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| 12 // THURSDAY | **MCINTOSH GALLERY**  
Scott Conarroe: By Rail. Curated by James Patten and organized by the Art Gallery of Windsor. uwo.ca/Mcintosh  
Monday-Saturday until Feb. 1. |
| 13 // FRIDAY     | **DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY AND CELL BIOLOGY**  
12:30 p.m. MSB 282. |
| 14 // SATURDAY  | **TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS**  
Build your confidence in public speaking. 9119 toastmastersclubs.org.  
Contact Donna Moore, dmoore@uwo.ca or BS159.  
12-1 p.m. UCC 147B. |
| 15 // SUNDAY    | **ARABIC CONVERSATION GROUP**  
4:30-6:30 pm. UC 222. |
| 16 // MONDAY    | **ITALIAN CONVERSATION**  
2:30-4:30 p.m. UC 288. |
| 17 // TUESDAY   | **THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES**  
La Tertulia. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Email tertulia@uwo.ca.  
4:30 p.m. UC 205. |
| 18 // WEDNESDAY | **MID-YEAR EXAMINATION PERIOD ENDS** |
| 19 // THURSDAY  | **WESTERN NEWS DEADLINE FOR JAN. 9 ISSUE** |
| 20 // FRIDAY    | **CONCEPTION SUSHI**  
ASIAN BUFFET & BAR  
330 WELLINGTON RD  
(A T BASELINE)  
519-675-6888  
ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT  
Sushi & Asian Items  
Lunch: $14.99  
Dinner: $21.99  
Choose from over 140 Sushi & Asian Items made fresh for you when ordered  
$1 off for lunch, use only in cash, not redeemable for cash.  
$2 off for dinner, use only in cash, not redeemable for cash.  
Please present this coupon to server before ordering. |
| 21 // SATURDAY  | **ST. JOHN’S CHAPEL AT HURON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**  
Will be holding its Midnight Mass starting at 10 p.m. Members of the general public are welcome, to a traditional candlelight service with carols. As the college itself will be closed, entry will be through the tower doors. |
| 22 // SUNDAY    | **CHRISTMAS EVE** |
| 23 // MONDAY    | **CHRIST THE KING UNIVERSITY PARISH**  
7:30 p.m. |
| 24 // TUESDAY   | **HAPPY HOLIDAYS - UNIVERSITY OFFICES CLOSED UNTIL JAN. 2.** |
| 25 // WEDNESDAY | **CHRIST THE KING UNIVERSITY PARISH**  
10:30 a.m. |
| 26 // THURSDAY  | **Triassic Therapies**  
Now offering  
Reflexology  
Therapeutic Touch  
219 Oxford Street West, Suite 102A (ForestCity Naturopathic Clinic)  
519-435-5820, triassic@yahoo.com  
By appointment only.  
Customized Packages  Gift Certificates  Student and Senior Discount  
www.triassictherapies.com |
| 27 // FRIDAY    | **Western News Deadline for Jan. 9 Issue** |
| 28 // SATURDAY  | **All Spa Services at Windermere Manor for Month of December**  
Call 226-781-0865 for Details. |
| 29 // SUNDAY    | **Shiki Japanese Restaurant**  
Discover A Taste of Japan  
Authentic Japanese Cuisine  
519-668-7407  
715 Wellington Rd. S. (at back)  
Licensed under LLBO.  
NOW OPEN  
7 DAYS/WEEK  
LUNCH: 11:30 - 2:30  
DINNER:  
MON - SAT 4:30 - 10:30,  
SUN 4:30 - 9:30  
A unique shopping & entertainment experience.  
Come explore.  
One of a Kind Handmade Gifts  
575 Richmond Street  
giftofart.ca |
| 30 // MONDAY    | **We have terrific flowers and sensational market gift baskets that can be easily ordered online or by phone and delivered the same day.** |
| 31 // TUESDAY   | **Christmas Special**  
50% OFF  
All Spa Services at Windermere Manor for Month of December  
Call 226-781-0865 for Details. |
| 31 // WEDNESDAY | **Shop online:**  
bloomers.ca  
bloomersatthemarket |
Western chair to honour Nobel laureate Munro

BY ADELA TALBOT

ONE A STUDENT, once a writer in residence, Alice Munro, LLD ’76, never really left Western. Though her footsteps no longer echo in the halls of University College, there’s no doubt her name will continue to reverberate in the campus community.

Munro, the 2013 Nobel Laureate in Literature, a Western alumna and one of Canada’s most celebrated authors, is lending her name to the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity, to be housed in the Department of English and Writing Studies.

The announcement thrilled Western’s creative community, still reeling from celebrations of Munro’s prize, announced two months ago and awarded this week. Munro is the first Canadian woman to receive the honour, and Western’s first Nobel Prize.

“One of the things we can learn from Alice Munro’s extraordinary late-career honour is that we still live in a world in which our passions and creativity are valued,” said Bryce Traister, English professor and Chair of English and Writing Studies. “What an inspiring message we have now for our students, for our community, and for all of our creative ambitions.”

To fund the $3 million chair position, officially announced Tuesday, Western is seeking donor support of $1.5 million and will match the remaining $1.5 million to fully endow the new position.

“I challenge the broader community to participate, and not just monetarily, but in taking ownership and sharing in the pride,” said Western President Amit Chakma, last week at Senate.

Munro, 82, writes in such a way that captures the imagination of the public, daring readers to see themselves in the intimacies of someone else’s life, inviting them to think beyond their limitations, beyond the borders of their town, their province and their country. It’s this wonder of the creative imagination, of great literature, Western must nurture, Traister noted.

“When (Munro) got the award, we were excited, the world over. And we remain so. But it all also seemed right to us. (This chair) is a reflection, however coincidental, of the renewed investment we wanted to put into the creative process on an academic campus. This all just makes sense,” he said with a laugh.

“What the Alice Munro chair will do, it will be an embodiment of all of these kinds of ideas. It will be a real leader in helping all of us see how far we can push the idea of creativity on a modern campus. In many different ways, creativity plays an important role in work on campus.”

Traister added the creation of the chair fulfills a vision that started with the merger of the English and Writing departments, a move that hoped to house and nurture ideas surrounding creativity – the invention of words, reading, writing and studying literature – under one roof, emphasizing their role and importance in culture.

“What (Munro’s) achievement has shown us is that a modest beginning can have a significant endgame, or outcome,” Traister said.

“What we’ve been trying to do around here is create energy and momentum around creativity, the arts and writing. It’s what we do, and we do it well. One of the things about this chair is, it seems the university is also making this a priority as well. And that’s good news, not just for us, but for writing, for the arts and humanities,” he added.

“I really admire the university for itself taking a leadership role and sending a message, in this day and age, that Western University values, and values highly, ideas that we associate with creativity and creative expression. This (chair) gives us a way to bring the world to Western in a way that is powerful and has integrity.”

For more information, visit extraordinary.westernu.ca/munro.

“One of the things we can learn from Alice Munro’s extraordinary late-career honour is that we still live in a world in which our passions and creativity are valued.”

- Bryce Traister
While businesses like to talk the talk on sustainability, simply to improve rates and cut costs, they need to walk the walk, said Ivey Business School student Cynthia Liao.

“Too me, sustainability is about creating effective and efficient solutions that improve the lives of people around the world,” Liao said. “It is about looking high-level, taking into account the political, economic and social context of a problem and finding an innovative and integrated solution. Sustainability is about reorienting, placing people before profit and finding ways to optimize both.

“For an initiative to have impact, it must improve the lives of other people, not simply a number on the balance sheet.”

This business axiom has earned Liao a spot in The Next 36, Canada’s most selective program for young entrepreneurs. More than 1,000 applicants apply each year for this program, which runs through next summer.

Liao was joined by Computer Science student Shenglong Gao as the Western representatives on the list.

Liao has friends in Ivey who have participated in the program, now entering its fourth year, and she was told it would be a phenomenal opportunity. Set up in teams of three, Liao has already been meeting with her teammates – two University of Toronto students through Skype, as they prepare their entrepreneurial venture.

“It will depend on the team dynamics as to what our idea is,” she said. “We all want to be entrepreneurs and are looking for the experience that will accelerate that for us.”

Liao hopes the venture will involve some sort of social entrepreneurship, which is her passion. She said there are a lot of problems in the world that can’t always be solved by institutions or big business.

It is the young entrepreneurs using the innovation and technology presented to them that are implementing the solutions, Liao added.

“What that really drives me to go out there and do this, to become one of the change makers,” she said. “There is a lot of money with people donating to charities and non-profits, but is that change sustainable? It’s more about driving sustainable growth and development, as opposed to having Band-Aid solutions.

“The only way to make an impact is through entrepreneurship. It’s not about throwing money at a particular problem.”

Liao said she would love to work in the health-care field, in terms of medical device innovation, where she sees growth potential in countries lacking sufficient health-care resources.

“There is a lot of bureaucracy, changes aren’t being pushed through fast enough and people are not getting the best care they need – and that’s where I want to be, to have much more drastic in other countries.”

By Adela Talbot

Shenglong Gao knows where he wants to go. He’s just taking a roundabout route.

The fourth-year Western Computer Science student sees himself heading his own company in 10 years. They key to his success, however, is a malleable roadmap he’s been happy to follow.

“My life has been everywhere,” said Gao, who is originally from China, having lived for four years in Australia, before immigrating to Canada at 8 years old.

One thing’s for certain on Gao’s journey, though – The Next 36 will play a role in getting him to the top. Gao was recently chosen for the program, one that aims to bolster young entrepreneurs in order to help them become innovative leaders tomorrow.

Gao was joined by Ivey Business School student Cynthia Liao as the Western representatives on the list.

His first taste of the business world started with him as a young entrepreneur in Halifax, N.S., heading a mass-multi player online gaming project of 280,000 user accounts.

Reeling from the excitement of this project’s success, he came to Western four years ago to study Finance and Computer Science, under an old Management and Organizational Studies (BOMOS) module. But Gao continued to let life take him all over.

“I went to the Shaolin Temple in China, and I trained in martial arts there, which I found exciting and unique. It’s supposed to be the origin of martial arts, it was a fun place to be. We learned a lot of things like how to throw needles through glass,” he said.

“I’ve done a lot of exciting things, and when I came here (to Western), I was very much into business and I wanted to go to Ivey. I thought things were set, and then I got an internship at Microsoft last summer. I worked in the national language group and it was a lot of fun. I came back and I had a lot of offers, but decided it would be best to do my own thing,” Gao explained, noting his focus in school shifted entirely to Computer Science at this point.

“The Next 36 is a great place to start with my own company. They are going to teach me what I need to know to grow a start-up and provide a lot of the resources I would normally lack,” he added.

Having formed a team of four with The Next 36, Gao is forging ahead with a project tentatively titled Sparta.

What it is, essentially, is a sensor device for your body. It’s difficult for athletes to adapt their physical movement to feedback from coaches who may say something like: ‘You need to aim higher’ or ‘You need to bend more at the elbow,’ Gao explained. It’s not a fault in coaching, it’s more a fault in a general inability to spot the mechanical error exactly where, and exactly as it happens.

This is what the sensors would do. They are prototyping it right now. You attach it to your arm, or your hand, and as you make a motion, it’s calibrated to something we call ‘an optimal shot,’ which might be your optimal shot that your coach has set out for you, or a downloaded optimal shot from a professional player,” Gao explained.

“The idea is we will recalibrate it for your body. As you make that shot, whenever you make that mistake, it will give you biofeedback, like a vibration or mild shock, to tell you where you made your mistake. Eventually we envision it as a smart device, where you can look at your phone and it will show me if my arm is going up too high,” Gao said.

The device would be applicable to any sport, he added, and would benefit a wide variety of athletes, allowing them to speed up their improvement in technique.

“Ten years from now, I hope to be running my own company. I want the good work to reflect directly on my success,” he said.
HOW WILL WE remember 2013? Probably through one or more of these faces.

Today, Western News presents its 4th annual Newsmakers issue, a celebration of the campus spirit we have to offer at Western. Each Newmaker contributed positively to conversations – both important and entertaining – on this campus. They are who we will think about when we think about 2013.

Understand, we honour a mere handful of the hundreds who shaped the last year at Western. Some of these names you’ll know by heart. Others, you may need a little help to remember.

So, join us on the following pages spotlight, in brief words and striking images, the accomplishments of some of our favourites from the last year.

**Nobel Prize winner**

Former Western student and honorary degree recipient Alice Munro, LLD’76, won the 2013 Nobel Prize in Literature, becoming the first Canadian woman to receive the award since its launch in 1901. Munro, 82, only the 13th woman given the award, is considered one of the world’s greatest writers of short stories. Because Munro’s writing captures the imagination of the public, daring readers to see themselves in the intimacies of someone else’s life, and invites them to think beyond their limitations, beyond the borders of their town, their province, their country, Western announced it has committed $1.5 million to match donations to fund the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity.
Holding court

A fitting tribute arrived at a fitting time for a legendary Mustang as Western honoured Jack Fairs, naming its squash courts after the coach, who led the men’s team to dozens of Ontario University Athletics championships — including 30 in a row. In August, a ceremony unveiling the Jack Fairs Squash Courts coincided with the eve of Fairs’ 90th birthday, marking also the start of a yearlong celebration of the centennial of Western athletics. Fairs joined Western’s faculty and coaching staff in 1947 and quickly established a reputation as a skilled and admirable instructor, coach and mentor.

A little classroom magic

Western muggles flocked to The Many Faces of Harry Potter, a new semester-long English course that looked at all seven books of the series, alongside thematically related short works of fiction, like George Orwell’s 1984. “In the last four years or so, there’s been more in-class engagement with the (Harry Potter) books. The clamour for this course gets stronger each year; the level of interest is extraordinary,” said Gabrielle Cerardi, who has been teaching Children’s Literature for more than a decade, from year-to-year including Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone or Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. “These are the students who grew up reading the series. It was a formative influence on their lives.”
Cheers all around

The Western Mustangs cheerleading team added to its unprecedented run of Canadian championships Saturday, winning the 28th national championship in program history at the 2013 University and Open National Cheerleading Championships. This was the sixth consecutive title for the Mustangs, extending a streak that began in 2008. Since the inception of the Canadian championship in 1985, Western has won all but one of the national titles, taking the crown each year from 1985-2006, 2008-13.
Shake it.

You couldn't go anywhere in February without seeing or hearing about the Harlem Shake. These 30-second videos, featuring part of the 2012 song Harlem Shake by American electronic musician Baauer, became an opportunity for folks of all ages to let loose and show their crazy side. And Western was not immune to the fad. An impromptu performance in the atrium of the University Community Centre garnered more than 3.5 million views on YouTube, and inspired an entire residence and, yes, even a professor, to do the same.

‘O’ what a week

Western's Orientation Week changed in 2013, becoming a more inclusive event that welcomed not just first-year students, as in the past, but all members of the campus community. Shifts in O-Week programming were the result of consultations between the Orientation Planning Committee, which includes representatives from Housing and Ancillary Services, affiliate colleges, Student Success Centre (SSC), International and Exchange Student Centre and several student leaders. Here, Rick Ezekiel, seated, the SSC's experiential learning team coordinator, joins Rich Caccamo and Adam Smith of the University Students’ Council and Cassie Anton, SSC student engagement programs coordinator, who all played a role in revamping O-Week.
Rhodes Scholar

Western alumna Saumya Krishna, BHS'13, is not just one in a million; she’s one in 22. Earlier this month, Krishna was named one of 11 Canadian members of the 2014 class of Rhodes Scholars. She is only the 22nd member of the Western community ever so honoured.

With 83 new members from around the world named this year, Rhodes is the world’s pre-eminent graduate student award, offering two years of all-expenses-paid post-graduate study at Oxford University. Its 110-year tradition includes three Nobel Prize winners, as well as former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner and former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

“I am very humbled by this. I was surrounded by exceptionally talented finalists, who were also down-to-earth and genuine people,” she said. “I’ve realized the Rhodes Scholarship is beyond anything that can be ‘won’ or ‘deserved.’ It is a gift. I feel very fortunate to have been selected for it. I know a lot of responsibility comes with an opportunity, a privilege such as this.

“I am still thinking about how to live up to it.”

Bring them back alive and well

In February, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry professor Dr. Raymond Kao was named the Group Captain G. Edward Hall Chair in Military Critical Care Research at Lawson Health Research Institute. The chair, a Canadian first, is named after Western’s former Dean of Medicine and longest-serving president. Kao, a Navy captain in the Canadian Forces, is widely recognized for his research on erythropoietin, a hormone produced by the kidneys that stimulates the production of red blood cells and, in turn, hemoglobin. His findings have been used to stabilize wounded soldiers in the battlefield. Kao has been deployed to Afghanistan multiple times, most recently in 2011.

Just for kicks

As the Mustangs kicker for the last five seasons, it’s safe to say Limir Hajjullah will go down in history as one of the best to don the purple and white. He leaves as the all-time Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) scorer (422 points) and Ontario University Athletics (OUA) career leader in field goals (77). He set Western records for most converts in a single game (11) and most points in a single season (130) as well as tied the OUA single-season record for field goals (22). He was named an OUA First Team All-Star as both a kicker and punter, and a Second Team All-Canadian as a kicker.
For the first time in the competition’s history, Western counted itself among Canada’s Top 100 Employers. The 14th annual Canada’s Top 100 Employers project is a national competition to determine which employers lead their industries in offering exceptional workplaces for their employees. The list was announced in October.

“Our faculty and staff deserve the credit for this honour,” said Amit Chakma, Western president. “One of the most attractive things about working at Western is the opportunity to work with the best, and be a part of teams that provide a high-quality global education and conduct research that has impact around the world.”

The list featured some familiar organizations, but also many new winners – including Western – with more than a quarter of the list changing each year. With 4,700 full-time and 8,700 part-time employees, including employees such as Western Engineering’s Quazi Rahman, Karen Norman and Ron Morland, Western joined 3M Canada as the only honoured employer based in London, 45 of the 100 employers call Ontario home.

Triple crown winner

Winner of the Governor General’s Bronze and Silver medals as a high schooler and an undergraduate, Frances Mackay completed the trifecta in November with a Gold medal honour for her brilliant career in the Applied Mathematics PhD program. At Western, Mackay went from earning her master’s degree in Astronomy with Scientific Computing for studying the disks surrounding stars to taking on the very difficult challenge of undertaking doctoral research in the area of complex fluids, in particular liquid crystals. Her work resulted in new standard techniques that have since been adopted into one of the most widely used molecular dynamics software packages.
Year of innovation

It has been quite a year for Michael Strong, dean of Western’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. His discovery of a genetic mutation in Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in January was followed by the announcement he will head a $15 million research project for the Ontario Brain Institute. He spearheaded the See the Line Initiative in August, bringing national attention to the subject of sports concussions, and solidified Western as a leader in treatment and research. Strong is also part of a team responsible for pushing the Medical Innovation and Commercialization Network, valued at $20 million, which could see big changes at Western’s Discovery Park.

Can you dig it?

Facilities Management staff and construction crews were busy across campus this year with major new building and renovation projects. Among the major projects completed this year were: the new Richard Ivey Building for the Ivey Business School on Western Road; Ontario Hall on Sarnia Road; Clare Hall at Brescia University College, and the Western Centre for Public Health and Family Medicine on Richmond Street. Renovations to the Physics and Astronomy Building, the second oldest building on campus, were also completed this year after a three-year makeover. There were many other minor projects on the go with crews working all over to beautify and update Western’s campus.

Town and gown

While solid relations with the City of London are key to the university’s success, Western’s Chris Thompson helps give voice to the campus. An e-learning specialist at Western’s Continuing Studies, Thompson represents Ward 13 on London’s Town and Gown Committee, which serves as a forum for the exchange of information on issues and initiatives involving Western, Fanshawe College and the city. Thompson’s role as a staff member and student will certainly play a part in his role on the committee, which runs through February 2015.
Research

Study explores domestic violence’s outside impact

BY PAUL MAYNE

THE EFFECTS OF domestic violence are not just felt inside the home, said Nadine Wathen, a professor at Western’s Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS). Much of it spills into the workplace and places unprecedented demands on employers.

Wathen, along with Jen MacGregor, a FIMS post-doctoral researcher, and Barb MacQuarrie, community director at Western’s Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (CREVAVWC), have launched a national survey on the impact of domestic violence on workers and workplaces, the first-ever survey of its kind in Canada.

The survey is in partnership with the Women’s Committee of the Ontario Coroner’s Office Domestic Violence as it relates to the workplace. As part of the Chief Coroner’s Office Domestic Violence Death Review Committee for Ontario, he has reviewed close to 200 domestic homicides over the last decade.

“We need to ask the questions: Was it predictable? Was it preventable?” said Jaffe, noting about 80 per cent of the homicides were predictable and preventable. “There were well-known risk factors known to friends, family, professionals and, often, those in the workplace. In about one quarter of domestic homicides, co-workers or supervisors knew, or should have known, the warning signs about someone who is a victim of domestic violence.”

Jaffe added it is not a gender-neutral issue, and that men can be victims as well, but the vast majority of cases involve women.

“We have to look at this issue in a way that recognizes the particular risks and vulnerabilities that women face in the workplace,” he said. “It’s an important issue for all of us.”

Domestic violence is devastating lives of Canadian workers and it is costing Canadian workplaces in lost productivity, absenteeism and turn over,” MacQuarrie said. “It’s easy to ignore those facts without evidence.

“This survey will change that.”

There is very little Canadian data about the scope and impact of domestic violence on workers and workplaces, making it difficult to make evidence-informed policies and deliver effective services.”

Nadine Wathen, a professor at Western’s Faculty of Information and Media Studies, is one of the main researchers in a new national survey looking at the impact of domestic violence on workers and workplaces.

“There is very little Canadian data about the scope and impact of domestic violence on workers and workplaces, making it difficult to make evidence-informed policies and deliver effective services.”

Nadine Wathen added the results will go a long way in making evidence-informed policies and will allow employers to advocate of behalf of their workers and build a much safer workplace.

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In the Community

ClickToConnect founders wired for community service

BY ADELA TALBOT

AT THE START of this semester, Ahmad Moussa and Calvin Diep took on a side project. Less than four months later, it’s taken off, helping members of the London and Western communities connect to the world around them.

Moussa and Diep, in their second year of a Biological and Medical Sciences degree, founded ClickToConnect this summer, after Moussa returned from a co-op opportunity at Just Energy, a North American natural gas and electricity retailer.

“I was disconcerted with the amount of computers being thrown out. They were good computers, but computers that weren’t company grade. So I asked my manager if I could take them. It started with the website – clicktoconnect.ca – and we opened up an application form. Ever since then, we’ve gotten an outpouring of support,” Moussa explained.

ClickToConnect is a charitable initiative currently based in London, which refurbishes donated computers to children in need within the local community. The computers are collected, restored and delivered, free of charge, by Moussa and Diep.

The project’s goal is to provide computers to children and families who may not have the means to afford a computer, giving them opportunities to further their education as well as connect, research and develop essential computer skills.

“Initially, it was hard to get the attention of the public,” Diep said, noting he and Moussa tried to reach out to large companies and corporations for donations.

“Of course, they don’t trust us yet; they want to see that we’ve done something before they give us more. But that’s the problem, we’re stuck in that cycle, so at the beginning, it was really slow. But then, thanks to a tweet two weeks ago, we had a lot more support, more applications, more donation offers.”

Following an article in The London Free Press, and an interview on CBC’s Ontario Morning, requests for computers, alongside many donations, have been pouring in.

They established connections with social workers in London through community resource centres, posted flyers and reached out by way of social media. Now, more applications are coming in. Families in need of a computer can fill out an application; they don’t have to provide proof of income, or just an explanation of their request.

“If people are going to reach out to get a computer, most likely they need it,” Moussa said.

Their computers are not state-of-the-art, so it’s unlikely someone would take advantage of the program.

The two provide non-disclosure guarantees to donors, assuring them personal information on the computers will be erased, and to families who receive them, in order to assure them their identity and personal information is safe.

“Today, we delivered six computers and the majority of them have been new families to Canada who came here, they have no job, or the parents are in school, and they can’t afford a computer, or they have children in elementary school. We set up a computer, and they were so happy to see it,” Diep said.

Moussa added people generally underestimate what access to a computer can accomplish – saving families money by freeing them of cable bills, connecting them to jobs and an education, among other great benefits.

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Going forward, Moussa and Diep want to see ClickToConnect expand. With a couple of volunteers right now, the two see potential to grow the organization and serve more communities, with hopes of either registering as a charity, or joining forces with an established organization to maximize their potential.

“I asked my manager if I could take them. It started with the website – clicktoconnect.ca – and we opened up an application form. Ever since then, we’ve gotten an outpouring of support,” Moussa explained.

ClickToConnect is a charitable initiative currently based in London, which refurbishes donated computers to children in need within the local community. The computers are collected, restored and delivered, free of charge, by Moussa and Diep.

The project’s goal is to provide computers to children and families who may not have the means to afford a computer, giving them opportunities to further their education as well as connect, research and develop essential computer skills.

“Initially, it was hard to get the attention of the public,” Diep said, noting he and Moussa tried to reach out to large companies and corporations for donations.

“Of course, they don’t trust us yet; they want to see that we’ve done something before they give us more. But that’s the problem, we’re stuck in that cycle, so at the beginning, it was really slow. But then, thanks to a tweet two weeks ago, we had a lot more support, more applications, more donation offers.”

Following an article in The London Free Press, and an interview on CBC’s Ontario Morning, requests for computers, alongside many donations, have been pouring in.

They established connections with social workers in London through community resource centres, posted flyers and reached out by way of social media. Now, more applications are coming in. Families in need of a computer can fill out an application; they don’t have to provide proof of income, or just an explanation of their request.

“If people are going to reach out to get a computer, most likely they need it,” Moussa said.

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Moussa added people generally underestimate what access to a computer can accomplish – saving families money by freeing them of cable bills, connecting them to jobs and an education, among other great benefits.

“’I’ve been amazed with the range of people we’ve helped out,” Moussa noted.

“’Our demographic is children ages 4-18, but we’ve helped out and brought a computer to a PhD student here at Western. She had a computer, but it wasn’t a great computer. And then we brought one to a family of refugees from Syria. It’s been a wide range, not just one specific group in need."

Going forward, Moussa and Diep want to see ClickToConnect expand. With a couple of volunteers right now, the two see potential to grow the organization and serve more communities, with hopes of either registering as a charity, or joining forces with an established organization to maximize their potential.

More Info

For more information, visit clicktoconnect.ca.

Celebrate Alice Munro

In her writing, Alice Munro (LLD’76) captures our imagination, daring us to see beyond the borders of our own lives. This is the power of great storytelling, the wonder of literature. We want to inspire more of this at Western.

Join us in celebrating our Nobel laureate. Support the Alice Munro Chair in Creativity to honour her dedication to the creative process and her ties to Western. We have committed $1.5 million to match all donations to establish an enduring legacy for a literary icon.

Visit extraordinary.westernu.ca/munro to give today.

#CelebrateAlice
Eight alumnae named among Most Powerful Women

EIGHT ALUMNAE AND One Western student have been named to Canada’s Most Powerful Women Top 100 list, presented by the National Post and the Women’s Executive Network (WXN). The theme for this year’s Top 100 Awards was What Glass Ceiling? Named to the list were:

• Christine Magee, BA’82, president, Sleep Country Canada, was named to the 2013 Hall of Fame;
• Anne Marie O’Donovan, BA’82, executive vice-president and chief administration officer, global banking and markets, Scotiabank, winner of the Scotiabank Corporate Executive Award;
• Kelsey Ramsden, MBA’04, president, Belvedere Place Development Ltd., winner of the CIBC Entrepreneurs Award;
• Catherine Karakatsanis, ME’S ‘91, chief operating officer, Morrison Hershfield Ltd., winner of the KPMG Professionals Award;
• Rosemary Macarney, LLB’77, CEO and president, Plan International Canada, winner of the KPMG Professionals Award;
• Stacey Allaster, MBA’00, chairman and CEO, Women’s Tennis Association, winner of the Xtrata Nickel Trailblazers and Trendsetters Award;
• Heather Payne, HBA’09, founder, Ladies Learning Code & HackerYou, winner of the Xtrata Nickel Trailblazers and Trendsetters Award, and
• Marilyn Emery, MSc N’74, CEO and president, Women’s College Hospital, winner of the Public Sector Leaders Award.

Also named was Kelly Lovell, founder and CEO, Kelly Effect, Lovell Corp., winner of the Telus Future Leaders Award. Lovell, currently taking a year off, will rejoin Western next fall to continue her joint HBMSc and HBA through the Ivey Business School.

NEWS AND NOTES

Western alumnus Dave McKay, MBA’92, will be named president and chief executive officer of Royal Bank following the retirement of current president and CEO Gord Nixon on Aug. 1, 2014, the bank announced last week.

“I am honoured to be asked by the board to lead this remarkable institution and work with group executive to ensure we continue to invest in and grow our businesses,” said McKay, currently group head, personal and commercial banking.

“Toward that goal, and clearly in keeping with our commitment to continuous improvement, we are looking at our processes and policies to ensure they are right for the future,” said McKay.

Marilyn Emery, professor emerita at Western, is among the 2013 University of Calgary’s most influential female alumni.

During her 36 years teaching, and serving as the dean of the Faculty of Nursing, Emery oversaw the growth of the university’s nursing program from a four-year diploma program to a four-year nursing degree.

Emery, who retired from her teaching duties in 2012, was named to the University of Calgary’s 2013 alumni of distinction. The award recognizes Western alumni who have made significant contributions to society or to the university.

Deborah Jewell, a 1982 Western alumnus, has been named to the Order of Canada.

Jewell, a University of Arizona professor, is widely recognized for her significant contributions to the field of Native American historical scholarship, education and political affairs.

She is the author of more than 30 books and numerous scholarly articles and monographs on Native American history, culture and politics, as well as the author of “Reclaiming the American Dream: A Native American History,” which won the Western Heritage Prize in 2007.

Selection criteria for the award also take into account length of service, individuals whose efforts have significantly enhanced the development and/or operations of one or more of the university’s areas of endeavour and individuals who have made a significant contribution to the life and development of the university.

No more than one medal will be awarded per calendar year and there is no requirement there be an award every year. Frequency of the award is entirely dependent on the candidates put forward.

To nominate someone for the inaugural President’s Medal for Distinguished Service, forms will be available on the Senate website (under Honorary Degrees Committee link) in the New Year. Nomination deadline will be March 1.
Many Western services will be closed for the holiday season, starting Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Wednesday, Jan. 1. The following is a list of some of the hours across campus:

- Western News online will resume publishing on Thursday, Jan. 2, with the first weekly paper to be issued on Thursday, Jan. 9;
- All Western Libraries’ locations will be closed between Saturday, Dec. 21, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, re-opening at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2. Classes will resume Monday, Jan. 6;
- The Book Store at Western will close Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Wednesday, Jan. 1, reopening at 8:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 2;
- The McIntosh Gallery is closed Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Wednesday, Jan. 1, reopening Thursday, Jan. 2;
- The Grad Club will move to limited hours, 8a.m.-11 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, and Friday, Dec. 20, and then close Saturday, Dec. 21, through Wednesday, Jan. 1. It will reopen with limited hours, 8 a.m.-9 p.m., on Thursday, Jan. 2, and Friday, Jan. 3 and return to regular hours on Monday, Jan. 6;
- The Wave will be open for lunch only Monday, Dec. 16, through Wednesday, Dec. 18, and then closed Thursday, Dec. 19, through Sunday, Jan. 5. It will reopen Monday, Jan. 6;
- Green Leaf Café will be closed Saturday, Dec. 21, and reopen Monday, Jan. 13;
- The Spoke will be closed Thursday, Dec. 19, through Sunday, Jan. 5. It will reopen Monday, Jan. 6; and
- The Western Student Recreation Centre will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24, through Thursday, Dec. 26, and again on Wednesday, Jan. 1. The centre will be operating on reduced hours during the holidays with modified programming. Please consult westernmustangs.ca for hours of operation.

On behalf of Western News, have a safe and happy holiday season.

Paul Mayne // Western News