Tally for violence ‘shocking’

Women’s abuse study raises questions about health-care network

BY HEATHER TRAVIS

THE ECONOMIC COSTS for women who leave an abusive partner do not end once they walk out the door. In fact, the ongoing costs in Canada equal a staggering $6.9 billion annually.

Marilyn Ford-Gilboe, professor and Echo Chair in Rural Women’s Health Research in the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, co-authored a recent study on the economic costs for services used by women who leave a violent partner.

The study, the first long-term look of its kind in Canada, is part of a larger CIHR-funded Women’s Health Effects Study, for which Ford-Gilboe is the principal investigator. Attributing Selected Costs to Intimate Partner Violence in a Sample of Women Who Have Left Abusive Partners: A Social Determinants of Health Approach was published in a recent issue of Canadian Public Policy.

“We still socially construct the solution to violence as leaving,” Ford-Gilboe says. “These costs (of violence) are ongoing. They don’t stop when the women leave.”

Ford-Gilboe admits to being “stunned” by the study’s findings, noting the number is likely a conservative estimate since there are some factors that could not be included in the study.

The costs of violence in Canada have increased since 1993 when the reported amount was $4.2 billion.

For each woman, the estimated annual costs of selected public and private-sector expenditures (attributed to violence) equates to more than $13,160. This includes violence-specific costs, such as the use of a crisis line, shelter, second-stage housing, advocacy/counseling, victim services and sexual assault services.

The total also includes non-violence-specific costs, such as accessing a community support worker, legal aid, social assistance, use of a food bank, child care, physician visits, hospitalizations and lost wages due to health problems, among others.

In the United States, the annual health costs attributed to intimate partner violence is estimated between $1,000 - $1,700 per woman.

The women involved in the study had been separated from their abusive partners within the previous three years and many had relatively low incomes. The 309 participants, hailing from Ontario, New Brunswick and British Columbia, were interviewed every year for five years.

This study focused on women transitioning from an abusive relationship. To determine how much of the costs were due to violence, researchers compared the...
Coming Events

**Remembrance Day**

- **03 // THURSDAY**
  - Blood Donor Clinic
    UCC Student Lounge. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
  - Writing Support Centre Workshop
    Overcoming Writer’s Block. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
  - Physics & Astronomy Colloquium
    Peter Mascher, Department of Engineering Physics and Centre for Emerging Device Technologies, McMaster University. “Optical and X-ray spectroscopic investigations of light-emitting rare-earth-doped silicon nanostructures.” Physics & Astronomy Room 22. 1:30 p.m.
  - Engineers Without Borders
    Pumpkin Drop
    Top of the UC hill, 2:30 p.m.
  - Arts and Humanities Students’ Council and UWO present the Arts Matters Speakers Series
    Maya Angelou, renowned and influential voice of contemporary literature. Tickets students $20, non-students $30. Purchase tickets at Infosource or online at uwo.uwo.ca/angelouwestern. Alumni Hall. 7 – 10 p.m.
  - The Centre for Advanced Research in European Philosophy at King’s
    Danjaya Bratuz, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Music, Western. “Le connessioni invisibili: Invisible Connections: From the “Harvard Lectures of Bartòk” (1943) and Calvino (1985).” Desmond Dutraia Boardroom, Rm 112, Dante Leonard Hall. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. All welcome to attend.

- **04 // FRIDAY**
  - Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology
    Rebecca German, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Functional Anatomy and Evolution, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. “Functional Anatomy of Feeding: Rhythm and Reflex.” MSB 082, 12:30 p.m.
  - Don Wright Faculty of Music
    Pianist Jason Culmore explores Liszt’s musical lineage. von Kuster Hall. 12:30 p.m.
  - Green Tours
    Facilities Management and EnviroWest have teamed up to provide tours at four of Western’s top performing buildings.
  - Fresh sushi, or an asian work of art?
    Savour our fresh sushi & innovative asian flavour.
    See our 1/2 price coupon in the Western Student Guide.
    607 Richmond Street (at Central) dine in & take out 519.642.2558

**Western Remembrance Day**

Beginning at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11 in the University Community Centre (UCC) lounge, the event includes presentations from the UWO Choir, past and present Western students who are/were in the Canadian Forces and a student describing his life with a father in the military. This theme is “Sacrifice,” and all speakers will focus their words around the sacrifices they’ve personally made. Also, students will be selling awareness bracelets reading “Western Remembers” for $2 in the UCC starting this week.

**Huron University College - Remembrance Day Ceremonies**

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist with the Walter Brown Communion Kit starts at 8:30 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11; act of remembrance and laying of the wreath in Huron University Chapel, 10:50 a.m. All members of the university community are welcome to attend both ceremonies.

**King’s University College**

All will gather at the flagpoles in front of the Wemple Building at King’s University College, 266 Epworth Avenue, at 10:45 a.m. Friday, Nov. 11. This is a non-denominational prayer service hosted by the Office of Campus Ministry.

**Remembrance Day Day**

- **05 // SATURDAY**
  - Women’s Volleyball
    Queens at Western. 6 p.m.
  - Men’s OUA Semi Final - Windsor at Western. 1 p.m.
  - Women’s Volleyball
    Queens at Western. 8 p.m.

- **06 // SUNDAY**
  - Women’s Volleyball
    Ottawa at Western. 3 p.m.

- **07 // MONDAY**
  - GradWrite Workshops
    Be Good to your Colon: Punctuation. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 1 p.m.

- **08 // TUESDAY**
  - Senior Alumni Program
    Jonathan Vanclo, Professor and J.B. Smallman Chair, Department of History, Western. “Maple Leaf Empire: Canadians in Britain through Two World Wars.” McKellar Room, UCC. 9:30 a.m.
  - Writing Support Centre Workshop
    Writing with Clarity. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

- **09 // WEDNESDAY**
  - Toastmaster’s Campus Communicators
    Build your confidence in public speaking. WSS Room 3134. Register at sdc.uwo.ca/writing. 11:30 a.m.
  - Writing Support Centre Workshop
    Writing in the Sciences. WSS Room 3134.
For Brescia University College graduate Lisa Herberman, volunteering has brought her fulfillment in life and the satisfaction of making a difference in the community.

I got involved in so many things and have never made as many friends as I did while I was here. I definitely have a void in my life now that I’m out, but the university definitely shaped the person I am today and helped me discover what I wanted to do in life.

Lisa Herberman
Brescia University College graduate

Perhapes we need to rewrite the definition of volunteerism. Once defined as “the principle of donating time and energy for the benefit of others without financial reward,” it would be hard to argue against expanding that to include the phrase “for example, Lisa Herberman.”

The Brescia University College graduate, Bachelor of Science (Honors Food and Nutrition), crossed the stage at Alumni Hall last week, completing what has been a wonderful time in her life.

“I got involved in so many things and have never made as many friends as I did while I was here,” says Herberman, who has applied for dentistry school. “It definitely have a void in my life now that I’m out, but the university definitely shaped the person I am today and helped me discover what I wanted to do in life.”

Whatever that something ends up being, it will most assuredly include volunteering as a component. Thousands volunteer, but Herberman takes it to the next level.

While balancing her academic career, she found time to help the Canadian Cancer Society’s Daffodil and Pink Ribbon campaigns; aid colon cancer’s “giant colon” event; rescue animals from abusive environments through Animal Love Association; teach swimming to Parkinson’s and stroke victims through the Bay Crest Hospital Wagman Centre; become a Big Sister to a London girl named Grace; and sell pink rubber bracelets (Relieve, Recovery, Rebuild) for Haitian relief.

Also, two summers ago during a break from her studies, the Toronto native remained in London to work for Public Outreach, an agency dedicated to building a sustainable charitable sector. Raising funds for the likes of Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Red Cross and Doctors Without Borders, Herberman’s dedication to the cause earned her a scholarship as the best fundraiser in Canada.

“There are a lot of different causes that are close to me, and I think I volunteer for the right reasons,” she says. “Everything I’ve done has been about helping others. I love giving back to others. I find by doing so, by uplifting people’s lives and bettering their lives, I’ve also found a lot of fulfillment in my life. I really realize my abilities, my passion and my gift, so it’s definitely helped me as well.”

Herberman says her close family ties play a huge role in who she is and how she conducts herself. Prior to attending Brescia, she spent three years at The University of Western Ontario (kinesiology) before taking a semester off to care for her grandmother who was diabetic and had a heart condition.

Her family’s bond and the example they set, Herberman adds, keeps her focused on helping in her community.

“You need to have good management skills, but if you really like what you do, you’ll find time for it. It doesn’t seem tedious; it becomes second nature to you. I know it’s something that will always continue,” she says. “They always say you’re a part of your mom and dad, and when it comes to volunteering and giving back, that couldn’t be more true. They have, and continue to be, a great example for me.”

For Brescia University College graduate Lisa Herberman, volunteering has brought her fulfillment in life and the satisfaction of making a difference in the community.
First-person Field Notes

Finding value in the tangible experience

DURING A RECENT trip to Amsterdam with a group of sport management students, I had the unique opportunity to experience sport in another country. Thanks to our gracious hosts at our partner institution, Johan Cruyff University, we were exposed to high-performance sport in the Netherlands in a variety of areas.

Visiting the 1928 Olympic Stadium, a historic rowing club and watching a professional hockey game helped build an understanding of the Dutch sporting culture. Being billeted with students who are currently national level athletes in synchronized swimming, golf, soccer, field hockey and dressage riding gave me an appreciation for the dedication these individuals have to their sport and academics in order to prepare themselves for the future.

I was also thrilled to experience being among a crowd of 50,000 spectators at a UEFA championship qualifying match between the Dutch national soccer team and Moldova. Sitting through 90 minutes of play in the pouring rain in a stadium packed with fans, I saw national pride and dedication to one’s team that is rare among North American spectators outside of exceptional circumstances such as the Olympic Games. It was interesting to see how history and geography have shaped a very different sport culture in this European country than we are a part of here in Canada.

I am tremendously grateful the Western graduate program in kinesiology gives students the opportunity to internationalize their studies – be it by welcoming exchange students, bringing in guest lectures or giving students the chance to experience study-abroad trips. It is always exciting to meet new people and learn about a new culture.

But what I really liked about our trip to Amsterdam was, while we did spend time with typical tourist activities with a canal cruise, a visit to the windmills and a citywide scavenger hunt, the program was centered on my interests. As with most anything we learn, there is value in gaining tangible experience.

“Yes, we can read about the culture of European soccer; we can research it; or we can watch it on television. But being at a game provides a whole new level of understanding. Getting to meet our online ‘classmates’ is also meaningful. Rather than just seeing others in the course discussions as online usernames, we now have acquaintances and friends to learn along with. As students who hope to enter the professional field of sport, we are building an international network of other sport-minded individuals.

I hope this trip will continue to be offered in the future and Western students will extend an open invitation to host students from our partner institutions who may be interested in coming to Canada for a reciprocal exchange experience.

- MELINDA MAIKA

The Way We Were: 1929

Contributed by Alan Noon (anoon@uwo.ca)

A unique souvenir of Western is an autographed turtle shell formerly treasured by biology student Evelyn Jones, MSc ’32. The shell, dated May 3, 1929, bears the signatures of the Zoology 300 class as well as its instructor, professor Helen Battle. Many of those signing went on to become well-known Western icons such as Murray Barr, who was internationally recognized 20 years later with the discovery of the sex chromatin structure in cells, and later renamed the Barr body in cells. The shell is now part of the biology museum collection.
Cobalt-60 celebrates 60 years

Jerry Battista

On Oct. 27, 1951, the world’s first cancer treatment with Cobalt-60 radiation took place at the South Street site of the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) – then Victoria Hospital. This marked an important milestone for both the fight against cancer and Canada’s emergence as a leader in medical physics and radiation oncology.

Recently, LHSC acknowledged the 60th anniversary of Cobalt-60 and this tremendous medical breakthrough. Staff of the London Regional Cancer Program proudly wore “cobalt blue” items to mark the event. Revolutionizing cancer treatment throughout the world, and serving as an excellent example of highly effective patient-oriented translational research, the Cobalt-60 radiation technology, nicknamed the Eldorado “Cobalt Bomb,” was developed by physicist and engineers at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited and the Eldorado Mining Company. London’s radioactive source was pre-installed at Victoria Hospital on Oct. 15, 1951.

Just a little over a week later, its widely publicized first medical use took place under the clinical direction of Dr. Ivan Smith, a Department of Therapeutic Radiology professor at The University of Western Ontario and Cancer Clinic director at Victoria Hospital.

Another Cobalt-60 source had arrived earlier at the Saskatchewan Cancer Clinic. Pioneering physics development had taken place there under the leadership of Dr. Harold Johns, duly credited as the “inventor” of Cobalt machines. However, the first treatment of patients was delayed past the London date by a few weeks, much to the ongoing chagrin of the Saskatchewan team.

The development of Cobalt-60 radiation therapy opened a treatment window into the human body and, for the very first time in history, we were able to treat deep-seated tumours without harming the skin. This was the first major advancement in the radiation treatment of all cancers, aside from skin cancer, since Roentgen’s discovery of X-rays in 1895.

Natural Radium-226 had been proposed to solve this issue but its mining was painstakingly inefficient and too costly, the level of radioactivity that could be extracted limited the ‘dose rate’ achievable from a radium treatment machine – radiation treatment times would be intolerable for patients. As an alternative, Cobalt-60 could be produced artificially by bombarding natural Cobalt-59 with a high-flux of neutrons in Chalk River’s new NRX reactor – a unique enabling technology available only in Canada at the time.

The compact Cobalt source was highly radioactive and could be placed in a machine designed to radiate tumours with external beams of radiation in reasonable time (minutes). This offered a new exciting treatment option: ‘healing rays’ over invasive surgery. This was an exciting time.

The ambassador to Canada from Argentina was in London at an inaugural event and was hoping to place an order for a Cobalt machine to save Evita Perón’s life. She was the spouse of the President of Argentina (Juan Peron) and had developed cancer. Rumours and news reports in the Montreal Gazette insisted she was treated in London as an “incognito” patient.

At its peak, Dr. J.C.F. MacDonald, a medical physicist appointed to the physics department at Western, and oncologist Dr. F. Batley fielded numerous telephone calls from around the world all day.

This tantalising story on Evita has been investigated, but no evidence is found in medical records, correspondence to Smith and interviews with staff of the cancer clinic present at the time.

If she was actually treated, it would be one of the most guarded secrets and cover-ups of the century.

Cancer treatment technologies have steadily progressed since the introduction of the megavoltage period in 1951. Today, linear accelerators produce more penetrating X-ray beams and have built-in 3D CT imaging capabilities to ‘focus’ the radiation onto well specified targets. The new breed of machines provides a more localized treatment at the tumour site with fewer side-effects.

Despite these advances in technology, however, the Cobalt-60 unit remains the world’s main radiotherapy machine because the developed countries only cover 30 per cent of the world’s cancer caseload. Due to its cost-effectiveness, reliability, tolerance to electrical power fluctuations and ease of use, Cobalt is prevalent in developing countries. Cobalt-60 technology is therefore still currently used to treat roughly 70 per cent of the world’s cancer cases treated by radiation. London’s last Cobalt treatment was delivered in June 2001.

To date, approximately 35 million cancer patients worldwide have benefited from this ground-breaking technology first applied at LHSC, 60 years ago.

London and Canada as a whole must take pride in the continuum of bench-to-industry-to-bedside research that has saved tens of millions of lives around the world. In this era of targeted cancer therapy, the ‘little Cobalt engine that could’ merits some perhaps forgotten attention.

It serves as an outstanding illustration of patient-oriented research being touted today by national research granting agencies and institutes.

Jerry Battista is Chair of Medical Bio-Physics, The University of Western Ontario; Physics Research and Education director, London Regional Cancer Program, London Health Sciences Centre; and a Lawson Health Research Institute scientist.
Grad student’s medium conveys McLuhan’s message

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Listen up.

Download the album, Forward Through the Rearview Mirror, at jordanmandel.bandcamp.com/

By Jas

Jordan Mandel, looking out on downtown London, has married his original digital music score with the words of Marshall McLuhan to create a beautifully layered four-track EP.

“Let’s talk about the album,” he says.

In fact, the whole project started with the words of McLuhan: “Medium is the message.”

The idea was born over two years ago. Mandel, who earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from York University, came to music late, picking up the guitar for the first time in Grade 12. No matter, he would, amazingly, pick it up quickly.

For inspiration as the project dawned, Mandel pitched his lone track to NightStream Radio. He touched base with CBC Radio. He pitched his lone track to NightStream as the first single from a forthcoming EP. They loved the track, and asked for the full EP to be sent along.

“I think people are really excited. They hear that voice, they recognize it. I think there is some kind of Canadian thing there,” Mandel says. "It couldn’t have happened a few years ago. It’s able to reach people..."

McLuhan would have been proud.

Proceeds from the album, which was released this summer, will be donated to the local charity that Mandel and his band, On a String, work with.

“Forward Through the Rearview Mirror, at jordanmandel.bandcamp.com/"

BY JASON WINDERS

JORDAN MANDEL UNDERSTANDS the irony.

The University of Western Ontario master’s student has married an original digital music score with the words of Marshall McLuhan to create a beautifully layered four-track EP. It’s not a stretch to imagine the late Canadian media theorist—famous for his “the medium is the message” message—would approve.

“It seems appropriate,” Mandel laughs.

Mandel, who earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from York University, came to music late, picking up the guitar for the first time in Grade 12. No matter, he would, amazingly, go on to minor in music at York. “I picked it up quickly,” he says.

Following graduation, he would take time off to tour as a musician with his band, On a Rope, an acoustic jam band. That grind would eventually wear, however, and Mandel would join the Popular Music and Culture program at the Don Wright Faculty of Music. He is now in his second year.

It was a class project, a simple digital recording exercise, that gave birth to the album. A trip to Epcot at Walt Disney World in Florida as a boy, and a McLuhan exhibit inside that futuristic centre, stuck with him. Add to that the fact his father took a communications course with McLuhan at the University of Toronto, and it’s no wonder Mandel plucked McLuhan off the bookshelf for inspiration as the project dawned.

Finishing the first track, the only requirement of the project, he touched base with CBC Radio. He pitched his lone track to NightStream as the first single from a forthcoming EP. They loved the track, and asked for the full EP to be sent along.

Of course, there was no EP. Not yet.

“Th..."
women’s use of services to women of a similar age in the general population.

“We know from the research that has been done that women’s health problems can persist for 20 years after separation from an abusive partner,” says Pat Campbell, CEO of Echo: Improving Women’s Health in Ontario. Echo is an agency established by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to focus on women’s health.

“We also know women bring great strengths to these transitions and work hard to improve their circumstances and to maintain family functioning/stability,” she adds.

This is an important piece of work that gives us new information about women who experience violence and the challenges associated with changing that experience and health impacts of that violence.”

To only have crisis-oriented services is a problem, Ford-Gilboe notes, as needs are ongoing. “We incur these costs as a society because the violence has (already) occurred,” she says. “We really need to focus on prevention if we really want to stop these costs from occurring.”

The biggest costs are in primary health care (emergency room and family physician visits), she explains. These women turn to this sector for support/care 3.9 times more than the general population.

Dr. Barbara Lent, Department of Family Medicine professor at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, says women continue to be affected by the violence even after they have left their partner. Not all understand that fact.

“I think a number of physicians see leaving the relationship and going to the shelter as the solution to the problem,” she says.

Family doctors are often the first entry point to the health-care system and other social services, which explains why health care occupies the biggest costs.

“Services need to be much broader than what we’ve traditionally done,” she says.

Health-care professionals and social services need to work together and provide support for women who are the victims of violence, Lent continues.

“Abusers use a variety of tactics to force their partners to remain in the relationships,” says Susan Dill, residential services director at Women’s Community House in London.

Some of these tactics include isolation, financial control, even using children as weapons.

“Only upon dissolution of the abusive relationship can women get their needs looked after. Health care costs are high for all. But if the issues have not been attended to (because of abusers’ tactics) or preventative care is not accessed, the costs can be even higher,” she says.

The study raises questions about why costs are so high.

“The women are using these services at such a high rate, more than the average Canadian, yet they continue to face barriers in accessing much-needed services.

Some argue women are overusing services. However Ford-Gilboe assures us in line with the challenges. If the women had their needs met, they would reduce their use of services.

In order to address these issues, the long-term study will examine alternative models for delivering primary health care (particularly ones sensitive to the trauma experienced by these women) and if the costs change over time.

“For many of these women . . . their health problems are interlinked. The costs of violence are substantial and ongoing,” Ford-Gilboe says. “But this isn’t the only reason we should pay attention to it.

“This is an issue we need to grapple with as a society.”

—

PHOTO PROVIDED BY FRANCESCA MANCUSO

International and exchange students got in the spirit of the season last week at a pumpkin carving event sponsored by the International and Exchange Student Centre at Western. PhD student in civil engineering Bahman Daee and his wife, Zeinab, from Iran put the finishing touches on their pumpkin as biology student Camille Fong Chih Kai from France watches on. The event was part of a Global Café, a weekly drop-in event for students for cross-cultural learning and casual conversation with one another. Interested students – international and domestic – are welcome to drop in from 3:55 p.m. every Thursday in Western Student Centre, Room 2130 (David S.H. Chu International Centre).

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Convocation 2011

THE AUTUMN CONVOCATION ceremonies at The University of Western Ontario Oct. 27 – 28 marked a new beginning for more than 2,160 graduates. Family and friends gathered last week to celebrate scholarly achievements during Western’s 298th Convocation. The university also conferred honorary degrees upon four individuals for their outstanding contributions to sports, arts, media and culture. Frank Hayden, considered the founder of the Special Olympics; Mary Hofstetter, an advocate for the arts and culture in Canada; Heather Hiscox, morning anchor for CBC News Network: Morning; and John Schweitzer, artist and philanthropist, each offered thoughtful advice for graduates as they look towards the next stage in their lives. Listen to the honorary degree speeches on Western’s iTunesU and YouTube channel, youtube.com/user/westernuniversity.

Caps and gowns mark new beginnings

PHOTOS BY HEATHER TRAVIS AND PAUL MAYNE // WESTERN NEWS
We have two goals in our effort to become leaders in sustainability. One is to reduce our carbon footprint; the other is to reduce our dependency on fossil fuels wherever possible.

Roy Langille
Facilities Management associate vice-president

Sustainability

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BY PAUL MAYNE

YOU'RE IN A ROOM with 800 other people, all vying for 10 spots on the same team. If you want one of those spots – really want one of those spots – you had better find some way to stand out from the crowd.

This was the position Jared Teitel, a second-year law student, found himself in recently as the coveted search for summer intern posts began.

While everyone beers up and refines their resume, sending multiple copies across the country, Teitel decided to take things a step further. How about a video cover letter?

“I was trying to think how could I stand out on paper and then thought, ‘Maybe I won’t stand out on paper. So I’ll take it a step beyond,’” says Teitel, who is eyeing a position with a Toronto firm. “It really was that walking down the street ‘a-ha’ moment that compelled me to do this. It was definitely a risk. I tried to mitigate it as much as possible by polishing some recruiters and pitching the idea to them and if they’d be open to receiving something like this.

“There was certainly that moment when I sent it that I was like ‘Okay, I’m doing something different.’ It’s completely out of my hands now. At this moment I have no regrets.

“But it’s still early, so it’s hard to tell.”

Heavily structured in Ontario, the intern hiring process has three stages – sending out resumes and cover letters, followed by on-campus interviews in late October and follow-up interviews in November. Students are allowed a maximum of six interviews.

With more than 400 views of his video cover letter, which he jokingly hoped was more than just family and friends, it may have paid off for Teitel, who has four interviews on the horizon for next week.

So it seems that extra step may have paid off.

“The response to this has been absolutely crazy, and all I did was make a video. I’m hearing from people I haven’t spoke to in a while. So far I have heard positive early response,” Teitel says.

“The inherent risk is that the law profession is quite conservative, especially with recruitment, so arguably it doesn’t lend itself to new trends like this.

“Still from that standpoint, it was a risk. But it gets their attention.”

Now’s hoping this attention get him the gig.

Campus Digest

// Community art

// Hocking honoured by NASA

Western physics and astronomy professor Wayne Hocking has been lauded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for his work on the 2003 Space Shuttle Columbia disaster.

Hocking used data from radars around the world to make a worldwide map of the wind field in the upper atmosphere at the time of the shuttle’s entry, which he used to identify regions of possible concern.

“Extending this with theoretical calculations, we were able to identify conditions that future shuttle re-entries should avoid,” Hocking says.

“Some were regions which had previously been thought to be the safest, which was useful knowledge for future returns.”

Hocking wrote five separate reports about the disaster for NASA, which they have used to guide subsequent missions. He received a citation for his work, including a seal that went up and back on one of the shuttle missions.

// Carmichael re-appointed as FIMS Dean

Faculty of Information & Media Studies Dean Tom Carmichael will continue in the position for a new six-year term. Carmichael, originally named dean in 2007, holds degrees from the University of Guelph, Carleton University and the University of Toronto.

// Bursary luncheon

A trio of Faculty of Science students received bursaries thanks to the green thumbs of a group of retired faculty and staff. The annual Friends of the Garden Bursary Lunch awarded three $1,000 awards to Jane Wilson (second-year in earth and planetary sciences), Joshua Fari (fourth-year honors specialization biology) and Brian Robertson (third-year specialization biology).
Once-in-a-generation repair plays well with musicians

BY JANIS WALLACE

A PIANO WITH a cracked frame is like a racehorse with a broken leg. But an 1893 Bechstein baby grand was saved from an ignominious end by the talents of two people at The University of Western Ontario.

Don Stephenson and Clayton Cook took on the challenge of making the old piano sing again. It had been a family treasure and was part of a gift to the Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM).

Stephenson, assistant to the dean for technology and keyboards, has a company that maintains all the RCM pianos. He was contacted about the piano. The donor wanted it restored and played by young musicians.

There were two major cracks in the plate. The mechanism was old and it was in very rough shape,” Stephenson says. “I told Peter (Simón, RCM president) that it was not worth repairing. He said it had to be done for the benefactor.”

First, Stephenson contacted a friend who worked at the Bechstein plant in Germany to see if another plate could be supplied. But all plates are individual, and the age of the piano meant nothing made today came close to working.

Casts can be re-welded, but the tension when the strings are re-attached and tuned creates an insurmountable issue. Stephenson told Simón if he could find someone to fix the plate, the piano could be repaired.

Something similar had been done about 20 years ago by Western’s machine services, so Stephenson called them. “It was a long shot,” he said. “I called and explained the situation and asked if it was possible to repair. Clayton Cook replied, ‘I can do that.'”

Cook, Machine Services welding operations manager, says casting is becoming a lost art. “After sand blasting the bridge to see where the cracks were, Don was surprised when I told him I didn’t think it would be an issue to weld the cracks,” he says.

The process wasn’t as simple due to the cast expanding and contracting. As one crack was fixed, another would occur.

“Clayton is the hero in this story,” Stephenson says. “They like to take on projects that are not typical. Something like this was really exciting. Clayton likes music and his son plays piano, so this really excited him. I just wanted to see if it could be repaired.”

Once the welding was successfully completed, the case was shipped to a special finisher, Pride Restoration Inc. in North York.

“They did a beautiful restoration,” Stephenson says.

When the case returned to Western, the strings were attached and slowly brought it to A-440 pitch, using smaller increments than normal.

“That puts 37,614 pounds – or 18.8 tons – of string tension on it. If it can take that tuning to start with and not break, it can hold it. If it had cracked when tuned, it would have had to be de-strung and welded again. We would have had to start over,” Stephenson says.

The students in Western’s Piano Technology program watched, fascinated by the process. They saw the piano when it arrived, then the restored frame, and finally with all strings attached and tuned. Although they work on all kinds of pianos, from the Don Wright Faculty of Music’s own collection to those donated by individuals and manufacturers for their use, they don’t usually see such a special case.

“It was cracked significantly. They will not see another like this,” Stephenson says.

He said someone in Wisconsin does a bit of small welding of casts but nothing of this scope.

“Welding cast is a difficult process. Clayton commented about the quality of the original cast. He showed our students what to look for in casting, how to tell quality. Most plates with a crack like that would have meant the end for the piano,” he continued.

After the tuning held, the next step was to replace the action, or keyboard and damper. The keyboard and damper were simply worn out from use over the nearly 120 years it had been played. A new action was built by Detroit Machine Services does other work with Piano Technology, such as creating odd pedals and small repairs.

“They give us tremendous service,” Stephenson says.

But a project such as this comes along about once every generation.

“This kind of project is stressful and a bit of a challenge. When I pulled it up to pitch, Clayton was the first person I called. You would not know by looking at it now where it was cracked,” Stephenson says.

“It has been very exciting working on this piano with the group from music,” Cook says. “I am very happy they were able to get the piano back in tune without any unforeseen issues.”

Stephenson employs two graduates of the Piano Tech program full time at the RCM to prepare, tune and regulate the pianos for the Conservatory, Koerner Hall and other Telus Centre venues, and the Glenn Gould School.
Pumpkin Rising

Star light, star bright, first pumpkin I see tonight... The retractable roof on the Hume Cronyn Memorial Observatory was dressed for Halloween this year with a fresh coat of orange paint. The observatory was transformed into a jack-o’lantern last week, making for a bright and comical surprise for passersby.

BizInc aims to bring students’ ventures to life

BY PAUL MAYNE

FROM CUPCAKES AND eavestroughs to clothing lines and wash-and-fold laundry service, if students have business ideas, John Pollack wants to hear about them.

Initiated by the University Students’ Council (USC) in 2010, the Business Incubator (BizInc) supports and promotes the entrepreneurial spirit of Western students by turning ideas into workable plans and, finally, successful business ventures.

A $285,000 grant from the Ministry of Development and Trade this past summer, along with the support of the London Economic Development Corporation, keeps the company moving forward as they continue working toward permanent budget line support from Western, the City of London and Fanshawe College.

Along with the grant, funding comes from a number of areas: USC, provides office space and support, around $40,000 annually; Western and WORLDiscovers each gave $10,000 earlier this year, and Royal Bank of Canada is considering a grant of approximately $50,000 to be used to establish a micro-lending facility.

All together, the funds are used to bring student business ventures to life.

Pollack, BizInc director, says when students arrive at the organization’s office, located in Room 258 of the University Community Centre, one question is on the table: “Is this idea a business?”

“Students come in with an idea and we have a conversation about potential customers, the product and the sort of questions that would form a business plan,” he says. “If you have a business plan in hand, we work on who you need to talk to and make it work. There is a lot of networking support we wrap around them; mentors who might walk them through the process a little more formally.”

Partnered with Fanshawe College, the Small Business Centre, Western’s Research Park, TechAlliance, the Stiller Centre and a growing number of businesses and mentors, Pollack adds BizInc has solid contacts within the local community.

“We will play a central role in an evolving city strategy designed to promote youth entrepreneurship, drive youth employment and contribute to a reinvigorated culture of invention, excitement and resiliency in the local community,” Pollack says.

And the excitement and ideas from the students are plentiful.

Pollack notes more than 25 projects have been launched with more than 40 student entrepreneurs. Of those, four have generated profits; two will incorporate over the next few months, and many have created their own websites.

One such business is eProf, an online education tool matching up students and teachers around the world.

Started by Richard Ivey School of Business students Trevor Koverko and Adrian Murray, the company reflects the pair’s belief that education “needs to be disrupted.”

“We started refining the idea for eProf and, after many long night, we had the blueprints for the entire site,” says Koverko, who just returned from Dalian, China, following a four-month incubation program with the business. “It was an amazing experience. We got another seed investment, access to hundreds of investors and a world-class mentorship network.”

The pair is currently putting their education on hold to continue developing eProf, aiming for 100 world-class ePros by early 2012.

“We reached out to BizInc early on in the process and John mentored us, connected us with local entrepreneurs and gave us a small seed investment. The financial support was timely and crucial for us,” Koverko says.

Michael Hofweiller, a BizInc associate and Western Entrepreneurial Society founder, says this is just one of many potential success stories.

“The kind of volume we have had in the short amount of time has been great,” he says. “Any student with a business idea, no matter how small or how big, we can help foster it and that’s the important thing.”

And Pollack adds there is never a ‘dumb idea’ when it comes to starting a business venture.

“Some of the ideas are so obvious that you think, ‘Oh my gosh, where was I on that one,’” Pollack says. “I’m old enough to remember Pet Rocks and Beanie Babies, so there are no stupid ideas. It’s all about whether you have to chutzpah to market it and do something about it.”

“Don’t let the idea die. Go out there and find the people who you need to help you take your idea to the next level, let them help you turn your idea into a business.”

Got an idea?

Western Entrepreneur Society meets at 5 p.m. every Tuesday in University Community Centre, Room 258. Students will learn how to generate a cool idea, and follow through and up on that idea.
Envisioning Belonging

Use your imagination and any creative form of expression to tell us what you think of when you think of BELONGING! Competitors can create a short video, take an unusual picture or write a short poem or a short story. Entries should be submitted to f resend@uwo.ca by Nov. 18.

Canada-Mexico Awards for Canadians

Mexico is offering awards to Canadian students or researchers at the Master’s, PhD, or Postdoctoral level. The deadline to apply is Nov. 7. For information, visit the Foreign Government Awards Program – Mexico webpage scholarships.bourses.ca/scholarships.bourses.

Info Sessions and Workshops

International Exchange Program Interested in going on exchange? Attend our general information session on Nov. 3 at 11:30 a.m. in WSSB 2130. Special Information Sessions – University of St. Andrews Exchange Nov. 9 at 11:30 a.m., WSSB 3100, and C&M Exchange Program (India) Nov. 10 at 4:30 p.m., WSSB 3130. Application deadline for special programs, Australia and New Zealand – Dec. 5, deadline for all other exchange programs – Jan. 9, 2012. For more information, please email exchange@uwo.ca.

Undergraduate Course Registration Dates

Nov. 4: Last day to drop a first-term second quarter (‘FQ’) course without academic penalty (Kinesiology). Nov. 30: Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course (on-campus day and evening and Distance Studies) without academic penalty. For more information, please visit the web at careercentral.uwo.ca.

EDS. ADRIAN OWEN and JESSICA GRAHN

Participants Wanted

For research involving the perception of information. Participants will receive $50 each ($100 for those advertised at uwo.ca/pvp/facultyrelations/jobs/index-jobs.html. Please review or contact the faculty, school or department directly.

A central Web site displays advertisements for all vacant academic positions. The following positions are among those advertised at uwo.ca/postdoc/positions/apply.html. Please review, or contact the faculty, school or department directly.

Classifieds

Shady Fraha, Business Administration, Resource Complementarity and the Business Value of Information Technology, Nov. 7, Ivey 1105s, 8:30 a.m.

Svetlana Knoll, Health and Rehabilitation Science, Fatigue and Mobility Post-Stroke, Nov. 9, EC 1302C, 1.p.m.

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West Coast News

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**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 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. 8

390 yards
Par 4

The ongoing construction of the new Richard Ivey School of Business along Western Road has changed the wind flow dramatically along the eighth hole, which can make for some interesting shots. Szela does a little double-checking of the wind (in front of The Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory, of course). And that extra care paid off as she parred the hole.

Score: 4
Thru 8 holes: +3

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**Bee Licious**

Honey Harvest Festival

Fall Honey Harvest Menu available daily, 5 pm - 9 pm

Every dish on Windermere Café’s Honey Harvest menu is derived from Windermere Manor’s own bee hives, producing fresh honey just 50 feet away from our kitchen door. Local and fresh dishes like Asparagus & Sweet Potato Tempura served with a Honey Chili Dipping Sauce are featured daily.

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