London, Western Engage over town-gown relations

BY PAUL MAYNE

IS WESTERN ENGAGED in the community? Does the university create positive social change? If so, how are these impacts measured and where is there room for improvement?

Answers to these and other questions are expected to be addressed Thursday, Nov. 14, as Engage Western brings together campus representatives, community members and special guests to share perspectives and stories about the ways academic institutions partner with their communities to mobilize knowledge, create social change and acknowledge the role of the university in public life.

The full-day event is part of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada’s Open Doors, Open Knowledge national campaign of events on the theme of university-community engagement.

Presented by Western’s Student Success Centre and Public Humanities @ Western, Engage Western will feature visiting experts and voices from the university and the local community, followed by roundtable dialogues showcasing successful community-university partnerships.

The day will wrap with Stories of Health at Western, a public storytelling initiative and community-engaged research project, taking place at 6:30 p.m. at the Wolf Performance Hall, London Public Library (Central Branch).

Anne-Marie Fischer, community service learning coordinator at the Student Success Centre, said the event will serve to celebrate and showcase the important contributions Western, and universities in general, are making to the educational, economic, cultural and social well-being of our communities.

“Western is a very engaged university, with many programs, courses, units and research centres that are set to address community needs and contribute to the public good of our communities,” Fischer said. “However, as a collective whole, the impacts of these initiatives are yet to be recognized and measured, and thus, the full potential of community-university partnerships for Western is yet to be realized and understood.”

Some may ask if it’s really a university’s role to create positive social change, or if that responsibility should fall on the shoulders of the students, staff and faculty, who are part of that community, to act on their own.

Fischer said it would be unfair to say a university needs to create positive social change, as not every academic discipline lends itself to such outcomes. But in many areas, as experts and generators of knowledge, the university community has a duty to mobilize the assets they have existing within the university, in a way that it does contribute to the greater public good.

“We are seeing a very strong trend of campus-
7 // THURSDAY

MCINTOSH GALLERY
Carol Wing: The Book. Organized by Carleton University Art Gallery and Passion & Panache - Remembering Brenda Wallace. uwo.ca/Mcintosh
Monday-Saturday until Nov. 16.

ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING DISTINGUISHED LECTURE
Igor Pore, University of Ontario Institute of Technology, Nuclear Power as a Basis for Future Electricity Production in the World. 12:30 p.m. SEB 1200.

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM
Kumar Sharma, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manitoba. Studying exotic nuclei with trapped ions. 1:30 p.m. P&G 100.

WESTERN CENTRE FOR SYNCHROTRON RADIATION RESEARCH AND CAMBR SEMINAR
Warli Yang, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Charge Dynamics and Phase Transformation of Battery Materials. Studied by Soft X-ray Spectroscopy. Contact tsham@uwo.ca. 1:30-2:30 p.m. ChB 115.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Successful Time Management. Sign up: sdc.uwo.ca/learning 2:30-3:30 p.m. WSS 3134.

MIGRATION AND ETHNIC RELATIONS COLLOQUIUM
Andrew Brouwer, lawyer at the Refugee Law Office, Toronto. A Policy of Exclusion: Canada’s approach to asylum seekers. 4:53 p.m. SSC 5220.

BACKPACK TO BRIEFCASE
Dining Etiquette. Register at alumni.westernu.ca/get-involved/students/backpack-to-briefcase.html. 5-8 p.m. Aroma, 717 Richmond St.

HISPANIC FILM SERIES
Elefante Blanco. 7-9 p.m. SEB 1200.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES
Presents: The Wild Duck. Tickets $10 students /$15 adults. Contact Jo DeVereux at jdevereu@uwo.ca. 8 p.m. Nov 7-9. Conron Hall, UC 224.

8 // FRIDAY

EARTH SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM
Laurie Gaskins Baize, Tufts University. A Geospatial Liquification Model for Rapid Response and Loss Estimation. 3:30 p.m. BGS 1053.

ROTMAN SPEAKER SERIES
Michela Massimi, University of Edinburgh. Perspectives on Realism. 3:30-5 p.m. The Chu International Centre, WSSB 2130.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Canadian guitarist Laura Young brings her talents to the Friday series. 12:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. von Kuster Hall.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
York at Western. 1 p.m.

MEN’S BASKETBALL
York at Western. 3 p.m.

11 // MONDAY

WESTERN REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY
10:30-11:30 a.m. UCC, Mustang Lounge.

HURON REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY
A celebration of Holy Eucharist using the Walter Brown Communion Kit. Fr. Walter Brown is the only Allied chaplain to have been executed by the Nazis in the Second World War. 8:40 a.m. Huron Chapel.

Huron community will gather in the chapel for the act of remembrance and laying of the wreath. Anyone from the Western community is welcome to attend. Current members of the Canadian Forces are encouraged to wear their uniform and decorations. Veterans are encouraged to wear their medals. 10:50 a.m. Huron Chapel.

ONTARIO GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP (OGS) INFO SESSION
Designed to provide clear direction on how to apply for an OGS at Western (no registration required). 4:30-6:30 p.m. University College, Conron Hall, second floor.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Percussion ensemble. 8 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Chamber groups. 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP
12:30-1:30 p.m. UC 288.

ARABIC CONVERSATION GROUP
4:30-6:30 p.m. UC 222.

12 // TUESDAY

INTERNATIONAL WEEK, NOV. 12-15
Celebrate diversity on campus and explore international opportunities and programs – including music, food, film and cultural events, workshops and presentations, research displays and tours. Visit internationalweek.uwo.ca.

SENIOR ALUMNI PROGRAM
Sarah Gallagher, Physics and Astronomy, Western. Gasbags and Blowhards – Supermassive black holes in the universe. 9:30 a.m. UCC, McKellar Room.

ANNUAL DIABETES RESEARCH DAY
Pere Santamaria, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Diseases, University of Calgary. Nanomedicines for the treatment of autoimmune disease. Visit schulich.uwo.ca/research/diabetesresearchday.

THE VALUES OF LEARNING AND APPLYING NEW LANGUAGES
Join us for a round table discussion. Panel includes two students, two Western International recruiters, Carolyn Ford and Margaret Cooper and David Darby, German and Comparative Literature, and Joyce Bruhn de Garavito Hispanic Studies. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. SSC 5220.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Writing Multiple-choice Tests. Sign up at sdc.uwo.ca/learning. 2:30-3:30 p.m. WSS 3134.

MIGRATION AND ETHNIC RELATIONS COLLOQUIUM
Special Roundtable Events for International Week. 4-5:30 p.m. UCC Council Chambers.

TRI-AGENCY CANADA GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION FOR MASTER’S STUDY (CGSSM)
Designed to provide clear direction on how to apply for an CGSSM. 4:30-6:30 p.m. UC, Conron Hall, second floor.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Chamber groups. 6 and 8 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

ITALIAN FILM SERIES
Sophie Scholl: The Final Days. 6:30 p.m. UC 288.

13 // WEDNESDAY

THE CHINESE PROGRAM AT HURON
Anyone wishing to speak Chinese and meet people who study Chinese is welcome. Email hwi11@huron.uwo.ca. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Huron, A18.

APPLIED MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM
John Tatini Tintin, Department of Applied Mathematics, Western. Fractal to strong cross-over in supercooled water is a consequence of strengthened hydrogen bonds and clustering of fully hydrogen-bonded molecules: an ab initio insight. 2:30 p.m. MC 204.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE RESEARCH FORUM
Andrea Pritzker. We All Loved Each Other So Much: A Meta-Narrative of Italy’s Divided Memory. 11:30 p.m. UC 207. 11:30 – 12:30 p.m. (Film showing 7 p.m. Nov. 12.)

TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATIONS
Build your confidence in public speaking. 9119.toastmastersclubs.org/. Contact Donna Moore, dmoore@uwo.ca or 85159.

12 -1 p.m. UCC 147B.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION
2:30-4:30 p.m. UC 288.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
La Terluta. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Email terluta@uwo.ca. 4:30 p.m. UC 205.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Preparing for multiple-choice tests. Sign up at sdc.uwo.ca/learning. 4:30-5:30 p.m. WSS 3134.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Chamber groups. 6 and 8 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

GERMAN FILM SERIES
Sophie Scholl: The Final Days. 6:30 p.m. UC 288.

ARABIC FILM
Amreeka.

7 p.m. UC 84.
FOR MORE THAN 125 years, the Governor General’s Academic Medals have recognized the outstanding scholastic achievements of students in Canada. Based solely on academic criteria, there is no monetary award associated with the medal. The Gold Medals were presented at Western’s Autumn Convocation ceremony for graduates of the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies on Friday, Nov. 1.

Andrew John Patton
PhD Art and Visual Culture

Andrew Patton receives this year’s Governor General’s Gold Medal having recently completed his PhD in Arts and Visual Culture with an astonishing 93 per cent completing average. He is an artist-scholar of extraordinary talent and vision who, prior to entering doctoral studies, was already an established visual artist with paintings housed in collections at the National Gallery of Canada. A noted critic and scholar, Patton had developed a passionate interest in Northern Song Dynasty Chinese Calligraphy, and undertook the PhD to examine the relationship between contemporary painting methods and the historical practices of Song calligraphers. He was also a recipient of the prestigious multi-year Canada Graduate Scholarship in recognition of his outstanding research activity. It takes an exceptional researcher like Patton, not only to tackle the concurrent rigours of creative exhibition and scholarly dissertation, but also produce such praiseworthy and relevant knowledge in an area where veteran artist-scholars had not yet dared to go.

Patton is currently teaching in Florence, Italy.

Kirsten Stefanik
Master of Laws (LLM)

A rising young star and recent graduate of the Master of Laws (LLM) program, Kirsten Stefanik has quickly broken much new ground here at Western. She is the first student at Western Law to complete the new collaborative graduate program in Transitional Justice and Post-Conflict Reconstruction, the first to earn an unprecedented 98 per cent in the LLM research methodology course and the first young legal scholar at Western to be awarded the Governor General’s Gold Medal. She has produced groundbreaking work in the field of international humanitarian law that ultimately aims to improve the devastating effects of war on human beings, and she has done so by borrowing from established principles in environmental law. Western’s veteran law scholars, who put her nomination forward, describe her dissertation as original, innovative and revolutionary, and Stefanik herself as a source of great pride for Western Law.

Stefanik is currently undertaking her PhD in Law at Western.

Frances Mackay
PhD Applied Mathematics

There is a new triple-crown winner at Rideau Hall’s Chancellery of Honours. Frances Mackay received the Governor General’s Bronze Medal at McCoy High School in Medicine Hat, Alta., the Governor General’s Silver Medal at the University of Alberta, and is now Western’s recipient of the 2013 Governor General’s Gold Medal for her brilliant career in the Applied Mathematics PhD program. She is also a past Canada Graduate Scholar, having received years of elite graduate funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada in recognition of her outstanding research skills and unparalleled publication record. True to form, Mackay took on the very difficult challenge of undertaking doctoral research in the area of colloidal structures in complex fluids. Having already broken new ground for experimentation and industrial applications, she is already an international authority in her research area and a well-respected leader among her peers.

Mackay is currently a researcher in the Department of Applied Mathematics at Western.
Editor's Letter

Positive town-gown relations are about ongoing conversations – and action

JASON WINDERS
Western News Editor

We love to talk about what we’re going to do next in London. We’ve been ReThinking the city, trying to discover “Whose London?” and, generally, community meeting ourselves toward data overload for years now. But forward momentum has been elusive. We’re a city that loves to rev its powerful engine in neutral.

Collectively, we have decided it is far easier to brainstorm and visualize than to actually do something. You get in less trouble when ideas – radical or otherwise – are left on white boards and websites. Next up in London’s community conversation carousel: town-gown relations.

Two events land on next week’s calendar. On Wednesday, Nov. 13, the City of London’s Town and Gown Committee will hold a public meeting including presentations by London Police Chief Brad Duncan as well as Western’s and Fanshawe College’s student councils. The meeting grew out of criticism for heavy-handed tactics by London Police as part of the city’s Project LEARN initiative.

The next day, Thursday, Nov. 14, Engage London will bring together campus representatives, community members and special guests to discuss ways academic institutions partner with their community.

The event is part of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada’s Open Doors, Open Knowledge national campaign on the theme of university-community engagement.

So, let the community conversations begin again.

I don’t mean to be so cynical here. In other locales, I have seen positive action come out of honest, occasionally rocky, meetings like these. The same will be said about these meetings, so long as they avoid the London pitfall, and become more static against the backdrop of hundreds of unresolved city conversations.

But allow me to offer some positive perspective going in.

Like many issues in this city, our town-gown relations do not need to press the reset button. We are in a good place. Let me repeat that: Despite the hand-wringing of gadflies and zingers of unnamed online commentators, both constituencies given far too much credence in this community, London is in a good place.

Admittedly, London is not today, nor ever will be, a “university town.” We are a big city that will always have big-city problems; just as we are a big university that will always have big-university problems.

Our combined strength is in discussing issues – where town rubs up against gown – and acting on them quickly together.

London and Western can be a bit myopic when it comes to their problems; we tend to see outs as the worst possible scenario. But look at the town-gown messes in College Park, Md; Durham, N.C.; Providence, R.I.; Columbus, Ohio. Soon, you realize we are Shangri-La compared to so many.

For that fact, credit the hundreds of people – inside both the city and university – having thousands of conversations and taking even more unseen actions to make this a smoother partnership.

Town-gown relations are not about discovering one big, over-arching strategy. A university too aligned with its city risks becoming too provincial in its thinking, and becomes a city college more than a global institution. We know Western’s aspirations are larger than that. A city too aligned with its university risks becoming too dependent to solve its problems, offloading everything from volunteer staffing to economic development onto the university’s back. We know London needs more diversity of solutions than that.

Instead of one plan, town-gown relations are comprised of thousands of little plans that take place every day on and off campus. We have been having those conversations – and, more importantly, acting upon them – for some time.

So, let’s welcome the next opportunity to discuss and act. And maybe in the process, offer a lesson for other conversations in the city to follow.

WHAT’S IN A NAME? THE GORDON J. MOGENSON BUILDING

Built in 1989, the Mogenson Building is the oldest building at Western’s Discovery Park, home to a number of tenants in the life sciences, digital media and technology industry. Dr. Gordon James Mogenson joined Western in 1965, and served as the chair of Physiology (1976-84), dean of Graduate Studies (1986) and the acting vice-president, research (1986-88) during his time. He is best known for his research on the central nervous system and relationships between the limbic and motor systems. His early work was applied in an author’s voice expressing an opinion. His early work was applied in a commentary label to any article written in an author’s voice expressing an opinion.

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

– L.T. Moore, University Relations and Information director

Opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of or receive endorsement from Western News or Western University.

COMMENTARY POLICY

• Western News applies a commentary label to any article written in an author’s voice expressing an opinion.

• Western News accepts opinion pieces on current events that showcase research or academic expertise of the author.

• Western News accepts letters to the editor. Limit is 250 words maximum, and accepted only from members of the Western community – faculty, staff, students and alumni. Writers may only submit once a semester.

• As an academic institution, Western News encourages lively debate, but reserves the right to edit, ask for rewrites or reject any submission, and will outright reject those based on personal attacks or covering subjects too removed from the university community.

• Western News will offer rebuttal space on any topic, and may actively pursue a counterpoint to arguments the editor feels would benefit from a dissenting opinion published simultaneously.

FOLLOW @WesternEditor
Commentary

What’s the matter with MOOCs? Everything – and nothing at all.

By Bhavin Prajapati

LAST YEAR, I stumbled on something called Massive Open Online Courses (colloquially referred to as MOOCs). The immediate appeal of taking free open classes through world-class institutions like Harvard aroused my curiosity. I was intrigued and mystified.

It just so happened one of my high school friends works at a start-up called Coursera. Coursera partners with institutions to offer MOOCs throughout the year; the classes are offered in much the same way Western organizes their course calendar. I ended up enrolling in two MOOCs through the service.

For one, I had the option to pay $40 to receive an accredited competition ‘badge.’ These badges are not credits that can be used on a transcript. I opted out because it was my first time experience with a MOOC.

Before I signed up with Coursera, I read several studies about the completion rates of MOOCs and it didn’t look too promising – only a dismal 7-10 per cent of participants ended up completing a course. The thought of a student paying $40 for something one might not finish wasn’t a trivial matter.

The first week, I didn’t know what was going on. Discussion forums were chaotic with students asking all sorts of questions. I eventually checked the syllabus, which had the timeline for the next six weeks. Basically, I need to watch some videos, post on the discussion forums at least five times and do a quiz after each lecture, which would land me verification that I have completed a course.

Seemed pretty straightforward. I remembered asking myself why the completion rates were low when it seemed to require less than two hours a week.

For the first two weeks, I was a keen person who took notes and tried to get perfect on the quizzes, despite the unlimited attempts. The videos were divided into 10-minute segments totalling one to two hours. Typically, I would watch a video during a break from schoolwork, much like checking Facebook. What I loved about the videos was if you switched windows or the computer was inactive for a few minutes, the video paused and waited for your return.

I eventually started writing the quizzes to identify gaps in my knowledge prior to viewing the lectures. Depending on how I felt, I re-did the quizzes. I actually skipped one week because I only got one wrong before watching the lecture. I can only recall two weeks of material new to me. However, I noticed the lectures contained open-source, freely available information but in a structured format, i.e. “the classroom.”

I can see the appeal of someone wanting to take a structured course instead of reading article after article. Even with my learning style, lectures best suit me. I did well in both courses and was relatively satisfied with my grade, considering the little effort I put in.

So, do MOOCs have the power to replace university classrooms?

Nope.

As a student, I will defend educational institutions wielding my pencil at a desk, fortified by a wall of textbooks and moat of coffee. I firmly believe you cannot effectively emulate the essence of sitting in a classroom, taking notes, having a dynamic discussion, while maintaining strong academic rigor through current online technologies.

There is great deal of contention toward MOOCs, but we need to take a step back. MOOCs may have all the requisite ingredients of a class, but they are not classes.

First, the academic level required is equivalent to high school, but I cannot say if this is the same for all MOOCs. Second, I had the opportunity to meet incredible students from all over. It was imperative and virtual conferences, best compared to sites like TED.com.

As a grad student attending conferences is an important opportunity to build your career. I approached MOOCs as a networking tool to meet people with similar interests and aspirations. We were able to discuss different perspectives on the same topic at our leisure. I even had the opportunity to participate at a course meet-up in Toronto.

Similar to open-source journals, MOOCs are the next wave of services to change academic culture. I already see myself listing MOOCs under a section on my CV titled “Online Classes.”

Even the prospect of hosting my own MOOCs in future, like a conference presentation, is exhilarating; imagine hundreds of people taking your course about something you’re passionate about. Many of us forget that we already engage in these activities using services like YouTube and WordPress.

Regardless of your stance on MOOCs, as academics we need to also look at what MOOCs stand for – free education for all. Universities cultivate social change, MOOCs simply add another venue to do so.

It may not replace a class, or get you an academic credit, but at least it advocates that through education for the masses, we can still share knowledge to make an impact for the better.

Bhavin Prajapati, a master’s degree candidate in the Health Information Science program under the Faculty of Information and Media Studies and Health Sciences, is the graduate student senator on the university Senate and vice-chair of the Student Caucus on Governance.
Study explores bipolar in postpartum period

BY ADELA TALBOT

RESEARCHERS HAVE LONG connected mood disorders and pregnancy. But a study coming out of Western is boiling down some of the specifics, suggesting women who suffered from depression prior to pregnancy should be monitored for manic symptoms, characteristic of bipolar disorder, in the postpartum period.

While women's reproductive events (such as pregnancy, the postpartum period and menopause) are commonly associated with mood disorders, childbirth is a more dramatic event, explained Dr. Varinder Sharma, a psychiatrist who teaches in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry in the departments of Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Sharma recently co-authored a paper, A prospective study of diagnostic conversion of major depressive disorder to bipolar disorder in pregnancy and postpartum, in the journal Bipolar Disorders.

“Childbirth is a potent and specific trigger for mania and hypomania. What I wanted to do was to see, if you have a group of women with just depression, how many of them would convert to bipolar disorder after giving birth,” Sharma explained.

His team found the incidence of diagnostic conversion – from depression to bipolar disorder – in postpartum women was 11-18 times higher than reported in nonpostpartum women.

“If you look at the literature on postpartum mental illness, there’s less of emphasis on postpartum depression; not much attention is paid to bipolar disorder,” Sharma said.

He noted bipolar disorder in postpartum women tends to go unnoticed following childbirth.

“When physicians and other care givers are assessing women with postpartum depression, they have to screen them for bipolar disorder. This has important treatment implications and there are some safety issues as well. Bipolar disorder is more likely associated with suicide, and, perhaps, infanticide.”

That’s why it is important to know the diagnosis as early as possible, he noted. That will ensure prompt and proper treatment, before symptoms escalate. Prescribing antidepressants to a woman whose diagnosis has converted to bipolar disorder won’t be effective and could exacerbate symptoms of mania, Sharma explained.

“If you look at women who get hospitalized for psychiatric reasons within the first couple of weeks after childbirth, a large number of them have bipolar disorder,” he said.

“We know childbirth is perhaps the most important and most potent trigger of bipolar disorder. We need to understand why that is the case, what is so unique about childbirth that it’s associated with such high risk,” he continued.

It’s possible genetic factors, a family history of bipolar disorder, hormonal changes and sleep loss following pregnancy, contribute to the high risk. Sharma and his team will continue to examine these factors, in hopes of better understanding the underlying cause of the increased diagnostic conversion of depression to bipolar disorder in postpartum women.

“For us to understand bipolar disorder in women, we have really neglected the role of hormonal changes,” he said.

“We now want to look at women who have just postpartum depression, to see whether the presence of manic symptoms (changes) in response to treatment.”

“‘We know childbirth is a potent and specific trigger for mania and hypomania. What I wanted to do was to see, if you have a group of women with just depression, how many of them would convert to bipolar disorder after giving birth.”

– Dr. Varinder Sharma
Neuroscientist not napping on idea of explaining sleep

BY PAUL MAYNE

DON’T NOD OFF on this one. A Western neuroscientist is exploring the possibility sleep isn’t so much about rest from a busy day as it is about memory consolidation – or, more simply, the process needed to form lasting memories.

“There is a certain role sleep plays, and that is in the enhancement of memory,” said Stuart Fogel, who recently joined Western’s Brain & Mind Institute. “Sleep is a very active state, not just one of rest and recharge. Sleep is actually doing something entirely new and different. When we learn something new, sleep actually reformulates or reconstructs memories in an entirely different way, so down the road these memories are stronger and more accessible, and we perform better.

“When sleep follows learning, enhanced memory consolidation is observed as compared to an equivalent period of wakefulness,” Fogel added. “Sleep supports normal development, enhancement and regulation of the human body but it also, very importantly, encourages the same things in the brain.”

With the new Brain & Mind Sleep Research Laboratory, Fogel studies behavioural testing to cognitive testing, all within a full clinical setting, complete with three sleeping quarters. A 32-channel electroencephalo-gram (EEG) records everything from brain waves, rapid eye movement (REM), muscle activity, reparatory effort, pulse and what Fogel refers to as so much “rich data” to begin to explore a lot of unanswered questions.

“Sleep is one of the core biological functions required by the brain and the body, and one of the strongest biological drives, such as hunger or thirst. We can’t live without it,” said Fogel, who hopes to begin his work within the next month or so. “The drive and need for sleep indicates it serves some particular function. It goes beyond alleviating fatigue and tiredness. It’s like saying the function of eating is because you’re hungry, but hunger is just a symptom, like sleepiness is just a symptom; it doesn’t represent the function necessarily.”

Fogel’s research could even study the relationship between sleep and intellectual ability.

“We can look at the EEG of sleep and it gives us a window into the markers for cognitive abilities,” he said. “For example, take a hockey player, pianist or computer programmer; just the physiological signatures of sleep actually give us some insight into disseminating between people’s various cognitive abilities.”

Fogel aims not only to study the physiological reactivation of memories during sleep, but also uncover physiological and cognitive evidence of memory replay during sleep.

“One of the major unresolved questions that exists in science is we still haven’t been able to answer why do we sleep – not only sleep itself, but conscious and mental activity that occurs during sleep, and the transitions that occur during sleep, such as dreams,” she said. “So, we know very little about that. Now, techniques are being developed that are giving us the tools to do this in a systematic and objective way. This may ultimately help answer the age-old question of why we sleep, and provide insight into the function of dreams.”

So, the question all students are dying to know: Is cramming before an exam productive?

“I would recommend people avoid all-nighters,” Fogel said. “Cramming is okay, as long as you get enough sleep so that you’ll consolidate that material. It will be cemented and better integrated with your existing knowledge and you’ll be able to perform better.”

Stuart Fogel, a research scientist at Western’s Brain & Mind Sleep Research Laboratory, prepares research assistant Lauren Binnie to be a mock participant in his study into the unsolved mysteries as to why humans actually sleep.

"Western is a very engaged university, with many programs, courses, units and research centres that are set to address community needs and contribute to the public good of our communities," Fisher said. “However, as a collective whole, the impacts of these initiatives are yet to be recognized and measured, and thus, the full potential of community-university partnerships for Western is yet to be realized and understood.”

- Anne-Marie Fischer
All are welcome to attend this free public lecture

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**Adrienne Arsenaught**

Journalist

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD)

"None of us is immune from the threat of mental illness. We have made progress on the stigma surrounding mental illness, but many young people still struggle. We don’t know how to start the conversation; it’s awkward. We don’t know the way in.”

**Kelly Meighen**

T.R. Family Meighen Foundation, president

Honorary Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (LLD)

"WE NOW LIVE IN A TRULY INTERDEPENDENT WORLD. WE CAN’T ISOLATE OURSELVES; DIVORCE IS NOT AN OPTION. WE ARE MOSTLY PROGRAMMED TO BE MUTUALLY SUPPORTIVE – UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL.”

**Thomas Feasby**

Neurologist

Honorary Doctor of Science, honoris causa
BY JASON WINCERS

WESTERN HAS ENLISTED some familiar faces to tell its extraordinary story. And this month, that story goes national.

Created in house by Western’s Creative Services team within Communications and Public Affairs, an alumni-focused print advertising campaign was rolled out regionally in May, with exposure in the London Free Press, Toronto Life, London Business Magazine, Ottawa Magazine, Canadian Family and Western Alumni Gazette. Starting this month, that campaign spreads nationally via the Globe and Mail and Report on Business Magazine.

The university debuted its first national print ad, featuring lifestyle guru and HGTV host Sarah Richardson, BA’93, in the Globe and Mail on Oct. 30.

“We are excited about this,” said Helen Connell, Communications and Public Affairs associate vice-president. “The few ads that have run so far have drawn comments from a lot of people, some of them surprised the featured person was a graduate of Western.”

While the campaign has surpassed the halfway mark, there is still lots of work to be done, Connell explained. “These ads will help raise Western’s profile for excellence. And what a better way to tell that story than through successful alumni.”

“My experience, and another great way — for us to tell our story,” she said. “We have some extraordinary people.”

In addition to Richardson, upcoming ads will feature Cameron Bailey, BA’87, Toronto Film Festival artistic director; Glenn Stevens, MA’85, Reserve Bank of Australia governor general; Paul Beeston, BA’67, LL’94, Toronto Blue Jays president and CEO; Roberta Jamieson, LL’76, Indspire president and CEO; Stephan Moccio, BMus’79, singer and songwriter; Perrin Beatty, BA’71, LL’13, Canadian Chamber of Commerce president; and Louise Pite, BMus’79, DMus’06, musical theatre actress.

“We wanted to profile recognizable alumni in a variety of fields and geographies as proof points to Western’s tradition of developing leaders,” said Diana Cunningham, alumni and development communications director. “We want to show leadership, performance and creativity, advocacy and healing, we have a lot of different attributes that are shaped through the Western Experience.”

“It is also to engage our alumni and appeal to their sense of pride and how Western has touched the lives and careers of many who have gone on to do extraordinary things. And they all got their start at Western. Hopefully, this reminds our alumni how it all started at Western for them as well, and compels them to make that possible for future alumni.”

Building off the overall Western campaign theme of #BeExtraordinary, the ad campaign is the first-ever by the university using its ‘name’ alumni to help promote the university and, in turn, its campaign. The advertisements use big, bold photographs in concert with crisp copy to draw the eye and interest of readers, said Terry Rice, creative services director.

“From lead actors to the leaders of central banks, we can bring them all together in this one campaign,” he said.

Western plans to continue adding names to the campaign, expanding to more geographies, disciplines and years, as it continues through early 2015. An online and social media component will follow in early 2014. An online advertising component of this scale is new to Western, Rice said. When launched, online ads will drive traffic to Western’s campaign website, extraordinary.westernu.ca, incorporating videos, fuller profiles of the featured alumni as well as testimonials from faculty, students and other alumni.

The social media component will allow alumni to share these stories with each other, their friends and the world, Rice said.

“As it continues through early 2015. An online and social media component will follow in early 2014. An online advertising component of this scale is new to Western, Rice said. When launched, online ads will drive traffic to Western’s campaign website, extraordinary.westernu.ca, incorporating videos, fuller profiles of the featured alumni as well as testimonials from faculty, students and other alumni. The social media component will allow alumni to share these stories with each other, their friends and the world, Rice said.”
Bloom judges comments plant seeds for future

Editor's note: A previous story said Western was not named among the winners of the 19th edition of the Communities in Bloom National and International Awards. Western was not eligible for the awards; the university fell into a non-competitive category.

BY JASON WINDERS

JIM GALBRAITH NEVER had any doubts the judges would love the place. “Western is an amazing, beautiful campus. But that doesn’t happen on its own,” said Western’s grounds and recycling supervisor. “From the folks who started this whole thing more than 100 years ago, to those who planted many of our great trees we enjoy today, we have to carry the torch forward.”

“We need to do things for 50 years down the road, things that were done for us 50 years ago. We need to keep it moving forward.”

Galbraith and his Facilities Management team, as well as dozens of others across campus, took away several positives from the extensive judges’ comments provided from the university’s participation in the 19th edition of the Communities in Bloom National and International Awards.

The Communities in Bloom program consists of communities being evaluated either provincially or nationally by a volunteer jury of trained professionals on the accomplishments of their entire community. The campus was evaluated in July; winners were announced last week.

In 2004, Western took first-place honours in the Parks and Grounds category of the organization’s annual awards, beating out Alberta’s Banff National Park and Okanagan University College in British Columbia. Prior to this year, it was the first— and last—time Western entered the competition.

This year, Western was entered in the Special Attractions category. A change from previous years, this category is only evaluated and rated; entrants do not compete against one another. There is no category ‘winner.’

Entrants are allowed to enter themselves for one or more of the organization’s Outstanding Achievement Awards. Western entered only one of those competitions, the Canadian Nursery and Landscape Association Environmental Action Award, a category won by Yarmouth, NS.

The real advantage to the competition, Galbraith said, is getting an outsider’s view of the campus.

Community in Bloom judges Gérald Lajeunesse from Ottawa and Bruce Hay from Brampton rated the university on six categories—tidiness, environmental action, natural and cultural heritage conservation, urban forestry, landscape and floral displays. Overall, the judging pair gave the university an 89 per cent, a figure good for the organization’s top rating—Five Blooms.

“The budget allocated for the grounds and the staff’s expertise are impressive, resulting in a campus that is not only attractive and functional, but also one that is representative of its heritage, both natural and built, and environmentally sustainable for future generations,” wrote Lajeunesse and Hay. “Of the many challenges facing the campus in the coming decades, the greatest will be the protection of the heritage character of the campus, the integrity of its green space and the control of its built environment, its ‘urbanization.’

“The judges are pleased to recognize the Western University campus with Five Blooms and encourage staff to continue striving for excellence in their work.”

The category breakdown held some interesting commentary for the campus.

Environmental action. “The on-campus apiary was a most enjoyable discovery by the judges, as was the delicious honey tasted during the campus visit. An essential service provided by these insects ensures the cross-pollination of the many fruit trees, shrubs and flowers throughout the campus, a fine example of environmental sustainability at work.”

Natural and cultural heritage conservation. “The judges quickly realized that this campus was not merely ‘old’ in years, but that the heritage continues to resonate throughout the years and today, the same respect and recognition can be seen in the natural and built environment of the overall campus. Apart from a short period of questionable architectural expression during the late 60s and early 70s, the built form remains true to Western’s roots and recent additions retain the expression of the early architectural vocabulary... The judges enjoyed viewing the recent development of the Aboriginal garden, as it will provide an educational venue and a connection with the cultural landscape and First Nations heritage, the campus and the region. Hopefully sufficient assistance will be provided to ensure the success of this initiative.”

Urban forestry. “The judges were taken by the vast array of tree species found on campus and considered the quality of specimens to rival many existing arboreta.”

Floral displays. “The predominance of purple and white, the university colours, was omnipresent and delightful to see. Bravo to the team... Further initiatives could also be developed with the Friends of the Garden and First Nations representatives in order to better sustain the existing partnership gardens and thus ensure their continuing presence on campus. Such partnership should be seen as going beyond accommodation, with the common goal of providing value added to the community’s well-being and quality of life.”

While the physical attributes of the campus dominated the commentary, Galbraith was pleased the judges frequently nodded to the people who make the campus beautiful.

“The people who work at Western are committed and fortunate to have a campus as beautiful as we have,” he said. “It’s part of our staff’s dedication to making this campus what it is.”

Going forward, Galbraith sees an opportunity to use some of the commentary to inspire future projects—like refreshing the Campus Walking Tour, even adding in a separate Campus Tour for Trees. He also saw a place where some of the commentary—like developing a more consistent campus in the outdoor amenities, such as benches and tables, signage, etc.—could inform the upcoming conversation on the Campus Master Plan.

“We always say this, but we really are a city within a city. They judge towns and villages, but a place like this is a bit different for them, a bit unique. There is such a vast array of things going on all the time on campus. We try to make the best experience for anyone visiting here for any reason,” he said. “The campus has to look good all the time. And that’s our challenge.”

In Memoriam

JOHN NORMAN MCDougALL

Political Science professor John Norman McDougall died Oct. 22 at the London Health Sciences Centre as the result of complications caused by cancer. He was 68.

McDougall’s remains were cremated and will be buried at a later date by the family beside the grave of his mother. An event to celebrate his life will be announced.

McDougall had been a stalwart member of Western’s Department of Political Science since 1974. Specializing in political economy, he taught international relations to generations of students. He was the author of three books, Fuels and the National Policy (1982), The Politics and Economics of Eric Kierans (1993) and Drifting Together: The Political Economy of Canada-U.S. Integration (2006).

He will be sorely missed by his many Western friends, especially at the Grad Club on Friday afternoons.

Son of the late Fred McDougall and Doris Mary (Gaskarth) McDougall, McDougall was born July 17, 1945, in Edmonton. He was a graduate of the University of Calgary, the London School of Economics and the University of Alberta.

He is survived by a brother, Fred William McDougall, sister-in-law, Gail; niece, Nancy (Daren) Kirkpatrick; nephew, Ian, and grand-nephews, Tom and Matthew Kirkpatrick, all of Edmonton. He is also survived by his former wife, Valerie Swinton.

Donations in his memory to any charity or educational institution are gratefully appreciated.

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“Coach Vigars has been a remarkable coach, teacher and role model. Our team is extremely fortunate to have a leader and, I know, he will be forever remembered among the Western community for his many contributions. I think I speak on behalf of our whole team when I say that we will really miss Coach Vigars, and his purple bandana, out on the race course next year.”

- Amanda Truelove
Legendary coach ends ‘one hell of a run’

BY PAUL MAYNE

BOB VIGARS DROPPED an email to his Western women’s cross-country team earlier this week to give them the itinerary leading up to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) National Championships this weekend in London. In the note, he laid out the basics – practice schedule, workout times, locations to meet and pick-up times.

But it was how he ended the email which sums up his more than four decades coaching at Western:

“I have always believed in the strength and resolve that can come to one from a long and close association with the collective of a team who share in the highs, lows and everything in between. And remember, this that you do is a labour of love. You were born to do this. I’m afraid if I don’t, I’m going to fall apart,” said Vigars, who

The 69-year-old Vigars usually prefers to remain outside the spotlight. However, that won’t be possible this week.

Just days before his coaching career’s final competition, Western’s longest-serving coach – ever – will be inducted into the London Sports Hall of Fame tonight (Thursday, Nov. 7). The accomplishments celebrated during the evening are many and unparalleled.

Vigars-coached teams won 11 track and field and 16 cross-country championships in Ontario university competitions. He claims 14 of Western’s 31 national championships (three women’s track and field titles, seven women’s and four men’s cross-country titles). He started the Western International Invitational cross-country meet (1977), designed a cross-country course on the Thames Valley Golf Course, which is still used today (1980), founded the London-Western Track and Field Club (1970) as well as both the Canadian University Coaching Associations for cross-country (1976) and track and field (1980).

Vigars is doing his best to prepare for the onslaught of praise and adoration.

“I’m certainly going to try and make it fun, because I’m afraid if I don’t, I’m going to fall apart,” said Vigars, who admitted his emotions would likely get the best of him. “I have to try and make this work because I don’t want to get the team emotional and get in their way… I want to be able to say what I want to say to all the people. I’m just worried I’ll get too choked up and not be able to talk.

“I’m going to have a hard time holding it together.”

Born and raised in St. Thomas, Vigars attended Southern Illinois University, where he graduated in 1967 with a bachelor of science. The following year he received a master of arts degree from California State University.

At the peak of the Vietnam War, Vigars’ U.S. green card allowing him to start work in Los Angeles also meant he could be drafted and shipped overseas. His father encouraged him to look for work back home, so he returned to Canada.

“I stopped at Western and knocked on the door of the department chair (physical education) at the time – because we weren’t a faculty – and asked if they needed any part-time instructors,” Vigars said. “It was literally a cold call. These things don’t happen anymore.”

He was hired as a part-time instructor and coach of the men’s cross-country team, which he quickly led to the first Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union (CIAU) championship in 1970, the first national title for any Western team.

Within a few years, Vigars became an associate professor and “didn’t look back.”

Soon, he organized the women’s cross-country team at Western. And over the years, the accolades would continue.

Vigars was named CIS Coach of the Year 14 times, and Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Coach of the Year 28 times. He was the first recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for OUA Track and Field. Later, he was inducted into Western’s Cross-Country and Track and Field Wall of Fame (2000) and W Club Hall of Fame (2001).

“At the end of the day, I know I’m being recognized because I have won more championships than any coach at Western. But you know what, my teams that didn’t win championships had just as much fun,” Vigars said. “It’s just an absolute privilege to be a university professor and coach. It’s really a unique position. For me to have an academic mission and an athletic mission, I am just so grateful.”

While the cross-country aspect of his life will end this weekend, Vigars will continue teaching (sports, biomechanics) before officially retiring in December.

“Last January, someone asked me when I was going to retire and I told them I didn’t see it yet, and that I may have another five years left in me,” he said. “But I think the fact I’m turning 70 (in February) just hit me like a brick wall. I said, I’m old and I’ve been hanging around 18-21 year olds for all my life pretty well.”

“And if you think about, I never left school. I started Grade 1 and I’ve been here all my life.”

Admitting he had “one hell of a run,” Vigars and his wife plan to rent a house in the Barbados, taking off after the New Year. He felt if he stayed around over the winter months he would get depressed and “just get in the way.”

“One thing likely get in the way over the next few days, however, will be his emotions. When asked what it was going to be like being referred to as a ‘legend at Western,’ Vigars became emotional and paused.

‘This is the problem, I just feel so lucky, I don’t need them to say anything,” he said. “I don’t need that. I’m just so lucky to have been able to do what I have done all these years; nothing else needs to be said.”

“Bob always makes me want to push myself to excel to the best of my ability. I’m happy to say he has been a huge part of my success as a runner.”

- Melissa Caruso

“He is not only a coach, but a mentor and a friend. He does a great job of keeping the Western community connected – inviting our parents to team dinners when we are away at meets. He is a man of tradition and that is one of the reasons why our program is so special.”

- Alicia Knox
**PHD LECTURES**

Muh. Islam Chowdhury, Computer Science, Application of Computer Algebra in List Decoding. Nov. 8, MC 316, 10:30 a.m.

Javad Kazemian, Geophysics, Spatial Heterogeneities in a Simple Earthquake Fault Model. Nov. 8, B&BG 1084, 9 a.m.

Umar Khan, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Modeling and Protection of Phase Shifting Transformers. Nov. 13, TEB 234, 9 a.m.

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Campus Digest

Western climbs back into Maclean’s annual Top 10

BY JASON WINDELS

IT ONLY TOOK a year, but Western has climbed its way back into the Top 10,登陆ing at No. 9 on the 23rd annual Maclean's University Rankings issue, released Nov. 1. Last year, Western was ranked outside the Top 10. For the ninth year in a row, the self-proclaimed “holy book for anyone planning their education in Canada” ranked McGill first in the Medical Doctoral category, which boasts 15 schools including Western. The University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, Queen's University and University of Alberta rounded out the Top Five. In fact, the first seven spots in the Top 10 held serve.

At No. 9, Western was tied with the University of Calgary, one spot ahead of the University of Montreal.

Western peaked in the Maclean’s rankings at No. 3, where it sat for four straight years (2002-5). It has no been no higher than No. 5 (2006) since.

This year, the Medical Doctoral category-by-category breakdown told a variety of stories.

Western ranked highest in scholarships and bursaries (the percentage of total operating expenditures devoted to scholarships and bursaries) and library acquisitions (proportion of the library budget allocated to updating the university’s collection, including electronic access), both at No. 4.

Western ranked lowest in student awards (a five-year tally, 2008-12, of the number of students, per 1,000, who have won national awards), total research dollars (total income from sponsored research divided by the number of full-time faculty) and library expenses (percentage of the university budget devoted to maintaining library services), all at No. 12.

In a survey of high school guidance counselors, university officials and heads of organizations, as well as CEOs and recruiters at corporations across the country, Western was ranked No. 8 in national reputation against all schools. McGill, Waterloo and UBC topped that list. Western was one spot ahead of Simon Fraser.

Four schools including Western were strategically placed around campus this year.

For the university and the planet, as Western continues quantifying greenhouse gas emissions going into the atmosphere in just three years. On the carbon market, that figure represents $333,000.

“These results have encouraged us to continue implementing more projects that will showcase Western’s leadership in carbon emissions reduction while also improving our facilities, and saving money,” Whitty said. “Leadership in carbon emissions reduction while also improving our facilities, and saving money.”

The Museum of Ontario Archaeology needs your vote. The A1wa Community Fund is giving away $1 million as part of a competition to fund amazing ideas to better Canada. The museum’s proposal, History in your Hands, looks to bring archaeology to kids and youth through hands-on digital platforms and traveling displays. Western researchers and students have many ties to the museum including 3D animation of artifacts scanned by the Sustainable Archaeology team.

Visit aviaacommunityfund.org/ideas/ad18197 to vote before Nov. 15.

Third time was a charm for Western as representatives from the Facilities Management Division received the university’s third consecutive Waste Minimization Award at the Recycling Council of Ontario awards gala in Toronto. The annual event recognizes organizations across the province for their efforts in waste reduction and diversion.

The silver award is intended at the top of the Industrial, Commercial and Institutional, Education in Institution category, edging out the University of Toronto.

Several recent advancements to the waste collection process can be directly linked to the university’s success. For example, 160 new outdoor recycling receptacles were strategically placed around campus this year. Western has been composting in its residences since 1997, and, starting this year, suite-style residences are equipped with green bins.

- Lauren McVitte

NEWS AND NOTES

Western alumna Laura Penny’s returns to Western to offer graduate students an opportunity for a frank discussion on their work and the overall challenges faced in academia today. Sponsored by the Society of Graduate Students, Fees and Empty Pockets: An Evening with Laura Penny is scheduled for 5-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14 in Conron Hall, University College 224. Penny, a graduate from Western’s Centre for Theory and Criticism, is now an assistant professor at University of King’s College in Halifax, N.S., is the author of Your Call is Important To Us: The Truth About Bullying (2005) and More Money Than Brains: Why School Sucks, College is Crap, and Idiots Think They’re Right (2010).

Investments in energy savings initiatives are paying off for the university and the planet, as Western’s carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) emissions by 11.5 per cent over the past three years.

Since quantifying greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions began in 2010, the campus has continued to grow. The development of new buildings across campus means mitigating greenhouse gas emissions is increasingly difficult.

The success is a result of the combined efforts of key personnel in Facilities Management staff under the stewardship of Jamie Whitty, Mechanical and Energy manager, and Mary Quintana, Lopez, Energy and Water Projects compliance Coordinator.

Beginning in 2010, Facilities Management invested in insulation upgrades to reduce steam system heat loss. The project included improving the thermal resistance or ‘R-Value’ along sections of the line and installing removable service covers on valves. Other projects included replacing older equipment with energy-efficient units, a hot water conservation program, controls upgrades and a steam trap audit and replacement program.

Between 1999-2009, Western’s GHG emissions increased by 20 per cent and, without any significant action, that figure was projected to hold or grow. Considering past trends, Facilities Management estimates Western has avoided almost 20,000 tons of carbon emissions going into the atmosphere in just three years. On the carbon market, that figure represents $333,000.

“These results have encouraged us to continue implementing more projects that will showcase Western’s leadership in carbon emissions reduction while also improving our facilities, and saving money,” Whitty said. “We have surpassed even our own expectations and improving our facilities, and saving money,” Whitty said. “Leadership in carbon emissions reduction while also improving our facilities, and saving money.”

- Lauren McVitte
Hidden photo sparks search across the decades

BY ADELA TALBOT

LANA HARRISON’S COLLECTION of old atlases has been growing for years. Visiting used bookshops in British Columbia, the 77-year-old assembled a large stack, with plans of taking the atlases with her to Kenya, donating them to local schools.

The books sat for years until one day, the Surrey, B.C., woman found something wedged inside one of the atlas’ pages – a black-and-white class photograph taken in April 1942, on the steps of Western’s Physics and Astronomy building.”I’ve collected them and had them for a while, maybe five years. I looked through them, looked at the dates and there was this picture in one of them, and I turned it over, and there were names,” Harrison said.

“Whoever had that picture, they turned it over on the back, and wrote the names and where (the person) was from. Every once in a while, they didn’t remember the person’s name and they drew a blank space, but most of the names are there. I thought, there must be somebody out there dying to get their hands on that picture.”

At the bottom of the photo, the print reads, “No. 2 course radio technicians at its original owner or a living relative. them to run the photo, hoping to reunite it with such luck.” Harrison plans to contact the Canadian War

Harrison contacted the Surrey Leader, asking them to run the photo, hoping to reunite it with its original owner or a living relative. So far, no such luck.

“It hit me that somebody must be out there that would want that picture. I realize the (owner) might be gone, but they have sons and daughters,” she said.

The back of the photograph, where names and hometowns are written, indicates the men are from all over Canada. Harrison said she wishes the original owner had, among the list on the back, indicated where he stood in the crowd. “I wish he would have written down ‘Me,’” she said.

“It’s unusual for a man – women do this (record keeping). Unless his wife did it,” Harrison laughed. “Women are much better at that. Whoever did it had neat, clear handwriting.” Harrison plans to contact the Canadian War Brides of World WarTwo and perhaps a museum or two, in hopes of someone finding a connection, friend or family member in the old photograph.  

who had nice handwriting,” she said.

Harrison has just returned from East Africa, where she went on a trip she said was part mission work, part time to see family, a Kenyan family she has grown close to, calling them her son, daughter and grandchildren.

She remembers the Second World War, and has always had an interest in the conflict, especially because her late husband was in the Air Force. It’s another reason she felt particularly drawn to the photograph, seeing men who served at the time.

“There was so many things that I do remember. I was young, but I was aware of what was going on; I remember being on ration books,” she said.

Harrison says the records she has gathered indicate the person in the picture took part in both World War One and perhaps a museum or two, in hopes of someone finding a connection, friend or family member in the old photograph.

PHOTOS SPECIAL TO WESTERN NEWS