Branfireun, who came to Western recently from the University of Toronto, was “incredibly flattered” with the news of his CRC, with so many academics doing important work on a myriad of issues.

“Most of us always feel like we could be doing more, or doing better,” he says. “I felt very fortunate to be selected to be given the opportunity to, at this stage in my career, really focus my time and effort on some environmental problems that my students and I believe are important.”

The implications of Branfireun’s work are at a range of scales including the local ecosystem with respect to organism health and ecological feedbacks; the regional scale in terms of changes in water quality affecting contaminant cycling and human health; and the global scale with gigatonnes of carbon that, if released because of changes in hydrology, will amplify the effects of an already warming atmosphere.

Branfireun’s research will provide critical information to regulators, policy-makers and northern residents alike on the role large northern wetlands play in governing water quality, and how this sensitive environment is going to respond to climate change.
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Order of Canada

Canada’s Governor General David Johnston with Carol Stephenson, Dean, Richard Ivey School of Business, are pictured following the ceremony where Stephenson received the Order of Canada.

King’s employee charged with uttering threats

By Heather Travis

A King’s University College contract employee faces three charges of uttering threats and unsafe storage of ammunition in connection with an incident involving another King’s employee.

London Police Service arrested a 34-year-old London man at his home Nov. 10 after receiving a tip he allegedly threatened to kill a co-worker. A search warrant was executed on his home after police learned through the gun registry the man owned firearms. Police seized his firearms.

“At no time did he go to the university with any weapons that we are aware of,” says Const. Dennis Rivest, London police media relations officer. “At no time was there any physical hazard to anyone at the university because there were no weapons,” says Rivest. However, the suspect allegedly threatened other people who have no affiliation with The University of Western Ontario or its affiliate colleges.

Western’s Campus Community Police Service was notified of the incident on Nov. 10, however campus police were not directly involved in the investigation. If the accused is released into the community, campus police will be notified.

“There are a number of different procedures in place (at Western) … lockdown procedures and the security of campus,” Rivest says. “In this particular case, we didn’t need to go to this extreme.”

While campus police and the Department of Communications and Public Affairs was notified of the arrest, London police, who was handling the situation, did not issue a public statement. Media reports this week revealed details about the incident, which occurred earlier this month, and some members of the university community questioned why the details are only now being released.

“There was no threat. There would be no reason that we would go out and make any kind of release here … all that creates is confusion (with people asking), ‘Well, why are you telling us about this?’ says Elgin Austen, director of Western’s campus police. “The individual was arrested. There was no threat.”

Upon hearing of the incident, the university put its safe campus community plan into action.

“We have a safe campus community policy that supports the tracking of any situation that may be hazardous to a member of the community and that was utilized in this case,” says Austen.

“Between London police and the university, the situation itself was well managed,” he adds. “At no time was there any physical hazard to anyone at the university because the person is in custody.”

Todd Williams of London has been charged with three counts of uttering threats and unsafe storage of ammunition.

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Salary bumps bode well for province’s bottom line

By Heather Travis

The provincial government might have been strong-arming public sector employers undergoing contract negotiations to keep salary increases to a minimum, but Finance Minister Dwight Duncan can remains satisfied with The University of Western Ontario’s settlements with two of its largest employee groups.

The University of Western Ontario Staff Association (UWOFA) and The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOSA) were each awarded a 1.5 per cent annual salary increase under their new contracts.

“That level of settlement is down quite considerably, I think, from the past. We are seeing that happen all over Ontario," Duncan said during appearance at Western on Nov. 19, following the provincial fiscal update a day earlier. “We have seen 40 collective agreements signed in the broader public sector since the policy was announced and four of those were arbitrated settlements.

“We are seeing the average rate of settlement come down. The average rate of settlement in the Ontario public and broader public services is now below the private sector average and below what the federal government is doing with its employees.”

Duncan reiterated his commitment to reducing the province’s deficit and fielded questions from students at the Richard Ivey School of Business and the media.

When asked about his reaction to Western’s recent contract negotiations, he said Western, and several other public sector employers, are helping to keep salary increases to a minimum, which, in turn, is good for the province’s bottom line.

Earlier this year, the Ontario government introduced legislation prohibiting compensation increases for non-bargaining employees in the broader public sector for two years. As for unionized employees in the public sector, the government recommended newly negotiated contracts see agreements of at least two years’ duration that do not include net compensation increases.

While both UWOSA and UWOFA are unionized bargaining groups, making them exempt from the salary freeze, government recommendations to negotiate contracts without compensation increases still put pressure on those sitting at the negotiating table.

“We chose a deliberate path to work through these very difficult issues. It takes a little longer, but we are seeing success,” Duncan said. “I think at the end of the day, it builds a stronger economy, I think the last thing we need right now is a lot of labour unrest as we are beginning a very fragile recovery.”

The provincial government faced some heat from critics recently for a different financial decision—its investment of $20 million in the new Ontario Trillium Scholarships for international students. The scholarships will provide 75 international students with $40,000 a year for up to four years to pursue doctoral studies at an Ontario university. Western has been awarded seven of these scholarships.

“I think that’s about the smartest thing we can do. Yes, we are spending money to attract them here—about a tenth of what we are spending to help Ontario families and people like you (in the audience) come to post-secondary education (institutions),” Duncan said.

“We are attracting the very best students from around the world at the PhD level. Many of them will wind-up staying and become great researchers, great educators and help us.

“We understand the most significant things we can do include investing in education, not cutting from education," he says. “Education remains our top priority.”

Continued from page 1

may not always be able to rid the body of disease-causing viruses. CTLs often attack a very limited range of viral targets and are also under tight control by various other cell types found in the body.

A major focus of Haeryfar's research team is to understand the reasons for antiviral CTL limitations and to design novel therapeutic strategies to enhance CTL-based antiviral immunity. His research will better our understanding of immune responses to viruses and lead to the development of highly effective strategies for rational vaccine design and for the treatment of infectious diseases.

Six Western professors received renewals of their Canadian Research Chair positions. They include: Trevor Birmingham, Tier 2 CRC in Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation; Ann Chambers, Tier 1 CRC in Oncology; Dale Laird, Tier 1 CRC in Gap Junctional Inter cellular Communication and Disease; Shawn Li, Tier 2 CRC in Functional Genomics and Cellular Proteomics; Joy Parr, Tier 1 CRC in Technology, Culture and Risk; and Gregory Zarie, Tier 2 CRC in Health Care Management Science.
Western

Western News (ISSN 0316-8654), a publication of The University of Western Ontario Department of Communications and Public Affairs, is published every Thursday throughout the school year and operates under a reduced schedule during December, May, June, July and August.

An award-winning weekly newspaper and electronic news service, Western News serves as the university's newspaper of record. The publication traces its roots to The University of Western Ontario Newsletter, a one-page leaflet-style publication which debuted on Sept. 23, 1942. The first issue of the Western News, under founding editor Alan Johnston, was published on Nov. 16, 1972 replacing the UWO Times and Western Times. Today, Western News continues to provide timely news, information and a forum for discussion of pertinent issues in the campus and broader community.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE
All ads for the upcoming edition are due by noon of the prior Thursday.

EVENTS DEADLINE
Events to be listed in the upcoming edition are due by noon of the prior Thursday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Letters can be submitted by email to editor@uwo.ca. Letters should be less than 250 words and are published at the discretion of the editor. Deadline is noon of the Friday prior to desired publication date.

GUEST COLUMN
Members of the university family and its extended community are invited to submit guest columns on any topic. Columns should be 500 words or less and are published at the discretion of the editor. If interested, please contact Jason Winders, editor, at jwinder2@uwo.ca or 519 661-2111 Ext. 65465 to arrange a column.

"Our objective is to report events objectively as possible, without bias or editorial comment. We hope you will read and contribute to it."

SENATE’S ROLE NEEDS TO BE REINFORCED

Negotiations leading to our new faculty collective agreement raise a host of issues that must be addressed now, not in three years time when the whole process will no doubt start again.

President Chakma has assured us the administration never proposed anything that threatened academic freedom. We need not rehash all the details – but an administration proposal to require that, as a condition of continuing employment, faculty act "respectfully" to everyone inside and outside the university looked like a potential threat to many of us.

How a university protects academic freedom is at the heart of its academic policy. To this end, The University of Western Ontario Act establishes a Senate, one of whose duties is to "establish and recommend to the Board policies and procedures to be followed in the selection, appointment, promotion and termination of appointment of the members of the Faculty, and the conditions under which tenure and sabbatical leave are granted."

The same Act states that the Board of Governors “on the recommendation of the President, appoint the Deans and Chairmen of the academic units and other members of the academic staff of the University, and determine their functions, duties and powers and other conditions of employment including tenure of office, entitlement of sabbatical leave, promotion and termination, but the policies and procedures followed shall be established and recommended by the Senate (my emphasis).”

Some will no doubt claim the certification under the Ontario Labour Relations Act of the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) as the faculty bargaining agent overrides such provisions. Maybe, but a recent decision of the British Columbia Court of Appeal gives reasons for doubt. In the decision, the court held that matters under the jurisdiction of the Senate of the University of British Columbia (UBC) were not subject to collective bargaining. The decision could still be appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, or there could be legal technicalities that makes Western's situation different from that at UBC. But the key points here are that Western, like UBC, has a Senate with statutory authority over matters related to academic appointments and that the Senate’s role needs to be taken seriously.

Regardless of the legal technicalities, the administration should respect the authority of the Senate by committing now to bring to it any future proposals to change the academic responsibilities of faculty members. It is in the Senate where such proposals can be debated comprehensively and publicly. If the Senate were not to endorse such changes, the administration would then have no business taking them to the bargaining table on behalf of the Board of Governors.

We need not wait for future court decisions. The administration and UWOFA should agree now that matters under the jurisdiction of the Senate will not be subject of future collective bargaining without the Senate’s prior approval.

Andrew Sancton
Professor of political science
Committing to student financial aid, physical activity

By Earle F. Zeigler

Persistent under-funding by governments to “provincial universities” has been a fact of life for decades. Universities should be commended, of course, for their ongoing commitment to help all academically qualified students and permanent residents achieve their educational goals as free from financial concerns as possible. With Canada’s approach to multiculturalism, the need to build on this commitment looms ever larger. Such persistent under-funding also has been present when it related to the physical education / recreational interests of students at all educational levels. Physical activity education, including competitive sports, has been inubitably shown to be a worthwhile social institution contributing vitally to the well being, ongoing health and longevity of humankind.

At Western, for example, the four methods of financial assistance available include (1) OSAP and other government assistance programs; (2) burr- saries (admissions and in-course); (3) government assistance program; and (4) work study.

All well and good. However, I don’t think they go far enough. All students who (1) meet admission requirements; (2) have proven financial need; and (3) carry out a satisfactory program of study should be helped by scholarships, fellowships, grants-in-aid, part-time work, loans, etc., so that they can earn their respective degrees without hardship. At that point a student should not face an extended period in which he or she must pay down a debt incurred as a student.

If such a plan were implemented, monetary grants to low-income and middle-income families would increase significantly. In addition, students would find that the amount they must contribute from their own earnings would decrease. In addition to money earned from summer employment, additional funds should be earned from no more than 10 hours of on- or off-campus employment. There should be no need to work longer or to take out monetary loans.

This proposal is not radical. It is forward looking and should be implemented at the first possible moment. Qualified young people of today should not be burdened with financial problems during the vital university period. Athletes, for example, who automatically spend a lot of time pursuing their sporting interests should not have to be looking for dubious athletic scholarships in The United States or Canada. Under-the-table help to athletes by non-related alumni should be monitored and exposed.

Provincial governments, universities, foundations, alumni and business should commit at this time to create an ideal situation for all qualified people to obtain full benefit from the university experience.

All students should have the opportunity while at Western to take part in healthful, educational and recreational sport and physical activity. This is a right way.

The “administration” does not directly fund extramural sport, intramural sport, or physical recreation at Western. In fact, most indirect-cost funding is gone as well. Hence, student fees fund varsity sport and intramu- ral sport (physically, realistically). The percentage of students’ athletic fees that go to which of these programs has varied over the years and is subject to ongoing debate.

Western should continue its tradition of excellence in interuniversity sport, but it must be careful to do it in a manner that is fair to all students. Western was previously able to field as many as 42 interuniversity sports (21 for men and 21 for women); the financial situation has changed. Although some sports have a stronger “tradition” than others at Western, every effort should be made to be as fair as possible when it comes to division of the money derived from fees paid by all students.

The majority of Ontario universities voted to follow a sort of American “Ivy-League approach” in respect to the offering of scholarships and other inducements to athletes who play in the “visibility sports.” However, this is not desirable, nor should it be necessary if ALL needy students are helped to finance their university education.

Athletic scholarships plus under-the-table funding from alumni and business interests in the overly commercialized intercollegiate athletic programs in the United States have made a mockery of the higher-education process there. Canada should studi- ously avoid following a similar route. Fortunately, the gate-receipt issue has not “befallen” the Canadian scene. (We can’t afford such gargantuan stadials!)

In summary, qualified students who earn their degrees successfully, should be able to do so without undue hardship and should not end up with a large debt.

Similarly, all students should have an opportunity for a wholesome physical activity educational and recre- ational experience even though at present such is not considered worth-while for provincial funding.

Finally, working together, we in Canada should be able to do it in the right way.

Earle F. Zeigler served as a professor and department head of physical education at the University of Western Ontario from 1949-56, and then again as professor from 1971-1989 (dean of faculty from 1972-77).

Bad times don’t allow big pictures

By Jason Winders

Understand the outrage. I don’t agree with it. But I understand it.

If you look at global trends, you can see where this Us. vs. Them mentality has developed. People see the pie getting smaller and smaller, and wonder if there will be enough pieces to go around. So our natural propensity to share, as Canadians, as humans, fades.

Now, this isn’t a uniquely Canadian problem. Your neighbours to the south, my countrymen, are experiencing it. So too, are our cousins across the pond and around the globe.

We’re finding out bad times don’t lead to big pictures.

So when Premier Dalton McGuinty announced 75 new PhD scholarships reserved for international students, you expected pushback. Maybe not to the level where some opponents would have us believe he was ceding the entire University of Western Ontario campus to the United Nations. But you expected some.

Much of the uproar was political wrangling. Other, however, was genuine fear generated by the uncertainty surrounding, well, almost everything. Some folks looked at this plan and saw opportunity being taken away from their kids.

We know that is not true. These scholarships are a smart play, ones key to positioning this country to compete in a flattened global marketplace. They don’t cost one Ontario student one seat as plans are to open up even more opportu- nity to provincial students.

But sometimes facts don’t matter. McGuinty’s failure was in communication – policy, but of specifics.

In this province, our families and students are strapped. In addition to failing to adequately sell the international scholarship, what annoys me is McGuinty’s refusal to roll out only days later? A doubling of hydro bills.

The extending of assistance to international students came without offering something to provincial students. From a policy standpoint, that makes complete sense. We’re talking about two separate issues. However, from a kitchen table standpoint, the message gets mixed up.

Sure, every decision – governmental, professional or personal – is run through an individual economic filter: “Is this good for me and my family?” In the United States, it shamed the absence of power to government in Great Britain, thousands protested a government plan to double, even triple, university fees by 2012.

Perhaps we’ll avoid those pressures here. But I wouldn’t bet on it.

According to a recent Pew Research Centre study, the class of 2008 borrowed 50 per cent more to fund its education than those who graduated 12 years earlier. The number of undergraduates borrowing rose from 52 per cent (1996) to 60 per cent (2008). Similarly, the average undergraduate loan increased from $17,000 (1996) to $23,000 (2008).

In Canada alone, student debt sits at $13.6 billion. And counting.

Now look at those numbers in combination with debts racked up outside the university’s purview. According to a Sallie Mae study (2009), 20 per cent of North American college students owe at least $7,000 in credit card debt. The average debt sits somewhere around $2,000. Today, our graduates are leaving school with 41 per cent more credit card debt than just four years ago.

Combine this debt with a shrinking job market, lingering Baby Boomers clogging the system and a newfound faith in government austerity, it’s no wonder people are scared.

We’re minting a generation of highly educated, innova- tive workers in nowhere to be found.

This university has ambitious plans, many of them quite exciting. However until things improve across the province, country and globe, if they ever do, we need to heed the lessons of the last few weeks.

McGuinty took a beating because he failed to over- communicate the importance of these scholarships.

We cannot stop doing what needs to be done. But we must explain it in a context people can relate to their lives. Only then will it pass through that filter and get the buy-in truly innovative plans, like the ones we have on the table, need to succeed.
Changing of the guard changes outlook

By Janis Wallace

Picture the pomp and ceremony of Parliament Hill with thousands of tourists watching the colour guard march past. Now picture yourself in the middle of it, banging a bass drum to keep everyone in step. Can there be a better place to be a part of the country’s pageantry?

For second-year Don Wright Faculty of Music student Cameron Beare, that picture is a reality after spending this past summer playing snare and bass drum – in full dress uniform – as part of the regimental band for the Changing the Guard ceremony.

The 50-year-old ritual is based on one at Buckingham Palace. Members of the guard, including the ‘new’ guard, ‘old’ guard and band, march to Parliament Hill each morning in a colourful parade.

To join that group, Beare tried out when auditions were held at The University of Western Ontario. While he was interested in getting paid to play, there was a deeper motivation.

“My whole family is military,” he says. “My father is in Afghanistan; he’s a major general there. My brother is in the reserve. My sister is at Royal Military College to become an artillery officer.”

Being able to play percussion was only the first step. After Beare passed the audition, he had to undergo basic training.

“Boot camp was the most interesting part,” he says. “It was a lot of fitness, weapon care, dress and deportment. It was very different from being taught as a musician, where they try to teach through empathy and understanding. The military is not so much what, but how you deal with the stress. You do remedial drill for punishment. Coming away from basic training, I thought I’d never be stressed by school stuff again. Musicians are not always the most fit.”

Also foreign to most musicians are the 5:30 a.m. wake-up calls and inspections.

“It’s very different from university,” Beare admits. “You learn to keep up and deal with situations that are out of your control. It’s combat so you learn to react. I got really efficient at it after a while.”

Beare was surprised by the number of people who came to watch the parades. “There were 500-2,000 people Monday to Sunday on the hill. I didn’t expect that. It was a cool feeling.”

Not so cool, though, were the heavy uniform and bearskin hat he was required to wear in the hot Ottawa weather. Fainting was not uncommon among guard members.

“I didn’t go down,” Beare laughs, “but I had a lot of ‘bear bite’ – a temporary migraine caused by the rim of the headwear.”

The highlight of the summer had to be Canada Day, when Beare played for Queen Elizabeth. “We played God Save the Queen as she arrived in the country, with jets flying overhead and artillery firing,” he says. “It was the most intense moment of my musical life.”

However, the summer wasn’t all about music. Training also continued throughout the weeks in Ottawa with a Battle Fitness Test awaiting the end of summer. It included such activities as a casualty drag and trench dig, as well as physical fitness tests.

Beare is in the music education program at Western, planning to become a music teacher after graduation. But there are several things he learned this summer he’s already applying.

“Don’t sweat the small stuff. When things are going crazy at school, I think back to basic training and how I was able to shrug it off and charge ahead. And being physically active,” he says. “It’s exhilarating marching through a crowd. You have more responsibility than just playing music. You are representing people who are risking their lives daily.”

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When you think of a doctor making house calls, the celebrated image of a Norman Rockwell painting likely comes to mind. But for Mike Peterson, it's simply what he does.

"I do house calls because I had a patient who had had a stroke and I saw her outside in a snowstorm walking with her walker to my office. That was enough to get things started," says Peterson, who set up practice in Lucan, just north of London, after completing his residency at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry in 2008.

While most of the house calls are to a seniors building where a lot of his elderly patients live, he has dropped in on patients in Lucan and London as well. "So far, it has been mostly the frail elderly who I don't want taking risks to get to my office, but any one who really needs a house call I will do it. Seeing me shouldn't put them at additional risk," he says.

"Many patients don't have anyone who can drive them, and I see some of those, too. "It's worth it though because you know you are helping people when it would be difficult to access that care any other way."

For the Niagara-born Peterson, he knew when he began medical school at the University of Ottawa he would become a family physician. It was simply a matter of where.

While financial incentives from communities across Ontario were part of the decision process, there was a bigger incentive for Peterson to follow. "Family practice was always key in my mind. I wanted to work where there was the greatest need," he says. "I did want some place that had a financial incentive, but even more important than that was the opportunity to get to a doctor, because they wouldn't have had one and been in real trouble. And I never screened; I accepted everyone. I would encourage any doctor starting a practice to accept everyone and not to screen because you get to help people, plus you get to see a variety of people."

Along with the house calls, which Peterson does not charge for, he also finds himself drawing blood at a patient's home, alleviating the $25 fee labs charge for this service, which some cannot afford.

"I kept accepting as long as possible, for a year and a half. The reason I kept accepting that long was because I wanted to accept all of Dr. (Ernest) Anderson's patients," says Peterson. Anderson was a family doctor in Lucan for more than 40 years before his retirement. He is now a patient of Peterson.

"I wanted to make sure all his patients had the opportunity to get a doctor, because they wouldn't have had one and been in real trouble. And I never screened; I accepted everyone. I would encourage any doctor starting a practice to accept everyone and not to screen because you get to help people, plus you get to see a variety of people."

"This is where I'm going to be. This is where I'm going to be forever," Peterson says. "If I left here, all these people wouldn't have a doctor. You get to know these people well as a specialist. You get to know them well as a family doctor in a city. But I think as a rural family doctor you get to know people very closely. You get to know their families. It's a relationship with the whole family. It's a community and you know everyone is related, you know these relationships and it's very interesting. You wouldn't get that much in a city."

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Emmy Award-winning comedy writer and producer Tim Long, best known for his work on The Simpsons, shared his comedic thoughts as guest speaker for a Faculty of Arts and Humanities humour writing class Monday afternoon. The Exeter native offered some behind-the-scenes stories about the 12 years he has spent with The Simpsons, along with his previous work on Politically Incorrect and The Late Show with David Letterman.
Journalist closing the case on Pickton

BY HEATHER TRAVIS

Steve Cameron saw it as the “assignment of a lifetime.” Better known for her investigative reporting uncovering Parliament Hill scandals, Cameron turned away from white-collar crime to write a book on serial killer Robert Pickton and the missing women of Vancouver.

“I’m a reporter. This was the best story of my life,” says Cameron, who will be sharing her experience today (Nov. 25) at The University of Western Ontario as the guest speaker of the Clissold Lecture in Journalism.

The free event begins at 5 p.m. in University College, Room 224 (Conron Hall). Her talk, “Covering the Pickton Case: Horror, Heartbreak and the Assignment of a Lifetime,” will discuss the challenges and highlights of her multi-year investigation.

She is the author of On the Take, The Last Amigo, The Pickton File and, most recently, On the Farm: The Last Amigo, The Pickton File. Cameron no longer has intentions of interviewing Pickton. “I don’t want to know any more about that man,” she says. “I would like to interview him if he would admit to the killings of the other women.”

Having spent several years inside the head of a serial killer, Cameron no longer has intentions of interviewing Pickton. “I don’t want to know any more about that man,” she says. “I would like to interview him if he would admit to the killings of the other women.”

It was a heartbreaking and horrific case to follow, but Cameron saw it as a new challenge. “It was extremely emotional and also extremely interesting. We were all fascinated by it,” she says. “You don’t get a chance like this very often.”

Dr. Terry Robinson
Department of Behavioural Neuroscience
University of Michigan

"Drugs, dopamine & desire: Individual variation in the ability to resist reward cues."

Monday, November 29th, 2010
11:30 a.m.
Robarts Research Institute, 2nd Floor
Fisher Scientific Conference Room

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11
HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

The Honorary Degrees Committee of the Senate will meet in January 2011 to select candidates for honorary degrees to be awarded at Western's 2011 Spring Convocation. To ensure that consideration is given to as many worthy candidates as possible, the Committee invites the submission of nominations from any member of the University Community.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the following website:

Nominations should be submitted to the Secretary of the Senate prior to December 20, 2010, for consideration by the Honorary Degrees Committee.

Looking for the right fit

More than 10,600 prospective students, family and friends got a taste of what it means to be a University of Western Ontario student during Fall Preview Day on Nov. 20. It was the largest fall open house event in Western's history, attracting three per cent more people to campus than last year.

Curious high school students walked the halls and filled the lecture theatre seats to learn more about what Western's faculties, residences and student services have to offer. Bus and walking tours, as well as special presentations and question and answer periods with current students, faculty and staff showed prospective students what makes Western unique.
SSHRC Internal Research

These awards, made from funds provided annually by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, are to support the cost of research initiatives in disciplines normally supported by SSHRC and are intended for research projects of modest scope. The competitions are for seed money, one-time requests, and projects of short duration. Applications may be made for new research initiatives. Requests for funds to supplement existing operating or research grants, to augment funds for larger projects (funded or applied for), or to attend conferences generally will not be accepted.

Grant Amount: Up to $7,000

Deadlines:
- Dean’s Deadline: February 1
- RD&S Deadline: February 15

SSHRC Internal Conference Travel

These awards, made from funds provided annually by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, are to enable faculty to take part in research-rated meetings of major scholarly significance in disciplines normally supported by SSHRC. The program will fund participation in both regular international congresses and more narrowly focused conferences and seminars which take place more than (500 kilometers) from London, Ontario. Applicants must be presenting a paper.

Grant Amount: Up to $7,000 for Travel and Subsistence

Deadlines:
- Dean’s Deadline: February 1
- RD&S Deadline: February 15

To see “What’s Happening in RD&S” and for more program information, please visit: http://www.uwo.ca/research/.

Contact:
Florence Lourdes
Internal Grants Coordinator
Research Development & Services
Room 5150, Support Services Building
internalgrants@uwo.ca 519.661.2111 x84500

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In life, as in law, the play's the thing

By Alix Matthews-Mahé

Ever since he was a child, Mohamed Khimji wanted to be an actor. “Acting is actually experiencing trying to be another person,” he says. “It's challenging empathizing with someone who's not you.” But Khimji left dreams of the stage behind. Instead, he went into law and now teaches in the Faculty of Law at The University of Western Ontario. That doesn’t mean he’s left all his flair for the showmanship behind. "I try to get (the students) engaged and keep them engaged,” he says.

Before coming to Western in January, Khimji taught upper-level courses in corporate law at Dalhousie University for more than five years. He specializes in legal risks in international financial markets, corporate law and commercial transactions.

“I find it intellectually challenging,” he says. “There’s a lot of opportunity for intellectual debate and good research.”

This year, Khimji is working on a project funded by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) dealing with separate legal personality and limited liability in Canadian corporate law. In other words, the research focuses on the people behind a corporation in a legal case, as opposed to treating the corporation as a separate entity.

Khimji was drawn to Western by the intellectual stimulus provided by the leading business law researchers who give talks at the university. Western’s emphasis on business law and the opportunities for collaboration with other law faculty members and with the Richard Ivey School of Business also appealed to him.

Khimji, who grew up in Tanzania, then moved to England after high school, earned a bachelor of laws from the University of Bristol and a master’s degree from the London School of Economics. Family living in Toronto drew him to Canada.

Before starting his teaching career, Khimji worked in corporate law at Turys LLP in Toronto. He eventually wanted to move away from the client-driven aspect of legal practice and enter the academic world. “Academia gives you something that legal practice doesn’t, and that’s intellectual independence,” he says.

Independent thought is something Khimji passes on to the students in his classes. “I think that he has a really unique teaching style because he doesn’t just spoon-feed you the answers; he challenges you to have to come to conclusions yourself,” says third-year law student Jennifer Organ.

She took one of Khimji’s corporate law courses in the winter term of 2010 and is now working with him on the SSHRC project. Organ wasn’t surprised when she found out her professor once wanted to become an actor. “I can see that because in class he’s very much performs,” she says.

Organ could also see Khimji as a musician because he often covers his love of music in class. Fact patterns — or the facts of a legal case — on exams always include the names of bands, she says.

Khimji admits he’s a bit of an indie music fan. On his office wall, a concert poster reminds him of one of the best nights of his life. In April, Khimji had gone to Las Vegas to see Camera Obscura — one of his favourite bands. The band’s tour bus just happened to be parked outside the hotel where he was staying and he was able to meet the band and its lead singer, Traceyanne Campbell.

Khimji enjoys going to concerts and even says he has the “indie look.” On a typical day at work, he wears a T-shirt, a cardigan, skinny jeans and sneakers.

Although he has interests in acting and music, he wouldn’t want to do anything else. He says it’s a privilege to work in a university. “I just want to continue doing what I’m doing right now. I find that there’s never enough time to do everything you want to do anyway,” he says.

Did you know?

Mohamed Khimji...

... speaks Kutchi and Swahili.

... loves the television series Mad Men.

... enjoys playing tennis.

... remembers all the details of the first Liverpool football game he watched when he was 10 years old. The poster on his office door reinforces the fact that he’s a big fan.
COMING EVENTS

November 25
Writing Support Centre Workshop - Punctuation Primer. WSS Room 3034. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing 12-30 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Hodie. Les Choix de Noël and Chansons de Noël program. Paul Davenport Theatre. 7:30 p.m.

Physics & Astronomy Colloquium - Eduard Vorobyov, Research Institute of Physics, Southern Federal University, Russia. "Embedded protostellar disks around (sub-) solar stars. The Dark Ages of disk evolution and the planet formation perspective" Chemistry Rm. 9:15 p.m.

Migration & Ethnic Relations Colloquium - Neil Bradford, Dept. of Political Science, Human University College, Western. "Ontario’s Local Immigration Partnership: Renewing Multiculturalism from Below?" SSC 5220. 4 - 5:30 p.m. Join us for refreshments beforehand at 3:30 p.m. SSC 5220. (Website for more info: http://www.ssc.uwo.ca/NEER/MEP/Programs/Upcoming_Bradford.aspx).

The 2010 Annual Classō Lecture in Journalism - Steve Cameron, one of Canada’s leading investigative journalists. Covering the Picket Case: Horror, Heartbreak and the Assignment of a Lifetime. University College 224, Conron Hall. 7 p.m. Please send submissions to comingevents@uwo.ca.

November 26
Don Wright Faculty of Music - A Century in Paris. Works by Debussy, Poulenc, Dutilleux and Farrokhnejad. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Light of Lights. The UWO Symphony Orchestra presents Copland’s Appalachian Spring, Arens’s Bassoon Concertos with soloist Eric Mohr and Beethoven’s Symphony No. 7. 7 p.m. Admission free to UWO seniors and students.

November 29
Graduate Program in Neuroscience Seminar - Terry Robinson, Department of Behavioural Neuroscience, University of Michigan. "Drugs, dopamine & desire: Individual variation in the ability to resist reward cues" Roberts Research Institute, Fisher Scientific Conference Room. 11:30 a.m.

Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering Student Seminars - Hadi Mahdavi, "Mechanical Characterization of One-dimensional Nanomaterials" 1:30 p.m. Mehdi Farrokhnejad, "Prediction of Local Mechanical Properties of MesoCelling" 1:55 p.m. Spencer Engineering Building, Room 1059.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Symphonic Band. Paul Davenport Theatre. 12:30 p.m.

King’s University College - Prayer with Songs of Taizé. Christ the King Chapel. 7 p.m.

Department of Physiology and Pharmacology - Vanija Prado and Moshmi Bhattacharya – Physiology and Pharmacology, Western. "Lab Reports" DS8, Room 2016. All welcome. 4 p.m.

November 30
Senior Alumni Program - Steve Baker, President and CEO, London International Airport. “Come Fly With Me” McKellar Room, UCC. 9:30 - 11 a.m.


Writing Support Centre Workshop - Technical Writing. WSS Room 3034. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing 13:00 - 2:30 p.m.

December 1
Toastmaster’s Campus Communicators - Build your confidence in public speaking. Meets every Wednesday at UCC 1478 unless noted otherwise on website: ccm.freehosting.info/.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Symphony Band. Paul Davenport Theatre. 12:30 p.m.

Writing Support Centre Workshop - Referencing Your Paper. WSS Room 3034. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing 13:00 - 2:30 p.m.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures presents “La Tertulia” Spanish Conversation Group. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. UCC 117. Teruel@uwo.ca.

Please send submissions to comingevents@uwo.ca.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

Send submissions to comingevents@uwo.ca. This column features conferences based at Western or in London for a student, staff, or academic audience.

We hope you have a great winter and a happy holiday season! We’ll see you in January!

Carol DiPietro, Manager, Books Plus

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EDITING / PROOFREADING

RESEARCH STUDY
Quality of life of people with chronic illness
The goal of this study is to find out what you think about the quality of life of people who are experiencing a specific health issue - Prostate Cancer. Are you 55 years or older? You don't have to have Prostate Cancer to participate. For more information please call Dr. Grawdy-Sridhar's research program at 519-665-8500, extension 6494.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
St. Luke's (Brompton) A.C.W. 1204 Richmond Street N at Bernard (just north of the University gates). Old Fashioned Christmas Bazaar & Silent Auction. 12 - 3 p.m. Baking, homemade preserves, pies, cakes etc. Books, treasures, jewelry, crafts etc. Tea room (for a small fee) chili lunch available

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WESTERN NEWS

ADVERTISING
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COMING EVENTS
Seminars, sporting events, lectures and cultural events for the coming week. Send submissions at least two weeks in advance to events@uwo.ca. Events may also be posted on the online events calendar at uwo.ca.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR
Scholarly conferences at Western or in London. See www.uwo.ca.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Offer praise, criticism or a fresh take on the news, or any aspect of campus life. Up to 300 words. Please submit online at uwo.ca.

OPINIONS
Western News welcomes Viewpoint articles of 600 words. Offer your perspective on campus and post-secondary issues. Send submissions or find out more at newseditor@uwo.ca.

PUBLIC SPACE
Tell campus neighbours what's new in your department in 500 words or fewer: newseditor@uwo.ca.

STUDENT SERVICES BULLETIN
Last day to drop - November 30
Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course (On-Campus Day, Evening and Distance Studies) without academic penalty.

APPLY TO GRADUATE
Online application is now open for the February 2011 i-abortina convocation. The deadline to apply is Jan. 22. Online application opens for the June 2011 convocation on Feb. 2 and closes on March 15. There is no ceremony for February and all graduate names will appear in the June convocation programs. Tickets for the June convocation will be released starting the end of May.

STUDENT CENTRAL
Student Central is located in room 1102 of the NEB. The Student Services building attached to the UCC. Our regular office hours are now in effect. For more information about hours of operation please visit: www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm/general_information/student_central. Hours are also posted at our location.

UPCOMING FAIRS
All-Campus Job Fair
Date: Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011
Location: Western Student Recreation Centre (WSC)
Fair hours: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
For more information, visit success.uwo.ca/index.cfm/careers

STUDENTS
Mid-Year Examinations
The mid-year examination period is December 10th to the 21st. The end of term is December 22nd and students are advised not to book a flight until after this date. The preliminary examination schedule is available at https://studentservices.uwo.ca/exams/11/.

FOR more information, visit success.uwo.ca/index.cfm/careers

ACADEME

PHI LECTURES
Craig Chapman, Psychology, Mental Blocks: The Behavioural Effects and Neural Encoding of Blockades when Reaching and Grasping, Nov. 26, UCC 37, 7 p.m.

Huangling Wang, Business Administration, Employment of Returnees and the Performance of Multinational Subsidiaries in China, Nov. 29, Ivey 1100, 9 a.m.

Thomas A. Steffler, English, The Pre-Raphaelite Body in the Poems of Morris and Swinburne, Nov. 29, N/A.

FACULTY & STAFF
Jessica Polzer (Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research and Faculty of Health Sciences) presented two papers at the Second Biennial Bilingual Conference of the Canadian Society for the Sociology of Health in October. The first paper, "You’re your body but … Young women’s negotiations of risk and responsible citizenship in relation to decision concerning HIV vaccination," was co-authored by Francesca Manso, an MSc candidate in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The second paper, "What’s in a number? Risk statistics, global biopolitics and lives worth saving in Canadian newspaper discourses on HIV vaccination" was co-authored by Susan Knabe (Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research and Faculty of Information & Media Studies).

Janice Forsyth, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences and Director of the International Centre for Olympic Studies, presented a paper at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS) in San Diego, California in November 2010. The paper titled, "Another ‘drive-by’ awards ceremony: Hockey and the Olympic Spirit," was co-authored with Michael Heine, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences and Dr. Audrey Giles, School of Human Kinetics, University of Ottawa.

Douglas Gerber, Professor Emeritus of Classical Studies, presented an invited paper "Artists of Venus in Greek Lyric Poetry" on Nov. 8, 2010 at the "V Symposium de Estudios Clasicos de la Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brazil."

APPOINTMENTS
Professor David W. Holdsworth has been extended as the Dr. Sandy Kirkley Chair in Musculoskeletal Research in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Nov. 1, 2010- June 30, 2011.

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TEACHING
Faculty & Staff
Habiba Keshavjee, School of Human Kinetics, Faculty of Health Sciences and Director of the Interprofessional Education Program, presented a paper "Exercise and obesity prevention" at the November 2010 conference "Physical Activity for Young Children: An Integrated Approach." The paper was co-authored with Dr. Michael Heine, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences and Dr. Audrey Giles, School of Human Kinetics, University of Ottawa.

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