Professor imprisoned following blockade breach attempt

BY HEATHER TRAVIS

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN Ontario professor David Heap is among three Canadians detained by Israeli troops following a confrontation aboard a Canadian ship trying to break the naval blockade of Gaza.

Heap, who teaches in the Department of French Studies, was aboard the ship Tahrir, chartered in Turkey, attempting to carry medical aid to Gaza. The group, Canadian Boat to Gaza, reported on Nov. 4 the Israeli navy intercepted the ship bound for Gaza. The passengers were taken to the Israeli port of Ashdod and the trio placed in Israeli detention.

According to a news release by Canadian Boat to Gaza, Heap remains imprisoned for refusing to sign a waiver stating they voluntarily entered Israel. It was reported Tuesday Karen DeVito, of Vancouver, was the first Canadian to be released from prison.

“I write to you from cell 9, block 59, Givon Prison near Ramla in Occupied Palestine. Although I was tasered during the assault on the Tahrir, and bruised during forcible removal dockside (I am limping slightly as a result), I am basically ok,” Heap writes in a letter to family and friends he smuggled out of prison with a lawyer.

Heap says he was transported in handcuffs and leg shackles. The goal of Heap and fellow activists was to fight against Israel’s blockade of Gaza in a peaceful and nonviolent manner. The blockade restricts materials going in and out Gaza, which denies Palestinians the ability to trade with the world, they argue.

Heap was also a delegate aboard the Tahrir in July, which failed in attempt to reach the blockaded Palestinian territory.

Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada warns Canadians the security situation along the coast of Gaza remains dangerous and volatile. In May 2010, an attempt to breach the blockade along the coast of Gaza was intercepted by Israeli forces and resulted in death, injury, arrest and deportation, the ministry reports.

In a statement on its website, the federal ministry cautions: “Canadians participating in any attempt to break the naval blockade will be arrested and deported.”

Canadian Boat to Gaza is asking the Canadian government to take action to secure release of the passengers and is putting pressure on Israeli to release the detainees.

“We don’t have any word about what’s happening with them or when they are going to be released,” Wendy Goldsmith, member of the steering committee for Canadian Boat to Gaza, said during a phone interview Tuesday. “I think it is outrageous Canadian citizens were kidnapped in international waters and they’re in an Israeli prison being denied basic rights.”

Marjorie Ratcliffe, associate professor in Spanish at Western, is part of Heap’s local support group and is concerned about her friend and colleague’s situation.

“I have known David since he was a boy,” Ratcliffe says. “I knew his parents and I know his sons. I admire him greatly for the selfless sacrifice he is making in defense of his ideal of a peaceful world where we are all free to live productive lives.”

While details about her friend’s state have been limited, Ratcliffe is hoping the Canadian government will work to allow Heap to return to Canada.

As she waits to hear of Heap’s status, Ratcliffe continues to support his family and is hoping for a quick and safe return of her friend. “We are basically there to back him up should he need us or should his family need support during this stressful time, before he left and when he gets back.”
**Coming Events**

**10 // THURSDAY**

**Don Wright Faculty of Music**
The Chamber Orchestra plumbs the depths of the romantic soul with music of Richard Strauss, Samuel Barber, Mozart and Wagner. Soloist is violinist Zachary Peterson. von Kuster Hall. 12:30 p.m.

**Physics & Astronomy Colloquium**
Rupali Chandar, Physics & Astronomy Department, University of Toledo “The Life Cycle of Star Clusters.” Physics & Astronomy Room 22. 1:30 p.m.

**Writing Support Centre Workshop**
Writing a Thesis Statement. WSS Room 3134. Register at: sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

**Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations Colloquium**

**Green Tours**
Facilities Management and EnviroWest have teamed up to provide tours at four of Western’s top performing buildings. The free tour starts at McIntosh Gallery, travels to Stevenson Hall and through the campus’ underground tunnels to Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion and end at key. Sign-up at: uwo.ca/rep/greentours/index.html. 5 – 7 p.m.

**Department of English**
“The Revenger’s Tragedy.” Tickets: $15 adults / $10 students and seniors. Tickets available at the door or at Infosource. For information contact Joanna Devereux at j.devereux@uwo.ca. Conron Hall, University College. Room 224. 8 p.m. Performances also on Nov. 11 and 12 at 8 p.m.

**11 // FRIDAY**

**Western Remembrance Day**
Begin at 10:30 a.m. in the UCC lounge. Includes presentations from the UWO Choir, past and present Western students who are or were in the Canadian Forces, and a student describing his life with a father in the military. This theme is sacrifice, and all speakers are focusing their words around the sacrifices they’ve personally made. Also selling awareness bracelets that say Western Remembers for $2 in the UCC starting a week before the ceremony.

**Huron University College Remembrance Day Ceremonies**
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the Walter Brown Communion Kit. 8:30 a.m. Act of Remembrance and laying of the Wreath in Huron College Chapel, 10:50 a.m. All Members of the University Community are welcome to attend both ceremonies.

**King’s University College**
We will gather at the flagpoles in front of the Wempile Building at King’s University College. Travels to Stevenson Hall and through the campus’ underground tunnels to Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion and end at key. Sign-up at: uwo.ca/rep/greentours/index.html. 5 – 7 p.m.

**Don Wright Faculty of Music**
This year’s Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition winner soprano Erica Iris Huang von Kuster Hall. 12:30 p.m.

**Women’s Basketball**
York at Western. 6 p.m.

**12 // SATURDAY**

**Women’s Basketball**
Laurentian at Western. 6 p.m.

**Men’s Basketball**
Laurentian at Western. 8 p.m.

**Men’s Hockey**
Laurier at Western. 7:30 p.m.

**Men’s Football – Yates Cup – OUAI Final**
McMaster at Western. 1 p.m.

**14 // MONDAY**

**GradWrite Workshops**
Making your Own Bed: Editing and Proofreading. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 1 p.m.

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

**Green Tours**
Facilities Management and EnviroWest have teamed up to provide tours at four of Western’s top performing buildings. The free tour starts at McIntosh Gallery, travels to Stevenson Hall and through the campus’ underground tunnels to Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion and end at key. Sign-up at: uwo.ca/rep/greentours/index.html. 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

**Department of Physiology and Pharmacology Seminar**
Wei-Yang Lu and Dean Betts, Western. “Lab Reports.” DBS, Room 2016. 4 p.m. Everyone welcome. Refreshments.

**The Chinese Program at Huron University College**
Tea and Conversation. Anyone wishing to speak Chinese and meet people who study Chinese at Huron is welcome. 5:30 – 6:20 p.m. Mondays. International Lounge, Huron. E-mail hwul@huron.uwo.ca.

**15 // TUESDAY**

**Senior Alumni Program**
John Reed, Faculty of Information and Media Studies, Western. “Are You Connected?” Social movements and social media. McKellar Room, UCC. 9:30 a.m.

**2nd Annual Diabetes Research Day**
Maria B. Grant, Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Florida, Gainesville, Dept. of Ophthalmology, University of Florida, Jacksonville. St. Joseph’s Hospi-
tal, Shuttleworth Auditorium. 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Visit schulich.uwo.ca/research

**Writing Support Centre Workshop**
Writing in the Social Sciences. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**16 // WEDNESDAY**

**Diabetes Update 2011**
David Kendall, American Diabetes Association. “Preventing Outcomes and Preserving Health in People with Type 1 Diabetes: How Far Have We Come?” Best Western Lymphsplitter Inn, 511 Wel-lington Rd London. 8 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.

**Toastmaster’s Campus Communicators**
Build your confidence in public speaking. Meets every Wednesday 12:11 p.m. in the UCC – check the website for specific room: cmtn-freeeruhost.info/. Con-tact Donna Moore, dmcrea@uwo.ca or 85199.

**Don Wright Faculty of Music**
UWO Singers Faure’s Requiem, an uplifting and joyous interpretation of the mass of the dead. The composers and his want-ed to write something different from the usual pain and sorrow, something more about happiness and deliverance. von Kuster Hall. 12:30 p.m.

**GradWrite Workshops**
Be Good to your Colon: Punctuation. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 12:30 p.m.

**GradWrite Workshops**
Conquering your Mountain: Writing your Thesis or Dissertation. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**
“La Tartufo,” Spanish Conversation Group. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. UC 117. E-mail tertilu@uwo.ca.

**Western Italian Conversation Club**
Put your Italian into action! Join our group for discussions about Italian food, culture, language, travel, daily life in Italy, and much more! It’s a great way to prac-tise your Italian with other students. All are welcome! Every Wednesday in UC 205. 5 – 7 p.m.

**The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures**
German Film Series. “Die Fälscher” (The Counterfeiters) directed by Stefan Ruzowitzky(2007). All screenings are free and in German with English subtitles. UC 205, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

**Brescia University College**
The Circle Women’s Centre. IWL Talks. Kim Young Miles, Director, IWL Talks. The Circle Women’s Centre for Spiritu-
tuality, Activism and the Earth. Menlo Lounge, 7 p.m.

**Paul Mayne // Western News**

Men’s Basketball
York at Western. 8 p.m.

**12 // SATURDAY**

Women’s Basketball
Laurentian at Western. 6 p.m.

Men’s Basketball
Laurentian at Western. 8 p.m.

Men’s Hockey
Laurier at Western. 7:30 p.m.

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McMaster at Western. 1 p.m.

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GradWrite Workshops
Making your Own Bed: Editing and Proofreading. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 1 p.m.

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Green Tours
Facilities Management and EnviroWest
Research targets brain region affected by Parkinson’s disease

**BY HEATHER TRAVIS**

ONTARIO researchers have unlocked a secret inside the brain which could potentially improve the long-term outlook of those impacted by Parkinson’s disease.

A team of researchers at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry’s Roberta Robinson Institute – which includes researchers Marco and Vania Prado – have demonstrated that the elimination of one of the neurotransmitters in the brain associated with Parkinson’s disease may improve brain function without major adverse effects.

The research was published in the November edition of the prestigious journal *PLoS Biology*.

The Prado team used genetically modified mice, developed at Western, and high-level behavior imaging techniques to study the function of neurons and neurotransmitters in the striatum, the region of the brain affected in Parkinson’s, Huntington’s and high-level behavior/imagery disorders. This region is affected in different diseases, says Marco Prado, who has joint appointments in the Department of Physiology & Pharmacology and Anatomy & Cell Biology at Schulich.

The striatum area of the brain includes researchers Marco and Vania Prado – have demonstrated that the elimination of one of the neurotransmitters in the part of the brain associated with Parkinson’s disease may improve brain function without major adverse effects.

By using state-of-the-art genetic techniques to eliminate the secretion of acetylcholine in mice, the researchers were able to show the neurons that secrete acetylcholine are also responsible for a secondary function. These neurons secrete two different neurotransmitters that can regulate different behaviors depending on the neurotransmitters they secrete. The neurons that secrete acetylcholine also secrete a neurotransmitter called glutamate. Prado and his colleagues found they could get rid of acetylcholine secretion without disturbing brain function.

Marco Prado says the next steps will be to eliminate acetylcholine secretion in Parkinson’s disease mouse models to see if there are improvements in the motor symptoms.

“The hope is to produce a drug to block acetylcholine release in the striatum. If their suspicions are correct, this should help in Parkinson’s disease by blocking the activity of these neurons without having any other negative effects on brain function.”

The research was funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Research Fund. The research team also included Monica Guzman, Xavier De Jaeger, Sandra Raulic, Ivana Souza, Alex Li, Susanne Schmid, Ravi Menon and Robert Bartha from Western; Marc Caron from Duke University Medical Center; and Raul Gainetdinov from the Italian Institute of Technology.

**RICHARD BARThA FROM WESTERN; MARC PRADO; JAVIER CARON FROM DUCe UNIVERSITY MEDICaL CENTER; AND RAUL GAINETDIvOv FROM THE ITALIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**HAVE AN EVENT?**

**HEATHER TRAVIS // WESTERN NEWS**
Letters to the Editor

// Demands for Canadian action on detainment

We support Tahrir (Arabic word for ‘freedom’), The Canadian Boat to Gaza’s mission and call on the Canadian government to protect the Canadians, including David Heap, University of Western Ontario professor, who were on board Tahrir.

Professor Heap has courageously stood by his principles in his advocacy for peace and justice in the Middle East.

Standing up against injustice and taking a principled position are qualities which we should admire in professors who teach in universities across Canada. We are proud to support Heap, a member of our community and ask that his rights be protected.

Israel should be held accountable to respect international law and restrain itself from the use of force.

It is Canada’s obligation to ensure the safety of its own citizens who were on board the Tahrir and have been detained by Israeli authorities.

The boat was bringing badly needed medical supplies to Gazans who have been subjected to an Israeli blockade that has been condemned by the international community.

JAMIE HASSAN
RECIPIENT OF GOVERNOR GENERAL'S AWARDS IN VISUAL ARTS

RON BENNER
WESTERN ADVIJCPT PROFESSOR, VISUAL ARTS

// So you think you can fundraise?

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry congratulates its team who went into the 2011 United Way Star Climb (cleverly branded, So You Think You Can Climb?) as the top fundraising team with more than $10,000 raised. Team members included Matt Wannan, back row, second from left, who was London-Middlesex’s top individual fundraiser with more than $3,700 raised.

Something to say? Speak up.

E-mail: newseditor@uwo.ca.

The Way We Were: 1991

In 1999, Western’s Students’ Council initiated one of the first foot patrols at a Canadian university. Co-ordinator Todd Kasenberg said 318 male and 280 female students had volunteered and signed up in 1991. Financially supported by the Western administration and several private donors, the service met with a very positive response. Bob Earle of the University Police said the campus crime rate fell dramatically during the first two years of operation. Above, volunteers Phil Zanotti and Theresa Sedge escort a patron to her residence.
Feeling good about fair trade. So, exactly how fair is that?

NIRAJ DAWAR
Marketing professor, Richard Ivey School of Business

HARDLY A WEEK goes by without yet another milestone for ‘ethically labelled’ products. You know, the products that are labelled ‘Fair Trade,’ ‘Organic,’ ‘Green’ and so on.

A recent study by Fair Trade USA, the leading U.S. certifier of fair trade products, says 10,000 products are now sold with a fair trade certification in the United States, and sales of such products are up 63 per cent in the last quarter. In markets such as the United Kingdom, more than one of every five cups of coffee sold is fair trade labelled.

This is an enduring puzzle for me: Why do people buy fair trade products?

Now before you convince yourself on the scant evidence of that one question that I am cold, heartless, cynic, I want to assure you I am all for helping farmers get a better deal.

But the why question is really two questions: First, perhaps they are unaware of the inefficiency of the system, or unaware of other means of channeling the funds. But there is a second reason, and one that is often ignored: The fair trade label is efficient for the consumer in that it is a by-product of consumption – it does not require any extra thinking or action on the part of the consumer to make a contribution to the greater good.

Recent research suggests consumers buy ethical products not just to contribute to the greater good, they buy them to signal to themselves (and perhaps to others) they are good people.

If this is the motivation, as long as the fair trade is fair and does some good for the farmers, consumers are likely to be OK with it. The relevant measure of efficiency of the program is not whether it gets a good chunk of the money into the hands of the farmer; it is whether it is a low-hassle way for consumers to feel good about themselves.

Perhaps fair trade must be fair first for those paying for it.

Visit Richard Ivey School of Business professor Niraj Dawar’s blog, Just Marketing, at nothingbutmarketing.blogspot.com.
Harness the sun and save money...

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Athlete Profile

Championship wrestling remains a family affair

BY ADAM WIGHTMAN

IT ISN’T HARD for Steven Takahashi to find someone to look up to. His role model is his father, Ray Takahashi, a former Olympic wrestler.

“That’s why I’m in wrestling, really, following my dad’s footsteps. He’s really my inspiration. He’s been my coach, my mentor all this time,” Takahashi says.

At 19, the second-year Western kinesiology student is the captain of the Mustangs’ varsity wrestling team, coached by his father. But dad’s tutelage doesn’t end in the gym.

Wrestling is a conversation carried on at home, even at the dinner table. And after dinner, a wrestling match may break out between the two Takahashi men. But just for practice.

“If you talk to my wife, sometimes we’re wrestling in the kitchen,” Ray Takahashi says. “It’s like talking shop at home. But it’s okay, I think it’s one of the reasons he’s developed.”

And what an aspiring wrestler to talk shop with. Ray Takahashi competed for Canada in two Olympics, once placing fourth, and was inducted into the Canadian Wrestling Hall of Fame in 1991. His shadow may be large, but his son is quickly growing out of it.

In the 2010-11 season, Takahashi won both the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) and Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) wrestling championships for the 54 kg division, clamping the CIS wrestling rookie of the year and OUA’s wrestling MVP.

In December, he will compete at the Canadian Olympic team trials in Winnipeg for the right to represent Canada in May at two international qualifiers for the London Olympics — his dream. “To make an Olympic team is my ultimate goal as a wrestler,” Takahashi says.

Seeded second in the trials for the 55kg division, he isn’t favoured to win. He is, however, younger than the first-place seed, David Tremblay, and Ray Takahashi says he sees his son progressing every month. He hopes his son can do the things he did in his career.

While Takahashi wrestled during his junior school years, it was then only a casual past-time for him. Initially, he thought his athletic career was going to be in gymnastics, which he practiced for 16 hours each week. But he eventually became unsure of his future in the sport.

In Grade 9, I was just finishing up my gymnastics career. I was at a point where I couldn’t get to that next level. I was still at a pretty high level in gymnastics. But I started wrestling on the high school team and I just fell in love with it like that,” he says.

In his first year of high school wrestling, he won the bronze medal at the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations championship. The next year, he won the gold, a feat he repeated in Grade 11 and 12.

But despite leaving gymnastics, Takahashi says the sport prepared him for wrestling. And that makes him even more like his father. Ray Takahashi also never got into wrestling until Grade 9. As a youngster he trained in judo at his father’s Ottawa dojo, a school of martial arts.

When Ray Takahashi started wrestling, he already had the fundamentals, and by 17 he was wrestling in the Montreal Olympics.

Nearly 36 years after his father’s first Olympics, Takahashi has a competitive chance at competing in his own. But for now, he is focused on wrestling for the Mustangs and, in particular, fulfilling his role as captain.

And that, says Ben Spitzke, a 29-year-old teammate, is what makes him better than a great wrestler.

“He’s over there helping someone with a lot less experience than he has. He’s a selfless person,” Spitzke says.

With a good Mustang wrestling squad to lead, Takahashi is determined to help them wrestle their way to first place at the CIS championships in the spring, he says.

“Most importantly, this year, I feel it’s not my own title for the OUA and CIS but the team title. That’s my goal for the varsity wrestling team.”

The 2011 Annual Clissold Lecture in Journalism

Michelle Sheppard

Decade of Fear: Reporting from Terrorism’s Grey Zone

Thursday, November 17

5:00 - 8:00 pm

University College Room 224 (Conran Hall)

Admission FREE, Everyone Welcome

Michelle Sheppard is the award-winning national security reporter for the Toronto Star. Starting at the sentencing of 9-11 in New York City and traveling to the world’s most dangerous places — from wartorn Mogadishu to the streets of Yemen — Sheppard has spent the last 10 years investigating the “war on terror” and its impact on our world.

The Clissold Lecture commemorates the life and work of Edward Clissold (1863-1915), one of London’s most important early editors and journalists. Clissold retired in 1910 as editor of the London (Ontario) Advertiser after 33 years on its staff. The lecture series is made possible by a bequest from Edward Clissold’s grandson, Robert E. Blount.

Mustangs tally six medals at Pan Am Games

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN

Ontario Mustangs and alumni added six medals to Canada’s 119 at the 2011 Pan American Games held in Guadalajara, Mexico on Oct. 14-30.

Three current Western athletes and four alumni represented their country at the Pan Am Games.

Mustangs took home two gold, three silver and one bronze medals in individual and team sports.

The international event, held every four years in the year before the Olympic games, allows athletes to showcase their skills against athletes from 42 nations across North and South America.

Here are the results for the Mustang Pan-Am competitors:

Stephanie Edmonson – Squash – Gold medal in women’s team (with Samantha Cornett and Miranda Ranieri);

Alexandra Bruce – Badminton – Silver in women’s doubles;

Peter McClelland – Rowing – Silver in men’s eight (8+), silver in men’s coxless pair (2);

Steven Takahashi – Wrestling – Bronze in men’s 55kg freestyle;

Jake Armstrong – Swimming – fifth in 100m men’s breaststroke; seventh in 4x100m men’s medley; eighth in 4x100m men’s medley;

Conor Trainer – Rugby – Gold in men’s 7s;

Reid Halpenny – Volleyball – sixth place following a loss to the United States;

For full details on the 2011 Pan/Parapan American Games, visit ontariomesa2011.org.

Environmental health student Jacqueline Rennebohm, a Parapan American Games track athlete, will compete at the upcoming Parapan American Games held Nov. 12-20.
University of Western Ontario wrestler Steven Takahashi won bronze in men's 55kg freestyle wrestling at the 2011 Pan American Games held in Guadalajara, Mexico. At 19, the second-year Western kinesiology student is the captain of the Mustang's varsity wrestling team.
“I think you’ll appreciate that discovering that your friend or relative is able to understand you when you speak to them, and is conscious of what happens around them, is going to have quite a profound impact on both the patient and the family.”

BY PAUL MAYNE

BY USING MORE portable and affordable means, Damian Cruse, a postdoctoral fellow at Western’s Brain and Mind Institute, plans to bring his research to the bedside. And for those locked in a vegetative state, it could mean an opportunity to once again communicate with family and friends.

Through the use of an electroencephalography (EEG) machine, portable enough to fit inside a pair of small suitcases, Cruse says testing can be taken directly to a patient’s bedside which “brings the real possibility that every patient may now be given the opportunity to demonstrate they are aware.”

As lead author for the study of this novel technique, published this week in The Lancet, the world’s leading general medical journal, Cruse says these latest findings have strong implications for family and friends of these patients. It is now considerably easier for them to learn what level of awareness their loved ones might possess.

“I think you’ll appreciate that discovering that your friend or relative is able to understand you when you speak to them, and is conscious of what happens around them, is going to have quite a profound impact on both the patient and the family,” Cruse says.

In 2006, Western neuroscientist Adrian Owen, a colleague of Cruse, demonstrated for the first time some patients in a vegetative state not only may have cognitive thoughts, but also the ability to communicate.

While Owen’s work was revolutionary in terms of patient care, that didn’t mean access and affordability were in line. Up until now, assessments of vegetative patients have used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) which, while a fantastic technique, has a limited availability and high pricetag in Canada.

“It’s also the stress and expense involved in transferring a patient to an appropriate facility,” Cruse says. “The vast majority of these patients don’t reside near a scanner and, as a result of their injuries, it is often completely unfeasible to transport them to a facility where a scanner is housed.”

He adds a large proportion of patients also have metal implants as a result of their injuries, and would be unable to enter in the scanner regardless.

While an fMRI measures the
flow of blood around the brain, an EEG measures electrical signals that come from the neurons in the brain, which can be used to determine which parts of the brain are responsive at particular points in time.

In most EEG set-ups, there is an amplifier or recording unit to which the EEG electrodes are connected, and a laptop to record the brain activity.

For this recent study, Cruse collaborated with colleagues from the Medical Research Council Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit in Cambridge, the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, University of Cambridge and the Coma Science Group, University Hospital of Liège.

They wanted to know if this cheaper method of diagnosis still returned useful and accurate assessments on the state of such patients. If so, the findings would open up access to more and more individuals.

In his previous work, Owen found 17 per cent of the two dozen vegetative patients studied retained a level of awareness, which could not be detected by observing their behavior. Cruse says similar results were found using the EEG technique.

“This EEG task, which we developed, had a group of 16 vegetative patients and we found that 19 per cent of these patients retained this covert level of awareness. Clearly, the proportions are very comparable between the two techniques,” Cruse says.

“It doesn’t mean that all vegetative patients are aware; it is only some,” Owen adds. “But when you think of the number of patients there are around the world in this situation, 17-20 per cent is quite a lot of patients.

“Five years ago, I think it was inconceivable to most of us that we would ever be able to establish that a patient that appeared to be vegetative would actually be conscious. That generated yet another question and that was, ‘Could we make a portable version of this that we can take out and use in the community?’ That’s where we are at now.”

As for further research, this portable and inexpensive technique brings in the real possibility of practical communication with these patients, Cruse says.

“If they are able to understand what we say to them,” he says, “we can develop ways for them to answer us back using their thoughts.”
Community

Western policies echo community anti-bullying pledge

BY ANTHEA ROWE

HOW WILL YOU help end workplace bullying? That’s the question being posed this week by London-area educators, officials, civic leaders and media representatives.

Monday, Nov. 14, marks the beginning of Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week—a community initiative aimed at eradicating abusive behaviour from the schoolyard to the workplace. At 10 a.m., children, teachers and staff at schools throughout the London region will take a pledge to end bullying.

That pledge reflects values Western has actively fostered since 2008, when the university created its Safe Campus Community initiative. Involving such departments as Equity and Human Rights Services (EHRs), the initiative educates and supports all staff, faculty and students on their rights, roles and responsibilities with respect to physical, environmental, emotional and cyber safety.

Since 2006, EHRs has consulted with almost 1,300 members of the university community to address issues such as harassment, discrimination and employment equity. In addition to addressing individual issues, they conduct customized workshops at the request of faculty members, teaching assistants and staff leaders.

And since amendments in June 2010 to the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act, the EHRs team has educated more than 2,700 faculty and staff on the prevention of workplace harassment. Although not formally mentioned in the act, bullying awareness and prevention is a key element of the training.

“Harassment and bullying have subtle but distinct differences,” says Larissa Bartlett, director of equity and human rights services. “A single incident can constitute harassment, even if the person does not intend to offend. Bullying, however, involves repeated incidents over a period of time that are intended to intimidate, offend or humiliate a particular person or group of people.”

The term ‘bullying’ may conjure images of stolen lunch money and playground fistfights, but it is not the sole domain of children. According to the Canada Safety Council, one in six employees in Canada has been bullied, and one in five employees has seen a co-worker bullied.

“While child bullies use fists, adult bullies use words,” Bartlett says. “And we all know psychological and emotional abuse can be even more damaging than physical over the long term.”

In the workplace, bullying can take many forms including: spreading rumours about a person; excluding them from social situations; interfering with their work; belittling their intelligence; blocking their attempts at promotion or training. The list goes on.

And workplace bullying takes its toll in every part of the targets’ lives. They can’t eat or sleep; they lose interest in their work; they experience relationship problems at home; and, generally, they lose their love of life.

Bull’s-eye on bullying

One of your colleagues may be a target of bullying if he/she:

• Complains someone is consistently sabotaging their work/studies;
• Acts paranoid or anxious about someone’s influence on their work;
• Is afraid for their job security or even their personal safety;
• Appears unhappy and expresses feelings of isolation;
• Starts avoiding work or school despite a history of regular attendance; or
• Demonstrates a significant drop in performance.

What You Can Do

• Reach out to the person you believe is the target of bullying and offer your support;
• Contact Equity and Human Rights Services (EHRs) to coordinate training/information workshops;
• Contact EHRs to report harassment that you are experiencing, or
• Take The Pledge to End Bullying ctvnewslondon.ca/thepledge/
Richard Ivey School of Business student Connor Lyons is as one of five Canadian youth embarking on a mission to brand Canada this week at the 2011 APEC Summit in Hawaii.
PhD in Business to Develop Curriculum

Description: To develop the curriculum framework for various Bachelor of Commerce courses in the following specialization areas: Human Resources, Digital Marketing, and Accounting.

The deliverable for each course will be a detailed Course Outline that specifies the following:

- Vocational learning outcomes
- Method(s) of instruction
- A week-by-week outline of topics covered
- Methods and weighting of evaluation of learning
- Description of key assignments, projects, essays, presentations
- Textbook and other resources required and recommended, including key web-based resources

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Western PhD student (media studies) Henry Adam Svec grabs his microphone and field-recording machine for a little inspiration outside his Staging Building office.
Using folklore as his playground

BY PAUL MAYNE

THERE ARE TIMES when Henry Adam Svec is, well, someone else. It's not that the Western PhD student (media studies) is trying to pull the wool over your eyes or, in this case, alter your musical senses; it's more a question of folk music and what it means to be folk artist.

With a strong interest in folklore, Svec set out to explore the world of folk music – its history, beliefs, traditions and customs – which took him across the country to collect and produce an album, Folk Songs of Canada Now.

"Part of this folk songs project came out of a project I had been doing where I was playing banjo as a theatrical medium," Svec says. "I'm interested in folklore. Part of my dissertation is exploring song-collating, but I don't know about the song itself."

The 22 songs Svec recreated for this project will be known to those familiar with the work of Canadian folklorist Edith Fowke. In fact, they're the same ones she gathered and recorded in the 1990s. This time around, however, Svec collaborated with the likes of Laura Barrett, Andrew Penner, Wax Mannequin and others, having them interpret traditional songs any way they liked, with new words and music.

It's not the first time Svec has unleashed his folk-filled imagination. Following the end of his first band – Peter Mansbridge and the CBCs – he expressed his creativity with the release of an album entitled, The Boy from E. T., in which he pre-sold it as a character, "I claim to be a performance artist who has found folklore and he's doing his best, but he doesn't really know the original songs he plays," he says. "All my favourite songwriters are storytellers and not necessarily confessional songs. There's a real tradition in singer-songwriter culture to believe that it is a sincere effort. It's so limited in as far as what stories you can tell. It's not having some kind of narrative device to write about anything, anything can be a folk song. It was kind of liberating to be playing someone who is not writing songs, but finding them."

Listen up.

Download the album, Folk Songs of Canada Now, at folksongsocanadannow.com.

Ivey celebrates Phase One completion

BY JASON WINDERS

THE RICHARD IVEY School of Business celebrated the completion of Phase One of its new $110 million building Monday morning as the sounds of work on Phase Two banged away outside the windows of the building's Grand Hall.

"As you can see, construction continues on the second phase of the building," University of Western Ontario president Amit Chakma said, "but we think it is important to take stock of what we have already accomplished and to thank our governments, without whom, this project would not have been possible."

Currently, 150,000 square feet of the eventual 270,000-square-foot facility sitting on Western Road are complete. The $110 million price tag, adjusted up in June 2011, will deliver a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold-level certified building.

"With our tremendous growth over the years forcing us to disperse our faculty, staff and students across five facilities in London, it became clear to us several years ago that we needed an inspiring, world-class facility that would bring people back together and foster collaboration if we were to continue to attract the best and brightest business leaders and academics to Ontario and to Canada," said Carol Stephenson, Ivey dean. "This new facility allows us to do that."

"It is designed to attract, inspire, build a rich sense of community, reflect Ivey's academic stature, and ensure it continues to compete successfully with business schools around the world."

Among the crowd of 200-plus were several governmental officials – many with Western ties as Chakma proudly pointed out – responsible for the funding. Among those to address the crowd were Ed Holder, MP London West, Joe Preston, MP Elgin-Middlesex London; Chris Bentley, MPP London West, Deb Matthews, MPP for London North Centre; and Joe Fontana, City of London mayor.

Stephenson and Chakma, as well as other speakers, recognized the building as a symbol of Canada's aggressive actions in the face of the 2008 economic downturn.

"We decided the best thing we could do was invest," Matthews said.

Monday's celebration recognized the $50 million in support through the Government of Canada's Knowledge Infrastructure Program and the Ontario Government's 2009 Budget as part of efforts to help modernize facilities and boost long-term research and skills training capacity at provincial colleges and universities.

The $110 million breaks down to $25 million from the federal government, $25 million from the provincial government, $22.5 million from Western and $37.5 million from private donations.

"This is not just a stimulus project," Chakma said. "This goes beyond that. This is stimulus plus investment."
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Staff Profile

Walddie runs into a ‘magical’ experience

BY LESLIE KOSTAL

IT’S 5:30 A.M. and a voice – the Fary Godmother’s voice, in fact – calls out.

“Five. Four. Three. Two. One.” As fireworks light the early-morning sky, 20,000 people – many-dressed in costume – blast off in a timely fashion from separate corals. They’re running in what’s billed as the ‘Happiest Race on Earth.’

It’s Disneyland’s Princess Half Marathon at Walt Disney World in Florida and Rebecca Walddie, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics graduate program assistant, gave it a whirl. She would finish the 13 miles in less than two hours and 40 minutes.

But it wasn’t an easy road for her to get there.

“I wasn’t very athletic as a child,” she says. “I was very clumsy and not very good at sports.”

But concerned about her family’s health history, she joined a gym and simply – or not so simply – got fit. “Oddly enough, it was a random advertisement (for the Princess race) I saw on Facebook,” Walddie says. Her unquestionable love for Disney’s theme parks and wonderful memories of favourite characters caught her attention. And she is now hooked. In addition to her run last February in Florida, she also participated in the Coast-to-Coast Challenge, running at Walt Disneyland in California this past September. She plans to run again in Florida in January 2012.

Although her boyfriend attended both races – running himself in California – she regrets her parents didn’t get to see her finish. “I just wish I could see their faces when I crossed the line,” she says.

Walddie trained on a treadmill, tracking her distance. “It starts with 20 minutes a day, three days a week,” she says.

But paying no attention to form, she injured her knee, needing five or six months of physical therapy. “Then, about one week before the race, she noticed a pain around her ankle.”

“I thought maybe it was just too much running,” says she. “I couldn’t even put a shoe on my foot.”

She wrapped her foot in sports bandages and tripled up on sock layers for cushioning. Determined to carry on, Walddie used rest, pain pills and adrenaline to get her to the start line.

“I can’t tell you how crazy that feeling is when you’re standing there with 20,000 other people around you. Oh, my goodness, it was amazing. I have never felt such a rush as at the start of that race. It was awesome,” she says.

“I found that women tend to be more outgoing with costumes,” Walddie continues, adding the race in Florida was about empowering women. Since the majority of competitors were female, there were far more runners dressed up than during the California race.

Among her favourites: Princess Leia.

“I know it was a princess theme race, but Princess Leia? I was really impressed. She was running in a full-length dress,” Walddie laughs. “I mean, I saw girls who had pylons they’d spray-painted, tied to their heads as Fairy Godmothers. There was one guy that was a good six-plus-feet tall and he was in a full head to toe Cinderella costume. Wig, full dress, everything.”

A Rapunzel fan, Walddie likewise braided flowers in her hair, wore a silver tiara and ran in a tutu for the Florida race.

“Then for the California race, I decided to be a little more adventurous and made my own skirt and went as Mini Mouse,” she admits.

Walddie felt the California race was a little depressing, running a fair bit on the financially strapped streets of Anaheim. “It was like running through the industrial streets down by White Oaks,” she says.

But because Disney owns all the highways around the theme park in Florida, there were many characters providing runners with hugs and cheers. The costumes and the characters are a nice distraction for Walddie’s psyche.

“You can hit a wall,” she says. “And it hurts when you hit that wall. Everything just dies on you and, even if you emotionally want to go, you don’t have the physical ability.”

One highlight of the California race was running into Anaheim’s baseball stadium. “They had a video camera on the third baseline,” she says, “and it was broadcasting on the Jumbotron. You’re on the Jumbotron, just like a superstar.”

Walddie believes Florida’s highlight was running down Disney’s Main Street, just before sunrise, towards the Cinderella Castle. “Everyone shares that spirit of love for the park,” she says. “So really, at that point, that’s when it’s the happiest race on earth.”

Leslie Kostal, web administrative assistant, Department of Economics, writes periodic pieces profiling Western staff members. If you, or someone you know, has an interesting story to tell, please e-mail her at Leslie.Kos tabil@uwo.ca

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Campus Digest

// Robertson’s essay honoured

Kirsty Robertson, contemporary art and museum studies professor, has been awarded the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English’s Priestley Prize, recognizing the best essay published in English Studies in Canada (ESC) in a given year. The prize was awarded for Threads of Hope: The Living Healing Quilt Project, which appeared in Volume 35 of ESC in a special issue on Aboriginal Redress.

// Award of Excellence nominations sought

Nominations for this year’s Western Award of Excellence are now open. The Western Award of Excellence is the highest level of college-wide recognition for the exceptional performance of Western staff. Visit www.ca.uwo.ca/recognition for full information on the award and to download a nomination form.

All Western community members – faculty, staff and students – along with London community members are encouraged to nominate an individual or team of staff who have been instrumental in supporting others and nurturing the Western’s experience.

Since the awards first began, 49 Western staff members have received the Western of Excellence and more than 50 outstanding staff have been nominated. The awards for 2012 will be presented at a reception in February 2012. Nominations close on Friday, Dec. 2.

// Summers to deliver Beattie lecture

Former U.S. Secretary of Treasury Lawrence Summers will speak on a range of current economic, legal and media issues during an hour-long conversation moderated by Christia Freeland, Reuters news global editor-at-large. The free public event will be recorded for 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 22 at The University of Western Ontario’s Faculty of Law, Room 38.

Summers, President Emeritus of Harvard University, will be the fourth annual Beattie Family Business Law Speaker.


Geoff Beattie, LLB ‘84, Thomson Reuters deputy chairman, CEO of the Woodbridge Company Limited and Western’s fundraising campaign chair, established the Beattie Family Lecture Series in Business Law in 2008.

// Join the conversation on campus sustainability

As part of Western’s Imagine 2022 initiative, you are invited to participate in a Virtual Sustainability Slam, an online brainstorming session on sustainability ideas for the Western community. Over the next three weeks, log on and join the conversation at your leisure. Share your ideas, or comment on other ideas, in this anonymous, open forum. Visit imagine.uwo.ca to find out more.

Contributions from the forum will inform the President’s Advisory Committee on Environment & Sustainability (PACES) in its efforts to craft a 10-year sustainability vision for Western. This vision will be complete by January 2012.
A round at Western

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 be 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. 9
360 yards
Par 4

While it may have been a chilly reception on the ninth hole for Szela, she’s hoping the cool air won’t slow her ball down too much on this par 4. And it didn’t, as she was on in two and sank the six-foot putt for birdie. So Szela finishes the front nine in good shape, heading to the back nine at +2.

Score: 3
Thru 9 holes: +2