New building gives home to family medicine

BY PAUL MAYNE

THE SCHULICH SCHOOL of Medicine & Dentistry’s Department of Family Medicine will have new digs to call its own by 2013.

To be located at the corner of Windermere Road and Richmond Street, the $17-million, four-storey building will consolidate research and academic activities for the department and feature large classrooms and small breakout rooms with state-of-the-art videoconferencing facilities.

“IT’s a very exciting time. It really indicates the importance of family medicine to the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry here in London, and to our Windsor program, by being part of this new building,” says Western professor Dr. Stephen Wetmore, who took over as department chair this past September. “I think it will be a big factor in helping to draw students to family medicine training here at Western, and also to the recruitment of family physicians to southwestern Ontario.”

The building’s groundbreaking is scheduled for February 2012, with a completion date of May/June 2013.

The new building will house the main department of family medicine offices, including the overall teaching supervision for undergraduate and post-graduate students, as well as graduate students in the Master of Clinical Sciences Program and PhD program in family medicine. In addition, the building will host the Centre for Studies in Family Medicine, a small clinical trials unit, and the proposed Master of Public Health Program, expected to begin registering students this coming year.

Wetmore adds the third floor will be a shelled-in floor, with the idea of accommodating future growth if additional funds and/or needs arise.
Coming Events

01 // THURSDAY

Western Cares Campus Food Drive: Drop off your non-perishable food items, baby formula or diapers at conveniently located collection points throughout buildings across campus. Nov. 28 – Dec. 12th.

Centre for Population, Aging, and Health: Dr. Paul-Philippe Paré, Sociology, “Mental disorders and violent victimization in prison.” Everyone welcome. SSC 5220, 1-2 p.m. (12 p.m. lunch SSC 5230).

Don Wright Faculty of Music: Christmastide: Les Choristes and Chorale: von Kuster Hall, 12:30 p.m.


Don Wright Faculty of Music: The Wind Ensemble’s second concert features faculty member Jana Starling performing a rhapsody for solo clarinet and wind ensemble by Scott McAlisar. Performing a rhapsody for solo clarinet features faculty member Jana Starling. SSC 5220 – 1 – 2 p.m. (12 p.m. lunch SSC 5230). Post talk tea and conversation: SSC 5230.

Writing Support centre Workshop: Inspired by led Zeppelin’s song “Black Dog” and wind ensemble by Scott McAlisar. Performing a rhapsody for solo clarinet features faculty member Jana Starling. SSC 5220 – 1 – 2 p.m. Post talk tea and conversation: SSC 5230.

Writing Essay exams. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. (lunch SSC 5230).

GradWrite Workshops: Putting your Best Work Forward: Writing Concise, Effective Research Proposals. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 12:30 p.m.

GradWrite Workshops: Writing for the Outside World: Getting Published. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 1:30 p.m.

GradWrite Workshops: Economy of Words: Writing Clearly and Concisely. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 2:30 p.m.

GradWrite Workshops: Effective Research Proposals. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 3:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Refreshments.

The Chinese Program at Huron University College: You and Conversation. Anyone wishing to speak Chinese and meet people who study Chinese at Huron is welcome. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Mondays. “Pag to Stage – The process from the choice of play to the opening of the show.” McKellar Room, UCC. 9:30 a.m.

07 // WEDNESDAY

Toastmaster’s Campus Communicators: Build your confidence in public speaking. Meets every Wednesday 12 – 1 p.m. in the UCC – check the website for specific room. 9191 toastmastersclubs.org. Contact Donna Moore, dmoore@uwo.ca or 85159.

Don Wright Faculty of Music: Soprano Jackalyn Short joins the Chamber Orchestra for a performance of Benjamin Britten’s scintillating Les Illuminations, based on the poetry of Arthur Rimbaud. Paul Davenport Theatre. 12:30 p.m.

GradWrite Workshops: Writing for the Outside World: Getting Published. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 1:30 p.m.

The Department of Modern Languages & Literatures: “La Tertulia” Spanish Conversation Group. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. UC 117. E-mail tertulia@uwo.ca.

Western Italian Conversation Club: Put your Italian into action! Join our group discussions about Italian food, culture, language, travel, daily life in Italy, and much more! It’s a great way to practice your Italian with other students. All are welcome. Every Wed. UC 201. 5-7 p.m.

04 // SUNDAY

Mcintosh Gallery: Clarks McDougall’s Destination Places. 2 – 4 p.m. Visit: McIntoshgallery.ca

05 // MONDAY

GradWrite Workshops: Putting your Best Work Forward: Writing Concise, Effective Research Proposals. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 12:30 p.m.

GradWrite Workshops: Economy of Words: Writing Clearly and Concisely. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 2:30 p.m.

GradWrite Workshops: Effective Research Proposals. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 3:30 p.m. Everyone welcome. Refreshments.

The Chinese Program at Huron University College: You and Conversation. Anyone wishing to speak Chinese and meet people who study Chinese at Huron is welcome. 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Mondays. International Lounge, Huron. E-mail hwu1@ huron.uwo.ca.

Don Wright Faculty of Music: Contemporary Ensemble: von Kuster Hall. 8 p.m.

06 // TUESDAY

Senior Alumni Program: Susan Ferley, Artist Director, The Grand Theatre. “Page to Stage – The process from the choice of play to the opening of the show.” McKellar Room, UCC. 9:30 a.m.

Limited Edition:
- 80 pages
- full colour illustrations of all artworks in the exhibition
- essays by curators
- Dr. Anna Hudson and Catherine Elliot Shaw

$30.00
Research

Western researcher hops ride to Red Planet

By ADELA TALBOT

IT’S BIGGER, BETTER and fully-loaded. And, its mission has the work of a University of Western Ontario scientist on board.

Curiosity, the largest and most sophisticated rover ever to head to another planet, launched Saturday from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Part of NASA’s Mars Science Laboratory mission, the rover is en route to the Red Planet, waiting to explore its terrain and assess its habitability, past and present.

Mars Science laboratory mission, the rover is en route to the Red Planet, waiting to explore its terrain and assess its habitability, past and present.

Awaiting Curiosity’s anticipated August 2012 landing in the Red Planet’s Gale Crater is John Moores, a postdoctoral fellow at Western’s Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration.

NASA selected Moores as one of 29 participating scientists for the mission. In eight months time, he will be working at mission control, contributing to NASA’s Mars Science Laboratory mission, when Curiosity, the most sophisticated rover to date, lands on the Red Planet in August 2012.

“It’s a very big accomplishment … there are very few Canadians who have experienced any missions, few who have been involved in missions to the Moon or Mars,” he says.

What’s more, at least two other centre graduate students, Emily McCullough and Raymond Francis, will be on Moores’ team, looking at Curiosity’s findings.

Having anyone from Western involved is a really big thing,” Osinski adds.

And let’s not forget: The mission itself is a pretty big deal. Curiosity, a spacecraft the size of a Volkswagen Beetle, weighing almost a ton, is revolutionary because unlike its predecessors, Spirit and Opportunity, it features a nuclear power system.

“One of the issues with the previous (solar-powered) Mars exploration rovers is that they work for a few months, they essentially lie there for the winter and then you hope they’re still there in the Martian spring,” Osinski explains.

Because Spirit and Opportunity are solar powered, they don’t generate much power and scientists have to choose which instruments to operate at any given time. These rovers can’t go far, and they can’t multitask.

Curiosity, on the other hand, is expected to run tens of kilometres at a time, utilizing new tools – among them a Canadian instrument – and ultimately putting scientists light-years ahead in their knowledge of the Red Planet.

“What they did previously in five years, they should be able to do in five months,” Osinski says.

Carrying 10 instruments, Curiosity will gather soil and rock samples with its robotic arm. It will then portion out samples into analytical laboratory instruments inside.

Curiosity is, in essence, a mobile laboratory.

But the mission won’t be looking for evidence of life on Mars; it will be examining the planet’s conditions to determine whether they are, or if they’ve ever been, conducive to life.

Moores’ team will work with Curiosity’s laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (or LIBS) laser, capable of providing elemental analysis after removing dust and weathering layers with repeated pulses. Likewise, the team will work with the rover’s cameras, primarily the MastCam.

They hope to compare their results with those gathered by two instruments: a neutron spectrometer, which looks into the ground and quantifies the amount of water present, and a rover environmental monitoring station (REMS for short), an instrument that analyzes pressure, temperature and humidity.

Also part of the mission and Curiosity’s construction is a Canadian Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer that sits on the end of an arm. The device touches rock, sand and soil to give scientists an elemental breakdown or tell if the rock’s been around water.

While it will take eight months for Curiosity to land, Moores and his team are already preparing for the mission.

“We hope to participate in mission operations so that means we need to start training. NASA will be holding (tests) used to train mission members who will be writing plans that the rover will run day to day. And we have software to get ready for our own investigations,” Moores says.
Urged to go all in or not at all

JASON WINDERS
Associate Director, Editorial Services

LARRY SUMMERS IS CORRECT.
Believe me, as an American who has been subjected to his pompous style of unselected economic guidance for a quarter century, that is a painful sentence to write. But during an appearance at Western last week, the former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury offered an interesting nugget for the future direction of this university.

Understand, Summers is a feisty and formidable intellectual. Although his stage presence comes across as a bit of a droll lump of flesh, don’t let that betray his fierceness. You cannot trick or trap him, and his amusing resume shields him from the criticism of even the mightiest opponents.

Wachtlog Mark Debates from earlier this month if you don’t believe me.

So his Beatrice Family Lecture was a wonderful ‘get’ for the Faculty of Law and, in turn, Western.

Sure, Summers didn’t touch on his role in the California energy crisis, and subsequent Enron collapse, or how his anti-regulatory crusade and vindictive nature (ask Brooksley Born, former Chair of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission) helped fuel the economic crisis. Those issues remained untouched by his hand-picked interviewer and a crowd who correctly opted for decorum over confrontation.

But despite his unabated pontification, Summers offered an interesting lesson while discussing his turbulent tenure as Harvard University president. (Funny, he didn’t discuss what made his tenure turbulent, either)

Under his watch, the Ivy League powerhouse was considering developing a tissue engineering program. It matters not what the program was, just the fact nothing existed at the time. Harvard was considering entering into something new.

The debate on the president’s desk centered on how far to go. Should Harvard hire a researcher and dip its toe in this emerging field? Find a safe and comfortable middle ground? Or go all-in and hire a full team? It’s a discussion that takes place across university campuses all the time.

For Harvard, the answer was simple: None or three.

If you are Harvard University, Summers explained, and you choose to do something, then you are going to do it at a world-class level. All in or not at all. In Summers’ view, either Harvard was going to hire an elite team to define the future of tissue engineering or it was going to stay out and focus on other areas.

Neither answer is necessarily incorrect, as both are a matter of organizational priorities rather than moral commitment. But greatness doesn’t commit halfway.

There’s a lesson in there for us.

Like it or not, we know the future will be about smarter choices. Increased competition for top students, researchers and funding dictates we cannot do everything with excellence. That means we’ll need to, as an old editor of mine would say, “decide which of our children we love more.”

The future holds less room for error or vanity, an odd lesson coming from Summers who commits the former as often as he indulges in the latter.

I know that’s not a popular sentiment. Our society has trouble picking winners. We look for the solution where everyone gets a trophy. And in some cases, I have no problem with that. But off the youth soccer field, it’s a formula for failure.

Yes, it’s difficult for a large organization, with numerous stakeholders competing to make their name known, to prioritize. But our elevation out of the ‘sea of sameness’ falling across the hundreds of ‘OK universities’ depends on it.

As we develop new programs, it is important to ask why we are doing it. Are we developing the program just to say we have one? Or are we developing it to be the Canadian — or even world — leader? Those decisions can be uncomfortable for all involved.

But it’s a vital thought. Even if it came from Larry Summers.

The Way We Were: 1986

Contributed by Alan Noon (anoon@uwo.ca)

Perhaps one of the most widely recognized Western figures is the mascot JW. Ever present at various sporting events, fundraisers and charities, the horse never speaks and the identity of the face behind the costume is always kept a secret. During the 1986, athletic awards banquet the secret was out when Tim Miller, a third-year education student, was presented with a special certificate of appreciation. Miller had played the role of the popular equine during the 1985-86 seasons.
Letters to the Editor

// Profile failed in citing sources
I read with interest the profile in Western News (“The man who won’t go away,” Nov. 24), and while I appreciate your honest efforts to correct certain details, I find it puzzling you chose to cite media commentators who show little respect for basic fact-checking and whose opinions should thus be viewed with extreme caution. Such sources’ lack of journalistic rigour does not reflect well on those who cite them uncritically, including Western’s official voice.

Regarding Israel’s denial of Taser use and other violence (contrary to independent journalists’ eye-witness accounts): Given they stole and suppressed your colleagues’ photos and video footage, it is difficult to understand why any professional journalist would treat the Israeli military as a credible information source.

But most perplexing is your assertion that “Mainstream media covered the story from a distance.”

Admittedly, the commentaries you chose to quote basically copied Israeli press releases without even minimal fact-checking. But you completely missed al Jazeera English (AJE), which was decidedly not “from a distance.” They had a journalist on the Tahrir who filed an eye-witness report within hours of our assault and kidnapping by Israeli forces.

As a packed Conron Hall audience heard recently from our Faculty of Media and Information Studies colleague Jeremy Copeland, AJE is one of the most comprehensive and respected international news sources in today’s world. How much more “mainstream” can you get?

One has to wonder at your choice to cite commentators (as opposed to real journalists) from a rather narrow spectrum of Canadian print outlets.

DAVID HEAP

// Attacks show I keep great company
I was certainly pleased the National Post’s Michael Ross and Jonathon Kay attacked David Heap and myself (“The man who won’t go away,” Nov. 24). It’s truly an honour to share, with such a fine person like David, such a vicious, illogical, and narrow-minded piece of Syncophant garbage.


LAWRENCE WINKLER

// Two words for you

KEVIN NEISH

// Not all opinions worthy of discussion
Your recent story (“The man who won’t go away,” Nov. 24) put me in mind of Jonathan Kay’s Nov. 5 piece in the National Post. Kay starts by stating Gaza has become a forgotten issue, and then goes on for several more paragraphs, demonstrating this is not the case.

Reading your article, I came away with a similar sense of the author protesting just a little too much. In terms of the tone and focus of your piece, it is clearly your role as a journalist to find the most effective and direct means to communicate what you feel to be news-worthy. I think everyone acknowledges that is your job.

Where I did have more of a problem with what you wrote, however, was the uncritical quoting of comments by other journalists (including Kay), but without first fact checking what they told you.

Givon Prison does not, as Kay maintains, have Wi-Fi. Heap’s whining, as he calls it, was not broadcast over the Internet, but instead passed in the form of a handwritten note to his lawyer.

In a similar vein, you write that Israel denied using a Taser on Heap, however Israel issued no such denial. The incident was, in fact, witnessed first-hand by a journalist also on board the Tahrir. Al Jazeera English journalist Casey Kaufmann was immediately released by the Israeli authorities when the boat docked in Ashdod. Kaufman’s report of the takeover of the two boats was filed two hours later in Jerusalem and broadcast shortly thereafter over the Doha-based network. As there was no Israeli denial of the use of the Taser, I am left wondering, what was your source for their denial?

I have heard of “rip-and-run journalism,” but this seems more like “make-it-up-and-run.”

ANDREA SUMMERS

DELEGATE SUPPORT FOR THE CANADA BOAT TO GAZA

Editor’s note: On Nov. 7, an Israeli army spokesman told the Canadian Press (CP) no one was injured during the boarding of the vessels. “The claims of this lone activist are patently untrue,” Capt. Eytan Buchman said in an e-mail to CP. “At no point during the boarding was any violence used and certainly no Tasers were used.”

Illustration by Jennifer Wilson // Western News

// Find an eyewitness to taserimg
On reading your article on David Heap (“The man who won’t go away,” Nov. 24), I see you quote the Israeli military as saying David was not tasered. I would like to point you to an eyewitness. Google Amy Goodman and Jihan Hafiz, a journalist for Democracy Now who was on the Tahrir, you will get the full interview. For your convenience, I give a portion of the interview below:

JIHAN HAFIZ: He was one of the Canadian activists. AMY GOODMAN: You saw this? JIHAN HAFIZ: I did, yes, in the captain’s — captain’s quarters. He was there with George, who was our captain. He’s a Greek activist. And they moved — they tried to force them out to the side, to the back of the boat where we were. They weren’t resisting. They were moving slowly, but not resisting. I think it wasn’t fast enough for them.

IRIS MACINNES

VANCOUVER

// Attribution a matter of failed location
I notice that Heinz Klatt (“Occupy movement may be most vapid of all,” Nov. 24), was described as a “professor emeritus of psychology at The University of Western Ontario.” I can assure all that if Dr. Klatt had retired from my department, I would have been immediately at the door of my dean arguing we replace the position as soon as possible.

Alas, that opportunity was not given to me but to the chair of psychology at King’s University College, where Dr. Klatt spent his Western academic career. The psychology programs on the ‘main’ campus and those in the ‘affiliates’ have a collegial working relationship but separate operational function in matters such as appointments, annual performance evaluations or tenure and promotion.

ALBERT KATZ

PROFESSOR AND CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY (MAIN CAMPUS)

// Occupiers should thank the productive among us
May I express my anger at Bernie Hammond’s attack on law and order and our mayor (“Don’t shun off the power of the Occupy movement,” Nov. 17).

I understand his support for the squatters of Victoria Park. They are failures, jealous of those who are successful, but that does not give them the privilege of flouting the law. Hammond teaches socialism which advocates taking from successful people and giving to failures so that everyone can be equally poor.

Fortunately, there will always be ambitious and innovative Canadians who will risk money and effort to be successful so they can add to our national prosperity and pay taxes so that tax-supported universities can pay people like Hammond.

BILL CORFIELD

LONDON

// USC actions a doggone shame
I was really surprised when I was told that Western’s University Students’ Council (USC) charged the London Humane Society $300 to set up their booth in the University Community Centre this week. The booth is manned by volunteers and all profit goes to help our four-legged friends. Shame on you, USC. Clearly, charity does not begin at home.

An argument used was, if USC made an exception for one charity, they would have to make an exception for all charities. Guidelines and judgment are required so charities do not have to worry about covering the rent before they can make a profit.

When I purchase items from the Humane Society, I was really surprised when I was told that Western’s University Students’ Council (USC) charged the London Humane Society $300 to set up their booth in the University Community Centre this week. The booth is manned by volunteers and all profit goes to help our four-legged friends. Shame on you, USC. Clearly, charity does not begin at home.

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When I purchase items from the Humane Society, I want my money to go to help the animals – not pay rent on a booth.

IRENE MACINNES

VANCOUVER

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BILL CORFIELD

LONDON
Western International is pleased to announce the following competition:

**International Curriculum Fund**

Funded by Western International, this competition promotes initiatives that support the internationalization of academic programs and/or course curricula at Western. Specifically, the ICF is designed to support efforts that incorporate comparative perspectives and emphasize the development of new courses or programs with significant international content. Funds are also available in support of undergraduate or graduate student travel for courses that include an existing or newly developed study abroad component for Western students.

**Grant Amounts:**
- Up to $5,000 for one year to support course development or redevelopment
- Up to $10,000 for one year to support program development or redevelopment
- Up to $10,000 per year for 3 years to support student travel for a Study Abroad Program

**Deadline:**
- Dean’s Office - January 17
- Western International - January 31

For more program information, please go to Internal International Grants at [http://www.uwo.ca/research/](http://www.uwo.ca/research/)

**Contact:**
- Hana Bokshi
  Consultant, International Research & Relations
  519 661 2111 ext. 89309
  hbokshi2@uwo.ca

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**Faculty Profile**

"I knew pretty well, when I was young, what I wanted my life path to be. I was just one of those types ... I think they call them nerds.

‘Almost Einstein’

One professor’s journey from prodigy to philosophy

**John Bell**

**By Heather Travis**

**John Bell** has been described as ‘potentially one step below Einstein.’

While he laughs at the comparison now, there is no denying this teen prodigy has left a significant mark on the philosophy of mathematics.

Bell, a philosophy professor with an adjunct appointment in the Department of Mathematics, knew at a young age he wanted to study physics. He was fascinated by the symbols stamped across the pages of his father’s books. Even though he was too young to interpret the markings, he felt a connection to this foreign language.

“I was a kind-of teenage prodigy,” the 66-year-old says with an air of modesty.

But in spite of his brilliance, he quickly learned he wasn’t destined to follow in Einstein’s shadow.

“I started in physics originally,” he says. “Then I decided I really wasn’t cut out to be a physicist. I shifted to pure math ... I wasn’t intending to be a logician either, at first. But as an undergrad, I get interested in mathematical logic.”

Formulating logical arguments takes calculated, categorical steps, but following Bell’s train of thought is less intuitive. His use of asides and afterthoughts requires any listener to tune in close as Bell’s conversation, but following the energetic jumps in speech gives you insight into his racing mind.

As a youngster, Bell traveled around the world with his family, including stints living in the United States, Italy and Thailand. His American engineer father and British musician mother cultivated their son’s unique penchant for math and physics.

“I studied a lot out of school,” he says, noting he ferociously digested mathematical and physics concepts and coupled this with an appetite for ideas and, once again, Bell left the traditional U.S. school system.

It was then his mother decided to send him to a British boarding school, Millfield, which became a turning point in his education.

“They sort of encouraged my teenage prodigy – if you can call it that – and I took a lot of examinations when I was there.”

The headmaster took the top pupils on a riveting ‘circus’ to speak with academics at Cambridge and Oxford universities. He identified Bell’s like-ness to Einstein.

“He really encouraged me. I gave little lectures, I guess I lapped all this up. Enjoyed being a local celebrity,” Bell remembers.

Prompted by his mentor to further flex his academic muscles, Bell and a fellow student wrote the Oxford scholarship exam. “I don’t really think he expected us to get that, not at that age,” he says.

But at 15, he was granted a scholarship to the prestigious school. He was the youngest person in several years to receive such an honour. In his naiveté, he turned the opportunity down to stay at the boarding school.

More than a year and a half later, he took Oxford up on the offer and eventually received bachelor and PhD degrees in mathematics.

Bell later became one of the founding members of the math department at the London School of Economics in the 1960s. After 21 years, he switched to philosophy to further explore mathematical logic and the philosophy of mathematics.

It was University of Western Ontario that enticed him to make the move.

"It was a very attractive idea for me because I had the idea to move to a philosophy department … I didn’t have to change what I was doing because a lot of what I was doing fit in here," he says.

Bell is known for his set and model theories. He co-wrote a textbook widely used by universities, including Western, as part of its graduate curriculum. Adding to the intrigue of this brilliant mind, Bell and friend Alan Slomson penned the textbook when the two were graduate students.

Overall, he has published 10 books and more than 70 papers. Bell was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2009 and his biography is expected to appear in the December edition "Who’s Who in Canada.”

Throughout his academic career, Bell has been lucky enough to indulge his diverse interests and craft his own place in a seemingly regimented field.

Even in the shortest conversation, Bell’s passion for the field – and learning in general – is Infectiously evident.

“I knew pretty well, when I was young, what I wanted my life path to be. I was just one of those types,” he laughs. “I think they call them nerds.”
Professor John Bell, a philosophy professor with an adjunct appointment in the Department of Mathematics, became one of the founding members of the math department at the London School of Economics in the 1960s.
Szkwarek wins Czech/Slovak competition

LIDA SZKWAREK, Don Wright Faculty of Music alumna, was the only Canadian to win at the Czech and Slovak International Voice Competition on Saturday, Nov. 26 in Montreal. Szkwarek, who graduated last June, placed third in this prestigious competition.

She was also selected by the conductor of the Slovakian Philharmonic Orchestra to the featured soloist on tour next year.

Normally this honour is awarded to the first-place winner, but the conductor, who was a member of the judging panel, preferred Szkwarek. She also received $3,000.

The competition was created in 1990 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Czech composer Antonin Dvořák by promoting Czech and Slovak music. It also creates exchanges of musicians between North America and Europe. The president of the jury is the artistic director of the National Opera of Prague and members represent Canada, United States, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

While at Western, Szkwarek studied with professors Theodore Baerg and Irena Welhasch Baerg.

Attawapiskat crisis offers a teaching moment for all

By Adela Talbot

No doubt by now you’ve seen the state of Attawapiskat. Images of desperate housing conditions, families living in overcrowded tents and sheds with no sewage system, no potable water, no heat or insulation, have been ubiquitous in media because of an extreme housing shortage caused by the remote First Nations community to declare a state of emergency.

While the situation is dire the Canadian Red Cross announced it is sending aid to the Cree community of roughly 2,000, and media and government officials, namely Charlie Angus (MP, Timmins-James Bay) —have been bringing attention to the state of Attawapiskat, it’s almost impossible for a resident of southwestern Ontario to understand the issues at hand, say two graduate students at the University of Western Ontario.

Dawn Burleigh, a Ph.D. student in the Faculty of Education who taught in Attawapiskat from 2007-10, says two things continually blind the general public to the state of First Nations issues in Canada—state of privilege and a lack of education, even at the post-secondary level.

“Those here that are aware of (Attawapiskat), they ask what’s it like living there, working there. People have no idea. From such a privileged position, they’re entirely unaware,” she says.

A lot of the issues that are coming up right now in terms of housing and education are not issues that just arose overnight. (Attawapiskat) is a very silenced community, a very silenced and marginalized voice that’s often not at the forefront of what Canadians, or even people here at Western, are aware of,” Burleigh and Sarah Burn, an M.Ed student at the Faculty of Education who also taught in Attawapiskat, say even though they lived and worked in the reserve community, they experienced it from a distance and cannot adequately describe conditions the Attawapiskat people have been enduring for years.

“In (Attawapiskat), I had to learn the hard way of how much I took for granted housing, food and access to many things. It made me angry that I didn’t know more about this. It was a disappointment,” Burn says. “It’s because we’re in this position of privilege and have so many opportunities that we fail to see the lack of opportunities that First Nations people have.” Burleigh agrees.

“My initial reaction (upon arrival) was ‘I can’t believe this is happening in Ontario, in Canada.’ But as I was there longer, I started to question my own understanding of the situation and how I came to understand it,” Burleigh adds.

Having studied geography during her undergraduate years at Western, Burleigh says she graduated from her program only marginally aware of Aboriginal issues.

“I think that’s common across all faculties. First Nations, Metis and Inuit issues are not at the forefront of the education here. There are pockets of work happening, but it all happens on the side,” she says.

Though the crisis in Attawapiskat is generating immediate awareness and action, both Burm and Burleigh want to see more done not only at the level of government, but at the university level as well.

“These are short-term discussions and short-term solutions. As much awareness as can be raised about deplorable conditions that shock people in the South, policy and systemic issues require more long-term work,” Burleigh says. “What people need to be constantly reminded of is that the people living in northern reserves, and reserves across our country, are there because of treaties and those treaties are two-part agreements that we have an obligation to uphold.”

This is precisely why Burn and Burleigh are doing graduate work in the Faculty of Education.

“I certainly believe education can mobilize change in the long term. Hopefully, the students I have taught and students others have taught will have the capacity to be effective agents of change in their own community,” Burleigh says.

As for academic institutions across Canada, Western included, Aboriginal issues boil down to one matter—obligation.

“It is the responsibility and duty of educators at this institution to engage students with (Aboriginal) issues. They’re not an add-on issue. Some of them can be interdisciplinary and can be used as underlying issues to teach a multitude of skills and critical-thinking,” Burleigh explains.

And there are no excuses for not engaging students, Burn adds. “A lot of the time the response is ‘I don’t have the time, knowledge or the resources.’

What needs to be stressed is there are resources available and there are individuals who are very knowledgeable on the issues and perspectives and they’re there to help and encourage educators to reach out. It doesn’t hurt to ask.”

Despite Attawapiskat’s desperate living conditions, Burleigh is optimistic change is coming.

“This is a real time of hope for the community because of what’s been accomplished through the support of MP Charlie Angus. His push in government has given some hope to communities and it’s given me, as an academic, some hope that we can be aware of these issues and that awareness can affect change,” she says.

“Now is a time to be looking forward. The (Attawapiskat) community has highlighted some of the other disparities across Canada that require attention. The more people are talking about this, the more things will move forward.”

December 1, 2011
FEW TODAY REMEMBER

that between 1924 and 1960
The University of Western
Ontario shared its property
with The London Hunt and
Country Club, an 18-hole
golf course that wended its
way between the buildings
and along both sides of the
Thames River.

While it has been more
than 50 years since Western
heard a 7-iron whip up a
mound of freshly cut grass,
Western News wondered
what it would like if you were
to golf the course today.

Thanks to the help of Western
Mustangs women’s golf team
member Danielle Szela, you
can wonder no more.

This summer, Western
News reporter Paul Mayne
joined the second-year
Health Sciences student as
she ‘played’ the 18 holes of
the former London Hunt and
Country Club.

Hole No. 12
325 yards
Par 4

Making her way across Lambton Drive,
with an early dogleg left, Szela has a
decision to make – a long putt from the
outdoor hockey rink, or a shorter, more
manageable putt from the smooth
confines of the tennis courts. Szela
chose the latter, sinking this four-foot
putt for par.

Score: 4
Thru 12 holes: +3
Campus accessibility map at: http://accessibility.uwo.ca/maps.htm
Departmental upcoming talks at:  http://www.uwo.ca/chem/aboutus/events.htm

Abstract:
Living, Crystallization-Driven Self-Assembly of Polyferrocenylsilane (LCDSA) (a self-assembly process with characteristics similar to living polymerizations), PFS-containing cylindrical micelles can be observed in the solution phase self-assembly of block copolymers, polymer chains form a swollen corona. A number of different morphologies distinct polymer segments joined together to produce a single macromolecule. When placed in a solvent selective for one of the polymer blocks, block copolymers can self-assemble into structures called micelles. The insoluble block forms the dense core of the micelle, while the soluble parts of coronal interchain repulsion. Using a process that we have termed Li ving, Crystallization-Driven Self-Assembly arises out of a compromise between the crystalline PFS block’s preference to form lamellar structures and the minimization of conformational entropy.

BY HEATHER TRAVIS

JACQUELINE RENNEBOHM HAS been in this position before. She has heard the cheers from the international crowds as colourful flags stream across the sky and has felt the butterflies in her stomach while she digs her shoes into the track. This time was no different.

“I know what to do when I hit the track,” she says.

Rennebohm was among the participants representing Team Canada at the Parapan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico, Nov. 12-20. A visually impaired track competitor, Rennebohm trains and studies at The University of Western Ontario. It’s a really unique feeling,” says the third-year Environmental Health Studies student. “This is the stuff athletes work so hard for.”

She competed in the 100m and 200m races, finishing sixth in both events. Only days after the closing of the games, Rennebohm is already preparing for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London, England.

“This event will act as a good international experience on the track,” she said in an interview during the Parapan American Games. “It’s a great opportunity to come here and show the other countries what I’ve got.”

She continued in the information of harvest time (this time in track), a feat most only seen in London, England.

At the age of 7, Rennebohm began to show signs of visual impairment. At 9, she was diagnosed with macular degeneration, a condition typically found in the elderly. She has cone-rod dystrophy, which means her central vision has degenerated and, eventually, she will be completely blind. With only 7 per cent of vision, she is able to see colours and movement, and has minimal peripheral vision.

“When I run, I really rely on Simon (Hodge),” she says. “We’ve worked so many hours together.”

Hodge, who is her guide runner and fellow Mustang, acts as her eyes and gives her audible cues warning about the distance and curves in the track. Since the pair are used to training together, Hodge, a fourth-year engineering student, accompanied Rennebohm to Mexico.

“There is a lot of work involved in what I do and there is a lot of work other people contribute to help me work toward my goals,” she says. “(Hodge) comes to all my practices with me and runs with me. We run all our workouts together.”

She trained six days a week, sometimes doubling up her workouts, to prepare for Guadalajara. “It is quite intense,” she says.

A seasoned athlete, Rennebohm has stepped onto the world stage before; the only difference was she was participating in a different sport – swimming. She represented Team Canada in the 2008 Paralympics in Beijing, where she ranked in the Top 10 in four swimming events. She also competed in the 2007 Parapan American Games in Rio de Janeiro in swimming and the 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships in South Africa.

After reaching the top of her sport, Rennebohm retired from swimming in 2009 to focus on track events. Two years later, she is competing in the Parapan American Games for a second time this time in track), a feat most only dream of.

“I know what to expect, which is a blessing coming into a sport so new. And I’ve been able to transfer skills, such as drive, passion and not to mention work ethic.

Sports have always been a part of Rennebohm’s life. She finds freedom on the track, as it allows her to put her disability behind her. “It allows me to put energy into something I really enjoy and to prove to myself that ‘Hey, I might be blind, but I can run pretty fast around a track,’” she says.

She might have had a crowd of 12,000 fans cheering from the stands, but her biggest support network is her family and friends from Saskatchewan and London who have watched her develop into an international athlete.

“I’m running for myself and for others as I step onto the track,” Rennebohm says.
Artist-in-residence pioneers the process

BY PAUL MAYNE

SEAN SMITH SAYS it’s important to “leave some air” in your plans to make room for what may emerge on the way to accomplishing your goals. And certainly don’t focus on the finish line.

“Don’t even think of a finish line. Keep to the process,” says Smith, the inaugural artist/scholar-in-residence for the Department of Visual Arts. “If not, then you’re working in a direction. To not propose a finish line says we don’t know what the direction is.”

The Toronto-based artist is wrapping up his four-month position in the ‘Non-sense Lab’ – the unofficial name of his studio space at Western – and has been thrilled with the opportunity to not only share his talents with the students, but to become a student himself.

“I guess the way I began in art was sort of a frustration with mainstream academia and the publishing volume involved,” Smith says. “It afforded me different ways of expression and in terms of thought. And I found that art was enabling me to ask better questions of philosophy. I would go back and read more philosophy to create better questions and different questions.”

Department of Visual Arts Chair Joy James says the new position brings with it a number of pluses.

“It offers a certain level of visibility in the larger academic and arts scene and profiles the very best of our program, which is to move across both the academic and studio practice,” says James, noting she initially received more than 80 applications for this position.

“It works in line with what we’re trying to do in our undergraduate programs and brings in a new resource person, with their particular kind of research, for our students.”

Working on his dissertation for his PhD in philosophy of media and communication from the European Graduate School (Switzerland), Smith recently completed a three-year research/creation project titled Toward a Kinoderm Aesthetics, along with other activities with the Western and broader London communities while in residence.

“It’s an attempt to tear down that conceptual framework with the group,” Smith says. “My work is very process oriented, so the class has been about trying to articulate those processes, but also ways to think to processes to work our way out of it.

“We’ll go through what we’ve done, critique and look at other artists who have worked with similar ideas, read philosophy and also, in a studio sense, work with processes to ask better questions and not to worry as much about outcomes. It’s the process that matters.”

Smith’s time at Western will culminate with an exhibit titled D S NFORMAT ON: Thremody from the Vision Machine, scheduled for Jan. 12-26 at the ArtaLab Gallery in the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre. It will be a large-scale exhibition of the work he’s done here and some that led him to getting this position in the first place.

Smith remains hopeful the seeds sown during his time at Western will allow future artist/scholar-in-residences to do more.

“There’s always a learning experience in terms of how you plug into an energy field. Art is about the relations you create and the energy you plug into, and then how you’re able to bring that back into your own process,” Smith says. “If there’s something I learned here it’s to be more engaged with materials, because in the past most of my stuff was performance based and text based. It’s not going to radically change how I practice, but it makes me think why I do what I do.”

Due to budget constraints, James says next year’s artist/scholar-in-residence will also be a four-month position, this time focusing on someone who is more a scholar than an artist.

She adds these streams come together perfectly with the department’s unique Art and Visual Culture Program, which just graduated its first two PhD students, a first in English-speaking Canada.

INPRINT will be closing at 1:00pm that same afternoon Friday December 16th, 2011.

The University Students’ Council and all its operations and services will be closing for the holiday period on Friday December 16th, 2011.

INPRINT will be closing at 1:00pm that same afternoon and will not reopen until Monday, January 09, 2012 at 8:30am. As first term ends on December 22nd, students should purchase course packs before the 16th as they will not be available during the holiday closure. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

University Students’ Council

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Western News  •  December 1, 2011  11
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Dinner: 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

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Research Western is pleased to announce the following competition:

Petro-Canada Young Innovator Awards
For Western and Roberts Researchers

Created by endowed donations from Petro-Canada, this program recognizes, promotes and supports the work of new researchers whose work is particularly innovative, impacts positively on the learning environment in the department in which they study, and has the potential to be of significance to society at large. The program is intended to help attract and retain bright young minds at Canadian Universities, colleges and major research institutes and to help young researchers launch their scholarly careers and enable them to carry their research forward. Eligibility is award specific. Priority is given to research related to Petro-Canada’s areas of interest.

Grant Amounts: Western - $12,500 and Roberts - $3,500

Deadline: RD&S Deadline - February 15, 2011

For more “Funding News”, please visit:
http://www.uwo.ca/research/

Contact:
Florence Lourdes
Internal Grants Coordinator
Research Development & Services
fgrant@uwo.ca
519.661.2111 x84500

Campus Digest

// New expense directives start

Under the new Procurement and Expenses Directives, the provincial government has established policies for all broader public sector organizations, including The University of Western Ontario.Outlined mandatory changes, effective Jan. 1, 2012, will affect both staff and faculty.

Among the new directives is an abolishment of per diem allowances and the requirement of original, itemized receipts.

For more information and a complete list of new directives, visit the Financial Services website at uwo.ca/finance.

// Children’s bicycles, helmets sought

Campus Community Police Services, in partnership with a research project by kinesiology professor Alan Salmoni, are seeking children’s bicycles and helmets in support of a project to teach Grade 6-8 children to ride safely. The project focuses around the fact bike accidents are a leading cause of brain injury and mortality in this age group in Canada.

If you have a bicycle (wheel/rim sizes 16-24 inches), bring it to the Campus Police office in Lawson Hall during day-time hours between Dec. 5-9.

After the bikes have been used for safety training, they will be given to needy children who do not have a bike of their own.

// Ruston honours Hansen legacy

Deana Ruston, a first-year kinesiology student, was selected as a medal-bearer in the Rick Hansen Relay, a commemorative tour, marking the 25th Anniversary of Rick Hansen’s Man in Motion Tour.

Ruston, among 7,000 Canadians selected to be a medal-bearer, carried the medal on Friday, Nov. 25 in her hometown of Sarnia. Each medal-bearer carried the medal for 250 metres.

“It was a great experience, and an honour that I was recognized for the things I have done in my school, and my community,” she says. “I will never forget this day.”

// Library welcomes millionth customer

The Beryl Ivey Library at Brescia University College hit a milestone earlier this week as they welcomed its one-millionth customer. Opening in October 2006, the library has received honourable mention in the City of London Urban Design Awards and its inquiry-based library instruction program saw librarians teach 53 sessions to more than 1,000 students this past year.

Giving

Helping address mental health in the classroom

BY PAUL MAYNE

“Being on the front line with no training is like asking someone to build a house with no tools. It can’t happen.”

So says Ian Manion, who stresses teachers need to be prepared to deal with issues of mental health in children. But right now, they are not properly equipped to handle the challenge.

“We’re trying to give teachers the tools they need to do their work,” says the executive director of the Ontario Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Mental Health. “But there is a huge gap and that is in the fundamental training of the teachers. The number of students in need is growing all the time.”

Thanks to a donation from former University of Western Ontario graduate student and elementary teacher Walter M. Lobb, the Faculty of Education begins a crucial step in developing a new mental health program and scholarship fund to address the needs of teachers who deal with students’ mental health issues every day.

Teachers are on the front lines, says Western professor Alan Leschied, co-ordinator of the Lobb program. “Schools are amazing places of learning and creativity, but they can also be challenging places that are not fun or supportive. Teachers are at the core of advancing our subsequent generations and this legacy, and what will grow from it, will enable us to help meet the challenge of caring for our young people, our students.”

“It will help address the emotional support young people need, yet are too often denied.”

Lobb, a Chatham school teacher for nearly 40 years, left $430,000 to the faculty to develop research, materials and resources to help educators identify and this legacy, and what will grow from it, will enable us to help meet the challenge of caring for our young people, our students.

This will enable our next generation of educators to have what they need to cope with the heavy demands our culture places upon them,” Leschied adds. “We ask of our teachers to not only successfully deliver an often changing curriculum, but to create safe places within which to learn, to be supportive of our young people that need to be sensitive to the personal issues and concerns of what it means to grow up.”

Recent surveys indicate as many as 20 per cent of children age 4-17 have clinically important disorders at any given time. This translates to more than 800,000 Canadian children who experience mental health issues.

“This is a remarkable gift that speaks to a critical need,” says Janice Deakin, provost and vice-president academic. “These are challenges that not only limit a student’s potential classroom success, but also challenges that can develop into life threatening situations if not addressed in a timely manner.”

Also introduced was the Walter M. Lobb Ontario Graduate Scholarship award, an honour presented to a Faculty of Education graduate student conducting research focused on children’s mental health.

“We believe that our schools will be central to providing support for our country’s children in an increasingly complex societal context,” says Vicki Schwean, Faculty of Education dean. “This will allow us to fill a great gap in education, and that is addressing mental health issues in our schools.”

Manion would love to see such training replicated across the country.

“The real magic of this gift is that it positions Western as a leader in the work that needs to be done,” he says. “We’re only going to solve this through strong leadership and incredible partnerships. You can be part of the conversation that is taking place in changing how we work with children, youth and families to better the lives of those who may have mental health concerns.”

Western professor Alan Leschied, who will co-ordinate the new Walter M. Lobb Mental Health Program in the Faculty of Education, says training young teachers on how to recognize and deal with mental illness in the classroom is vital to the success of all students.
Student Life

‘Sunday Funday’ helps fill community’s plate

BY PAUL MAYNE

IF YOU COOK it, they will come. Just ask Harrison and Becky Glotman. The brother and sister have turned their simple Sunday dinner get-togethers with friends into a major windfall for the London Food Bank.

What started out last year as a gathering among the Glotmans and their fellow Vancouverites as a way to share food and conversation, ‘Sunday Funday’ has blossomed into dozens of students making a change in their community.

“I figured cafeteria food probably sucked, and I wasn’t eating that well either. So I told Becky, ‘Let’s have a dinner and you can invite your friends and I’ll have people over,’” says Harrison, a fourth-year Richard Ivey School of Business student. “It ended up being more than we expected. More people just came and all I made was this little lasagna, but somehow we fed everyone.”

The two didn’t want the fun to stop, and suggested it become a weekly event. The crowds kept getting bigger and bigger, and people were bringing more and more food.

“We saw so many homeless individuals and we thought people aren’t aware there is such a need in London,” she says. Attempts during a cold winter night to bring the leftovers to the homeless on the streets fell flat when they couldn’t locate anyone.

But they still felt there was some way to give back.

Over the next few Sunday Funday gatherings, the idea was born to collect non-perishable food items as a sort of ‘admission’ to the dinner. In that first month, more than 350 pounds of food was collected.

“We weren’t expecting that much; those boxes were heavy,” Harrison laughs. “But it was a great heavy.”

Continuing the gatherings throughout the school year, the pair returned home over the summer, but still planned for their return in September. They designed a website, formed an executive committee and grew the number group to more than 40.

“It was such a motivation to get it going again when we got back. It’s so exciting,” Becky says. “Once you realize how much power this has, you can’t just give up on this idea. We’ve invested so much time into this, you can’t stop a tradition.”

And stop it hasn’t. Since school started this year, more than 1,000 pounds of food have been collected and will be delivered to the London Food Bank.

“It started out as fun and quickly turned into this,” Harrison says. “There is a natural inclination for university students to get involved and they are so passionate once they do. There are so many people involved with this that make it work and have made it such a success. There is no way the two of us could do it alone.”

The two hope to get club status – even charity status – for the Sunday Funday phenomenon, in hopes of spreading the idea to other universities.

PAUL MAYNE // WESTERN NEWS

Becky and Harrison Glotman add a few more cans to their growing collection of donated items. The brother and sister began Sunday Funday, which to date has raised more than 1,000 pounds of food for the London Food Bank.

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Jazz Band
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Apply to Graduate
Online application is now open for the Feb. 2012 in-absentia convocation. The deadline to apply is Jan. 22, 2012. Online application opens for the June 2012. Convocation on Feb. 2 and closes on March 15. There is no ceremony for the June convocation. Online application is now open for the June 2012. Convocation on Feb. 2 and closes on March 15. There is no ceremony for the June convocation. The June convocation will be released starting the end of May.

Mid-Year Examinations
The mid-year examination period is Dec. 10 – 21. The end of term is Dec. 22 and the examination schedule is available at studentservices.uwo.ca. Mid-Year examinations released starting the end of May.

PhD Lectures
Elseyed Elbeshbishy, Civil and Environmental Engineering. Enhancement of Biogasification and Biogas Producing from Wastes Using Ultrasonication, Dec. 1, SEB 3102, 9 a.m.
Caroline Margaret Williams, Biology. Overwintering energetics of Lepidoptera: the effects of winter warming and thermal variability, Dec. 1, MEB 384, 1:45 p.m.
Sarah Pretty, Chemistry. Investigating Interfacial Reactions of Silver-Containing Films Using Novel Methods, Dec. 1, ChB 9, 1:30 p.m.
Zhihan Xu, Electrical and Computer Engineering. Fault Location and Incipient Fault Detection in Distribution Cables, Dec. 2, TEB 434, 1 p.m.
Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash, Psychology. The Expression of Religious Bias in the Evaluation of Foreign-Trained Job Applicants, Dec. 2, SSC 9420, 1 p.m.
Aaron Schneider, English, Total Mens: Literature, Nationalism, and Masculinity in Early Canada, Dec. 2, N/A.
Sherri Berezowsky, English. Biographical Inheritance and the Social Order in Late-Victorian Fiction and Science, Dec. 6, N/A.
Catherine Leite, Psychology. A Self-Regulation Model of Depression: Content of Cognitive Representations and Prediction of Treatment Seeking, Dec. 7, SSC 9420, 1 p.m.
Alexandru Manafu, Philosophy. Emergence and Reduction in Science: A Case Study, Dec. 7, N/A.

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