they eventually sold to U.K.-based AMVESCAP (now called Invesco).

He speaks with great love for, if not great detail on, his Trimark days. Not wanting to leave anyone out, Labatt avoided dropping too many names, and even pushed back at his editor’s suggestion to add an index to the book.

Throughout the years, Labatt and his wife, Sonya, and their three children, lived in 10 differ-
ent homes in Toronto, Montreal and Paris and travelled the world. The couple now spends most of its time at their homes in Toronto and Tucson, contributing time, energy and resources to major charitable projects.

Overall, the book – three and a half years in the creation – is a reflection on a life well-lived, one free of regrets, save one.

“The one regret I do have is that I never got a university degree,” he said. “That’s one big fail-ure that has bothered me forever. I just didn’t pay enough attention to scholarly growth; it always came too easily.”
Changes occurring to China’s demographics, and thus its role as the factory to the world, will open new opportunities for Canada, according to Ian De Silva, who heads the Richard Ivey School of Business in Hong Kong campus.

“I believe the issue of China begging for workers is ‘new’ information for the world,” said the Ivey Business Journal.

“So the notion of shortages of workers is not highly recognized.”

This shortage of workers in China is the result of two conditions, she said. First, the country’s controversial One-Child Policy, which limits urban couples to one child by law, will result in fewer people entering the workforce, beginning in 2015. Second, China is shifting away from ‘Cheap China’ to a middle-class consumer market that requires new service sector skills, currently not widely available.

In her study, De Silva noted 7-8 per cent GDP growth is accepted as the new normal in China (versus Canada’s rate of 2.6 per cent in 2011), changing the country’s moniker from ‘Made in China’ to ‘Sales in China,’ as the country becomes an important consumer market opportunity for both domestic, Asian and Western companies alike.

“With increasing wages, China is no longer the source for cheap labour and cheap manufacturing. Cheap labour is now found in other markets in Asia, like Vietnam and Bangladesh,” De Silva said.

Many Western brands are doing well in China, she adds, such as General Motors, McDonald’s, Four Seasons hotels and Yum Brands (KFC, Pizza Hut).

“To do well, brands need to have a competitive advantage as all the world’s best brands are making their way there. This advantage could be a recognized brand, a unique, sought-after feature for a strong distribution.”

With numerous European and American brands active in China, fewer Canadian brands are found there, mostly because the U.S. market has been its preferred expansion market, De Silva said.

While more than 816 million workers make up China’s current labour force, it will start to shrink, intensifying competition for workers. By 2015, the United Nation projects new entrants will dip to 95 million, a 22 per cent decrease from 2005.

De Silva suggested by 2020, it is possible China may have 228 million fewer workers than required to operate effectively.

Therefore, Chinese companies are investing heavily in training and executive education to shorten the timeframes for developing managers into senior leaders. That opens the door for Canada, De Silva said.

For instance, Agricultural Bank of China sent 26 high-potential managers to Canada for a year to complete an Executive MBA at Ivey and obtain work experience.

“Children’s generation will need to be capable of operating in a world where both the U.S. and China are the dominant economies,” she said.

“Developing Chinese language proficiency and cultural familiarity will enhance the mobility and future job opportunities for our children,” said the Ivey School of Business’

Changes in China open doors for Canada for workers is ‘new’ information for the Hong Kong campus.

“Trends occurring to China’s demographics, and thus its role as the factory to the world, will open new opportunities for Canada, according to Ian De Silva, who heads the Richard Ivey School of Business in Hong Kong campus. The Ivey Business Journal.”

Read Grapefruit-medication interactions: Forbidden fruit or avoidable consequences?, a paper by David Bailey, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry professor emeritus, outlining a rapidly growing list of medications that, when taken by individuals who consume grapefruit, could cause sudden death, at tiny.cc/1pnsow.

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Six students named among Canada’s Next 36

SIX WESTERN STUDENTS from three faculties have been selected as part of ‘The Next 36’ – a search for Canada’s most promising and innovative undergraduates.

Mallorie Brodie (Richard Ivey School of Business), Lauren Hassegawa (Faculty of Engineering), Ali Jivan (Ivey), Bianca Lopes (Faculty of Social Science), Owen Ciu (Ivey) and Steven Wellman (Ivey) will be given the academic foundation, practical skills, role models and networks to become Canada’s next generation of entrepreneurial leaders, all as part of the program.

“These kinds of co-curricular programs are essential to educating future leaders and it’s great to see another strong showing from Western students among this year’s Next 36 cohort,” said Amit Chakma, Western president.

“It speaks well to the entrepreneurial spirit of our students and I wish them all the best for success in the months ahead.”

Championed by founding patrons W. Galen Weston, Paul Desmarais Sr., Jimmy Pattison and a long list of prominent Canadian business leaders, The Next 36 is described as “the most intense, hot-house effort to forge great entrepreneurs ever attempted in Canada.” It has partnerships with Ernst & Young, Rogers Communications, MaRS Discovery District, TD Bank Group and Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP.

The successful candidates were chosen from a group of 70 finalists representing 19 universities, who had flown from across Canada and from as far away as Singapore to compete for a spot in the program’s National Selection Weekend in Toronto. In addition to a rigorous selection process, finalists heard from iconic Canadian business leaders and entrepreneurs such as Jordan Banks, BAWO, Facebook Canada managing director, and Michael Lee-Chin, Hong Kong Holdings Inc. founder and chairman.

Canadian students from 51 universities applied to the program and the selected candidates represent 15 schools. The Next 36 is open to students from all academic backgrounds, and this year’s candidates come from disciplines including commerce, engineering, health sciences, 3-D animation and interactive arts and technology.

The group includes social and serial entrepreneurs, academic award winners, campus leaders, accomplished artists, scientists, engineers and a former National Ballet dancer.

- Jason Winders
Making history at Western

Jaimie Franks gets a congratulatory hug from History professor Craig Simpson upon receiving the David H. Swankie Jr. Award in History, last week. Friends and family joined students, faculty and staff of Western’s Department of History at the first Undergraduate Awards Ceremony on Friday, Nov. 30. Among the honored students were:

- Baldwin Family Scholarship in Honors History: Surer Mohamed;
- Baldwin Family Scholarship in Honors History: Daniel Taylor;
- Department of History OSOTF Award: Riley Nowokowski;
- Department of History OSOTF 2 Award and Hazel Marie Phillips Memorial Scholarship: Julie-Marie Forrester;
- Department of History OSOTF 2 Award: Letisha Ugwuegbula;
- Edwin A. Goodman Award in History: Gianluca Mazzanti;
- Pioneer Jamie Smibert Award and Richard Markell Scholarship: Blake Barley;
- David H. Swankie Jr. Award in History: Jaimie Franks;
- Memorial Scholarship: Caitlin Harvey;

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- Opinion by Prof. Gary Kay, University of Guelph

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You are invited to a
Holiday Celebration, Seminar & Book Launch
Monday, December 10
2-4 p.m.
Faculty of Education Community Room
Western University
Please join us in celebrating and discussing the recent work of Dr. Elizabeth Anne Kinsella, Dr. Allan Pitman, Dr. Kathy Hibbert & Dr. Fred Elliott.
Complimentary h’or d’oeuvres and beverages will be served.
All are welcome. Please to Stella Ng and Lisa McCompuada at sng@uwo.ca

Huron’s legacy one of rare combinations

BY ADELA TALBOT

ASK DOUG LEIGHTON and he’ll tell you all about Western’s oldest affiliate, Huron University College. “Things are changing very rapidly (at the university). At Huron, everything has changed, but nothing has changed,” said Leighton, who has taught History at the college for nearly four decades.

On Dec. 2, 2013 Huron celebrates its 150th anniversary. Leading up to that day, a full year of special events and celebrations are planned to make this a truly memorable occasion. It’s a legacy that waves its way through the church, the community and the region’s academic history.

Founded as an Anglican college and seminary in 1863, Huron, along with its founder Bishop Benjamin Cronyn, an Irish Protestant, was intentionally bucking the religious trend of the time. “Cronyn had a wider vision of teaching theological subjects and he didn’t want to be a ‘high church,’” Leighton explained.

Going against the exemplar of recovering Catholic roots, set down the road by University of Toronto’s Trinity College, Cronyn had a vision for London’s new Anglican seminary. He saw it as a necessary local training ground for the Anglican Diocese, yet he didn’t want it to be “high church,” Leighton explained, adding there was so much more in store for the college, even then. “Cronyn had a wider vision of teaching theological subjects and other such things that ‘a gentleman ought to know,’” he said with a laugh. “It was a finishing school for men who had in mind for young men. He prized intellectual inquiry and he had a fond place for the liberal arts.”

Cronyn purchased Huron’s original property, called Rough Park, located on a block bound by Grosvenor, St. George and St. James streets. The college’s first class of 13 students was taught, in the winter of 1863, by Bishop Isaac Hellmuth, Huron’s first principal (and founder of Western).

Fast forward a decade and a half, and you’ll find Hellmuth as Huron’s second bishop, craving university powers, and a student body eager for a full undergraduate experience. “Hellmuth was the educational mastermind, he decided to proceed and a legislation was passed in 1878 and something called the Western University of London Ontario was created,” Leighton said, explaining the founding roots of Western.

The college moved to its present location in 1951 and since, has seen exponential growth, with a modest beginning of less than 100 students on its present campus in the 1950s to more than 1,300 today. In 1956, Huron became co-educational with a Faculty of Arts (today known as the Faculty of Arts and Social Science) joining its Faculty of Theology.

Leighton sees the history of the college as defined by its bishops and principles, its milestones as something initiated by Huron’s leadership and nurtured by an ever-growing and increasingly diverse group of students, staff and faculty.

Principal that followed Hellmuth in the 19th century were gifted but stabilized the faculty, made use of local talent and gave the college a profile in southwestern Ontario. “It was a finishing school for London’s new Anglican seminary,” the residence of Charles Cameron Waller, who served from 1902-1941, would be a major landmark for Huron.

Waller came and didn’t leave after five years. He got along with everyone, hired people to teach, stabilized the faculty, made use of local talent and gave the college a profile in southwestern Ontario and in the Anglican community,” he said, adding the local community has since had a proprietary sentiment towards the college.

People have this inordinate affection for the college. Farmers who have never been here say ‘It’s our place.’ When fundraising drives are held, kids in Sunday school will kick in a dime and say, ‘It’s our place.’”

“Over the years, it’s become a more secular place in a sense that you could be anyone from anywhere and come here. But the Anglican flavour of the place is still very evident,” Leighton said.

“But today, it’s a very multicultural student population and rather than being just a Faculty of Arts and Social Science and a Faculty of Theology, it’s a multidisciplinary space that still happens to emphasize church teaching. Theology is still at the core of what we do, but there’s lots of students who never go to chapel and who don’t understand what those going, do,” Huron’s Chaplain, Bill Cliff, echoed a lot of sentiments offered by the community.

“There was always this sense at Huron – they didn’t know they were being radically different. But they were,” Cliff added.

“The first Aboriginal student at Huron, I believe, was in 1868 – Isaac Barefoot. He studied, and took a degree here and went on to work in the Diocese for 25-30 years. If you think about Aboriginal students at universities, it’s completely non-existent for another 100 years.”

Cliff noted the college has always been a place like the proverbial ‘Island of Misfit Toys,’ being, on the one hand, a religious training ground for the Anglican Diocese, but on the other, making room for all religions.

“From early on, there were things like the Hillel Club at Huron, a Muslim Association. In the 1950s, professors were teaching about world religions and bringing people to accept and understand religion worldwide,” he explained.

But what’s interesting to note, Cliff continued, is the religious life of the college has kept steady, with the college providing a consistent source of Anglican clerics to the community, while maintaining a growing parish and services of all religious affiliations.

“This is not a Hellenistic college – it’s a vibrant parish that’s always busy. There’s no other place on campus where you can be on your way to the library and see a church full of people singing hymns, or a casket and a funeral going on in the middle of a functioning school. It’s a rare combination.”

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Follow along all year during Huron University College’s sesquicentennial at huronuc.ca/150/
Huron rolls out strategic plan

THE TIMING COULDN’T HAVE BEEN any better for Stephen McClatchie.

The Huron University College principal was only months into his new role, which he started in July 2011, when preparations for the institution’s sesquicentennial were gearing up. Coinciding with that celebration would be a centennial were gearing up. Coinciding with that celebration would be a renewal of Huron’s Strategic Plan.

“It was perfect for me, just learning about Huron, to start consulting with our community about where we wanted to go in the next decade,” McClatchie said.

Following a year-long process, one which consulted every corner of its community, Huron rolled out its new strategic plan, Critically Engaged: A Strategic Community, Huron rolled out its new strategic plan.

“During the 1915-16 academic year, Huron installed its first electric light bulb.

In the early 1920s, Londoner Guy Lombardo and his orchestra played at garden parties and church socials, then private and public dances, including Huron (which included Western’s Faculty of Arts). For $5, students could enjoy a romantic evening out, long before this celebrated bandleader advertised the orchestra as playing ‘the sweetest music this side of heaven.’

In 1941, more than 50 Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) trainees lived in the Huron residences, far outnumbering the 36 students who were enrolled at that time.

In August 1957, 12 women enrolled as full-time students at Huron in the new women’s residence. This noteworthy dozen were not permitted to eat in the refectory with the male students. Instead, food was brought to them on a trolley where they ate in their own dining room in the basement of Helmuth Hall.

Huron students were required to wear black gowns to class until the late 1960s.

In April 1997, Jeff Temple, a second-year history student, was leaving through titles in the Huron library where he stumbled across the unexpected: a small, blue letter dated Dec. 13, 1930 written by Virginia Woolf. In her letter, the famous author turns down an offer to write a review of a book of poetry by Christina Rossetti, the same book where Temple found the letter.

DID YOU KNOW:

- Huron’s first principal was Isaac Helmut, who was also vice-administrator and instructor from 1862-66.

- From 1894-1908, Betsy MacDonald worked at Huron as a college matron. In 1997, council built a stable for MacDonald’s cow. In 1902, she was granted $25 for a chicken coop. Council dispensed with her services when it was revealed that this matron was pocketing handsome sums of money from students’ board payments.

- During the 1915-16 academic year, Huron installed its first electric light bulb.

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- Jason Winders

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Western University’s Troy Potsales French Immersion School provides the best French immersion experience. Apply for an Explore Bursary before Feb. 28 at myexplore.ca and earn one full credit while learning French and living the culture of Québec.

APPLY TO GRADUATE
Online application is now open for the February 2013 in-absentia convocation. The deadline to apply is Jan. 22, 2013. Online application opens for the June 2013 Convocation on Feb. 2 and closes on March 15. There is no ceremony for Feb. and all graduate names will appear in the June convocation programs. Tickets for the June convocation will be released starting the end of May.

MID-YEAR EXAMINATIONS
The mid-year examination period is Dec. 8-19. The end of term is Dec. 20 and students are advised not to make travel plans until after this date. The preliminary examination schedule is available at stu-dentservices.uwo.ca/secure/Exams.

WERC
Western’s Employment Resource Centre (WERC) is a free, daily drop-in service offering help with your resume and cover letter. From Sept. - April, WERC offers resume and cover letter help in multiple languages including French, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Polish, Arabic, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Swahili, Swiss German, High German, Croatian, Serbian and Bosnia. Visit werc.uwo.ca for hours of operation.

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Dec. 8-19: Mid-year examination period

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WERC
WERC (at Hyde Park, next to Starbucks) is a free drop-in service offering help with your resume and cover letter. From Sept. - April, WERC offers resume and cover letter help in multiple languages including French, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Polish, Arabic, Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Swahili, Swiss German, High German, Croatian, Serbian and Bosnia.

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Building bridges with the community

Hosted annually by Western’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, this year’s Polar Stick Bridge Competition featured students from Western and London area high schools building bridges with only the materials provided to each team at the time of registration: 1 kg of Polar Sticks, one bottle of glue and one spool of floss. Each entry is tested with weights (to the point of structural failure) to determine which design is most sound. The entries are also judged on aesthetic appeal. There were 48 teams this year, including students from Western, A.B. Lucas, London Central, H.B. Beal, Saunders and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.
**Sustainability**

**Summer power down results in nearly $1 million in savings**

**BY STEFANIE DE ADDER**

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT OFFICIALS** are excited that university-wide energy conversation efforts this summer resulted in utility bill savings to the tune of $900,000.

“Many of my colleagues at other universities want to learn from Western, so they too can reduce their peaks and empower their communities,” said Paul Martin, Facilities Management director. “In a volatile economy, and with public funding uncertainties, savings of this kind are particularly welcome.”

The savings roll into Western’s operating budget, Martin said.

Starting in June, Facilities Management sought to reduce energy consumption in as many buildings as possible. Strategies included reducing chiller load on days that were projected to be “peak” based on the day’s weather conditions. Experts in the division were able to further target the peak usage to within four hours of the business day. A rotating reduction of fans and chillers began at 2 p.m. on select days and returned to normal operations by 6 p.m.

Western was the only university to hit all five of Ontario’s peak consumption times, according to the Independent Electricity System Operator, a non-profit corporate entity established to govern the day-to-day energy demands of the province.

“Facilities Management serves as stewards to the resources of Western’s built environment, including utilities. Making sound financial decisions is expected,” said Roy Langille, Facilities Management associate vice-president. “If we didn’t react to the growing energy fees, we’d be leaving money on the table and that would be a disservice to the university.”

Western residences over $4,000, cent, totalling 38,710 kwh and saving participants reduced energy consumption by an average of 5.48 per cent savings. While Delaware placed third with 4.5 per cent savings. Overall, participating residences reduced their energy consumption by an average of 5.48 per cent, totalling 38,710 kwh and saving Western residences over $4,000. Organizers used Facilities Management’s new real-time energy dashboard to monitor progress over the two week period.

Andrew Quenneville, Alumni House assistant program coordinator, teamed up with the Residence Staff Sustainability Committee and Facilities Management to drive the campaign.

“The Rez Powers Down campaign is a student-run sustainability initiative that we’ve promoted for the past three years in the residences at Western,” Quenneville said. “Sustainability is a priority in the Department of Housing and Ancillary Services and so we really wanted to make the campaign appeal to students in residence this year.”

“Many of my colleagues at other universities want to learn from Western, so they too can reduce their peaks and empower their communities. In an economy of volatility and with public funding uncertainties, savings of this kind are particularly welcome. The money will be going back into Western’s operating budget, and we plan to do this year after year.”

- Paul Martin, Facilities Management, Western University

**WHAT’S IN A GA**

The Global Adjustment is an initiative that provides both adequate energy supply and green energy for Ontario. It accounts for differences between the market price and the rates paid to regulated and contracted generators and for conservation and demand management programs. Because Ontario buys more energy than it needs as a reserve, the cost of that surplus needs to be passed on somewhere. The province’s highest energy consumers pay a portion of this surplus based on their share of the load over the five peak energy usage days each year. With air conditioning being the largest energy consumer, the hottest days in the summer tend to be peak days.

**London Hall wins Rez challenge**

**BY KATIE WALL**

**STUDENTS IN LONDON Hall** dialed back their energy consumption over the past two weeks to win Western’s Rez Powers Down conservation challenge. In their building alone, participants reduced energy consumption by 19.3 per cent or nearly 18,000 kWh of energy.

Rez Powers Down was initially developed to bring conservation awareness to students as they left campus and became renters, paying their own utility bills. This year’s campaign took a more active role on campus by challenging students in residence to out conserve each other.

Although London Hall led the competition, Alumni House was a close second with 10.8 per cent savings, while Delaware placed third with 4.5 per cent savings. Overall, participating residences reduced their energy consumption by an average of 5.48 per cent, totalling 38,710 kwh and saving Western residences over $4,000. Organizers used Facilities Management’s new real-time energy dashboard to monitor progress over the two week period.

Andrew Quenneville, Alumni House assistant program coordinator, teamed up with the Residence Staff Sustainability Committee and Facilities Management to drive the campaign.

“The Rez Powers Down campaign is a student-run sustainability initiative that we’ve promoted for the past three years in the residences at Western,” Quenneville said. “Sustainability is a priority in the Department of Housing and Ancillary Services and so we really wanted to make the campaign appeal to students in residence this year.”

“Facilities Management’s Environmental Project Coordinator helped launch the campaign by hosting an energy conservation awareness event. With that information, residence representatives were able to champion efforts in their respective buildings.

“Residence representatives performed nightly energy checks to ensure residents’ appliances were unplugged, lights were turned off and thermostats were down to about 20 degrees,” Quenneville said. “As well, residents were encouraged to take shorter showers, reduce the temperature of their showers, run only full loads of laundry, wash their clothes with cold water and reduce their use of building elevators.”

“There were unofficial guerilla light monitors, including the building’s head Residence Soph, that went around the building making sure that lights in hallways and common spaces were off when they weren’t in use,” said Mitch Campbell, London Hall’s residence manager. “London Hall is also fortunate to have an environmental floor, and their leadership team was a critical force in raising awareness of both the Rez Powers Down program and the importance of energy conservation in general.”

**Western is renewing its strategic plan, and wants to hear from you.**

Western’s Senate Committee on University Planning (SCUP) has been tasked with facilitating a strategic plan renewal process for the University by soliciting and receiving input from key stakeholder groups on campus and from the external community.

Members of SCUP will hold a series of meetings with key stakeholder groups to gather input, while individual faculty, staff, students, alumni and external community members can share ideas and suggestions in the following ways:

**Online Form:** www.uwo.ca/plan2013
**Email:** Plan2013@uwo.ca
**Mail:** Strategic Plan Renewal, C/O Office of the President and Provost / SCUP
**Suite 2107, Stevenson Hall**
**Fax:** 519.661.3139

When making a written submission, please include your name, affiliation to Western (student, faculty, staff, alumni, etc.) and email address. While there is no prescribed format for what written submissions must contain, consideration may be given to exploring themes outlined at www.uwo.ca/plan2013.

**Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2013.**

For more information, please visit
www.uwo.ca/plan2013