Professors released from Egyptian prison, await exit from country

BY ADELA TALBOT

FOLLOWING WEEKS WITH no charges in an Egyptian prison, London physician and Western professor Tarek Loubani and Toronto filmmaker and York University professor John Greyson were freed last weekend, only to be stopped at the airport on their way to Germany, having been placed on a ‘stop list’ by Egyptian prosecutors.

According to Canada’s Foreign Affairs Ministry, the men may not leave Egypt pending an ongoing investigation and the remaining possibility of criminal charges stemming from their arrest during anti-government demonstrations in August.

Loubani and Greyson were en route to the Gaza Strip where the London doctor was working on a medical mission Greyson planned to document. They were arrested along with roughly 600 others on Aug. 16 and detained in Egypt’s notorious high-security Tora prison, where they endured a voluntary hunger strike and less-than favourable conditions for nearly seven weeks.

The Canadian government “has obviously been pushing for (their release) and welcomes this decision by the government of Egypt and we look forward to seeing these two Canadian citizens return home in the not too distant future,” said Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in a statement from Malaysia on his way to the Asia-Pacific leaders summit.

Upon hearing the initial news of the men’s release on Saturday, Western President Amit Chakma released a statement praising the Canadian government and members of the Western’s community for their dedication to Loubani and Greyson’s freedom.

“We appreciate the efforts by the Canadian government to secure the release of Loubani and Greyson. I also want to say how proud I am of the members of Western’s community for their vigilance in maintaining a heightened awareness of the plight of these two men,” Chakma said. “As friends and colleagues, we look forward to the welcoming Dr. Loubani back to Western.”

And while friends, family and colleagues in Canada were likewise initially pleased to hear Loubani and Greyson could come home, news of them being on a no-fly list until charges against all 600-something detainees are cleared deflated the excitement Monday.

Even though Loubani and Greyson are now in a hotel room instead of a jail cell, officials say the wait for the investigation’s completion could be long and their lawyers are planning an appeal to remove their clients’ names off the no-fly list.

The men’s unexpected release last weekend coincided with more violent clashes in Cairo, where at least 50 people were killed.

Loubani and Greyson’s arrest followed violent clashes in August in Tahrir Square, where Loubani, unable to cross to the Gaza Strip, responded to calls for medical assistance and Greyson filmed demonstrations. By the men’s account, they witnessed at least 50 protestors die that night.

The men, while never formally charged, were accused of participating with members of the Muslim Brotherhood and planning an attack on a police station. Accusations and pending charges of murder, a conspiracy to kill, among others, have been called ludicrous by friends and family who have consistently praised the men’s humanitarian efforts.

Stories // Pages 8-9
COMING EVENTS

OCT. 10-16

10 // THURSDAY
MIGRATION AND ETHNIC RELATIONS COLLOQUIUM
Christina Clark-Kazak, International Studies, Glendon College, York University. Beyond the Victim-Villain Dichotomy: Political Strategies of Congolese Young People in Uganda. 4:55 p.m. CSS, room 5220.

HISPANIC FILM SERIES
Tropico de Sangre. 7:9 p.m. Spencer Engineering, room 1200.

11 // FRIDAY
DR. MAUD L. MENTEN MEMORIAL FALL SYMPOSIUM
Dissecting RAS Cancer Cell Signalling Towards Personalized Medicine. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Huron, Kingmill Room. 9:30 a.m. Gary Shaw, Biochemistry. 10 a.m. James Choy, Biochemistry. 10:45 a.m. Mitsui Ikura, University of Toronto.

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY AND CELL BIOLOGY
Nina Weishaupt, Western. Promoting neuroplasticity to repair the injured spinal cord. 12:30 p.m MSB, room 282.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL
Fraser Valley at Western. 7 p.m.

MEN’S RUGBY
RMC at Western. 3 p.m.

MEN’S HOCKEY
Concordia at Western. 7 p.m.

MEN’S BASEBALL
Laurier at Western. 7 p.m.

12 // SATURDAY
WOMEN’S SOCCER
Brock at Western. 1 p.m.

MEN’S BASEBALL
Waterloo at Western. 1 and 4 p.m.

MEN’S SOCCER
Brock at Western. 3:15 p.m.

WOMEN’S HOCKEY
York at Western. 5 p.m.

13 // SUNDAY
WOMEN’S SOCCER
Laurier at Western. 1 p.m.

MEN’S SOCCER
Laurier at Western. 3:15 p.m.

WOMEN’S HOCKEY
UOIT at Western. 2 p.m.

14 // MONDAY
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
University offices closed.

15 // TUESDAY
SENIOR ALUMNI PROGRAM
Manuel Pereira, senior regional representative (currency), Bank of Canada, and Tim Laurence, Ontario regional counterfeit coordinator, RCMP. How to Spot a Counterfeit Bill. Learn about how to protect yourself from fraud and identity theft. 9:30 a.m. UCC, McKeeller Room.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Writing Multiple-Choice Tests. sdc.uwo.ca/learning 1:30-2:30 p.m. WSS, room 3134.

BACKPACK TO BRIEFCASE:
The Art of the Schmooze. Jennifer Frees, BA’06, senior manager of corporate sponsorships for the Toronto International Film Festival. alumni.westernu.ca/get-involved/students/backpack-to-briefcase.html 5-6:30 p.m. UCC, Mustang Lounge.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Brazilian pianist Durval Cesetti joins Annette-Barbara Vogel to present European Women Composers of the 19th century. 8 p.m. von Kuster Hall.

ITALIAN FILM SERIES
Caterina in the Big City. 8 p.m. UC, room 84.

16 // WEDNESDAY
THE CHINESE PROGRAM AT HURON
Anyone wishing to speak Chinese and meet people who study Chinese is welcome. terutula@uwo.ca. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Huron, A18.

UNIFIED WAY KICK OFF
Join President Amit Chakma as he kicks off Western’s United Way Campaign for 2013. 11:30 a.m. UCC, The Wave.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE RESEARCH FORUM
Jaime Brenes Reyes, Funes and Barbey in Conversation. 11:30-12:30 p.m. UC, room 207.

TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS
Build your confidence in public speaking. 9119.toastmastersclubs.org/. Contact Donna Moore, dmooore@uwo.ca or 85159. 12-1 p.m. UC, room 1478.

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

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

WINDEEE RESEARCH INSTITUTE PUBLIC LECTURE

BIOMEDICAL IMAGING RESEARCH CENTRE SEMINAR
Alexander McEwan, University of Alberta. How New Imaging Methodologies Will (Should) Change Clinical Practice. hic.can. 5:30-7 p.m. Shuttleworth Auditorium (D0-104), St. Joseph’s Hospital.

GERMAN FILM SERIES
The Blue Light. 6:30 p.m. UC, room 288.

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**WindEEE Research Institute Public Lecture**
Meteorology and Climate Change and Wind Engineering

**Wednesday, October 16, 2013**
4:30 p.m. Conron Hall | UC 224

**Presenter:** Lord Julian Hunt
- Emeritus Professor of Climate Modelling Department of Earth Sciences and Honorary Professor of Mathematics, University College, London, United Kingdom
- Former Director-General and Chief Executive of the UK Meteoro logical Office.

**www.windee.ca**
Duo looks to show Western the Way

BY PAUL MAYNE

NATALIE SAMUEL UNDERSTANDS surpassing Western’s record-breaking $746,101 donation to United Way of London & Middlesex will be a daunting task. But she’s up to the challenge.

“We have to have a positive and optimistic attitude that we are going to meet our goal, and we believe we can do it,” said Samuel, a recruitment coordinator in the Faculty of Law and Western’s United Way sponsored employee this year. This past year, more than 100 volunteers assisted with and 1,300 students, faculty and staff donated to the campaign.

“Taking into account the economic downturn, loss of businesses, high unemployment, it sounds tough. But it’s mind over matter and, in our mind, we will succeed.”

This past month, United Way of London & Middlesex announced its largest campaign goal in the organization’s history — $8.9 million. The 2013 goal is an increase of $150,000 over last year’s goal. Western’s 2013 United Way fundraising goal is set to be announced at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, at The Wave in the University Community Centre.

One person sure to be there, along side Samuel, is Maria Bozovic, a sponsored employee from WIL Employment Connections, who is assisting with Western’s campaign. A Western graduate, Bozovic said the personal stories of those who have benefited bring the campaign to life.

“It truly drives home the importance of the initiatives of the United Way, be it around poverty, mental health or peer counseling,” she said. “A lot of people in our community have been assisted by one of the United Way-funded agencies, be it themselves or that they know of someone who has. A lot of people may not be fortunate to have the family or friend support system to pull themselves out of difficult times. So, it really drives home how important the United Way is in so many lives.”

Bozovic added her short time with the United Way has already compelled her to continue with the organization even after the campaign.

“It has really opened my eyes as to how important United Way is to our city. It’s a challenge to be a part of it and I’m growing every day because of it.”

Samuel, just over a month into her four-month position, is aware of the positive work the United Way does. At the same time, the need remains.

“For me it’s about getting into the community and seeing what’s really going on — that first-hand knowledge, as opposed to what you simply hear is happening,” she said. “Being able to witness it for yourself and understand it from a whole new perspective is tremendous.”

Even a recent visit to the London Coffee House, which she has passed countless times without a second thought, was a humbling experience.

“I come to find out there were only two volunteers running the entire place, but they kept the flow going, which speaks to the great work they’re doing.”

Samuel knows the next two months will be an incredible amount of work, but what she’s taking away from the experience will continue to pay dividends down the road.

“It pushes you outside your comfort zone and forces you to address some of the preconceived notions you may have, whether you know it or not. It changes you all around and the people you interact with, you hope you leave some of yourself with them.”

So be it financial, or even volunteering your time with an agency, Samuel said it all makes a difference.

“Often people will think in order to make a difference it has to be a huge financial donation, myself included, but I’ve learned that every little bit counts,” she said. “Even if it’s volunteering to collect and organize books for children in need or a small donation. It may seem like small things, but they all add up.”

JOIN THE CELEBRATION

Western’s 2013 United Way fundraising goal is set to be announced at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, at The Wave in the University Community Centre.

Visit Western’s newly design United Way campaign page at unitedway.uwo.ca.
Editor’s Letter

Wanted: Tech-savvy optimists to rule the world. Apply within.

JASON WINDERS
Western News Editor

WHAT’S IN A NAME? DR. DON RIX CLINICAL SKILLS BUILDING

OPENED IN 2005, the Don Rix Clinical Skills Learning Building brought a bit of ‘real-world’ medicine to the heart of campus. Consisting of 16 rooms, the building was designed to replicate the real-life exam rooms that doctors practice in, allowing medical students to develop their communication and physical examination skills by practicing on standardized patients.

Dr. Don Rix, BA ’53, MD ’57, donated $2 million to assist in the creation of the clinical skills building. His support was also instrumental in helping create the Dr. Don Rix Protein Identification Facility at the Siebens-Drake Medical Research Institute.

“I am a strong supporter of Western’s medical program that trains students in both local and regional communities,” Rix said at building’s opening. “I feel this new facility will help students become better doctors.”

Born in Orillia, Ont., in 1931, Rix grew up in London, where he attended London South Collegiate High School, followed by Western. He received numerous awards and honours for his community service including honorary doctorates from Western, and six other universities and institutes. Rix was awarded the Order of Canada (2004), Order of Ontario (2005) and the Canadian Medical Association’s F.N. G. Starr Award for Distinguished Achievement (2009).

He died Nov 6, 2009, at the age of 78 following a long illness.

- Paul Mayne

Letter to the Editor

// Join me in honouring a true Western humanitari

Dr. Tarek Lubani is a distinguished colleague in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. His deep and very personal commitment to the weak, the destitute, the sick and the voiceless led him to volunteer locally in London, and internationally in Gaza, the West Bank, Iraq, Colombia and Venezuela.

He is selfless, generous, compassionate and kind. His own needs are secondary to those of his patients. Using his spare time, his holidays and his own funds, he cares for the wounded, the traumatized, the homeless and the hungry.

Indeed, his selflessness led to his incarceration in Egypt.

Lubani represents what every doctor and teacher should be. He embodies the quintessential qualities of a humanitari. He has put his own wellbeing, finances and safety on the line to provide care to those in need, to provide leadership, to teach others how to care.

Lubani is indeed deserving of the Western Humanitarian Award and exemplifies the characteristics that this award supports. Please join me in nominating him today. Submit your nomination to internalgrants@uwo.ca by Nov 1. It is unlikely anyone else at the university is more deserving of this honour than Lubani.

MARJORIE RACLIFFE
PROFESSOR OF SPANISH LITERATURE
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Debate not aided by sweeping, misdirected judgments

BY MICHAEL MILDE

BENJAMIN TAL AND Emanuella Enenajar don’t think students should study English, psychology, philosophy, history or any of the humanities. They argue these subjects are a bad investment. “And despite overwhelming evidence that one’s field of study is the most important factor determining labour market outcomes, today’s students have not gravitated to more financially advantageous fields in a way that reflects the changing reality of the labour market.”

This is the punch line of Degrees of Success: The Payoff to Higher Education in Canada, a report published recently by CIBC World Markets Inc. There is one problem with this punch line – it isn’t true, at least not according to the analysis contained in the report itself, and certainly not according to the key StatsCan report on which Tal and Enenajar base their analysis of fields of study. On the evidence, it is clear immigration status and gender have an important effect on labour market outcomes. Field of study is largely immaterial.

Degrees of Success starts with the observation that while the highest proportion of university and college graduates earning less than half the median national income (20 per cent) are in social science and education, they are not the most likely to be “losers” with more than 30 per cent earning less than half the median national wage. In a roundabout way, this statement recognizes women typically earn less than men, so any gains they make through a university education will be disproportionately positive, even if the absolute value of that gain is not very significant. So, more and more women attain a university education, but continue to experience lingering discrimination and the familiar challenges of juggling parenting expectations and professional work, together with the systematic devaluation of ‘women’s work.’ As a result, the proportion of university- and college-educated women earning relatively low wages is going to rise.

Tal and Enenajar almost realize this – but end up getting it backward: “What’s more, the rising participation of women in higher education might be raising the ranks of students in subject areas where women are disproportionately represented – the arts and social sciences – fields that are typically lower-paying.”

Why is this conclusion backwards? Because the problem is the fields may well be “typically lower-paying” precisely because they attract larger numbers of women, who have been traditionally disadvantaged in the marketplace. At the very least this is a possibility that needs to be investigated before one can firmly conclude certain fields of study lead to lower incomes. So what about the claim the humanities, as a group, are a “low return field?”

In the above chart, Tal and Enenajar present: Psychology, humanities, social science and education are all clearly ‘losers’ with more than 30 per cent of these graduates earning less than half the median national wage. At least, that is what it looks like. But before you can conclude there is a causal relationship between the choice of a field of study and a low rate of return, you need to consider all of the reasons why some university graduates are earning less than others. (It is also interesting to note even supposedly “high return” fields such as Engineering, Health and Business have more than 20 per cent of their graduates below the median income).

To make this causal claim, Tal and Enenajar fall back on anecdotal argument: “Most Canadians are aware that, on average your odds to earn more are better with a degree in engineering than a degree in medieval history.” As an argument, this is little better than speculation.

Consider an argument that works with the available data. The chart illustrating disciplinary diversity is derived from a StatsCan document, The High Education/Low Income Paradox. College and University Graduates with Low Earnings, Ontario, 2006. The authors of this document see the paradox as the product of multiple variables (including immigration and gender, noted above).

Here is what they conclude about the effect of ‘field of study’ on income potential: “The analysis finds that, once controlling for the influence of all other factors, no one field of study stands out as being more likely than the others to lead to an individual being in a low earnings situation.”

How about that? If you look at the entire situation, and consider all of the factors that have an influence on income potential, it turns out choice of field of study is immaterial.

So, say the people who gave you the raw data Tal and Enenajar use to suggest certain fields lead to low incomes. Did Tal and Enenajar control for these other factors? Apparently not.

What lessons might one take away from this analysis of Degrees of Success? First off, Canada needs to consider the status of immigrants and women in the labour market. There is certainly evidence, from many sources, to support that claim. Our record on this score is clearly not impressive.

Canadians also need to continue to discuss and debate the purpose of university education. Degrees of Success has its central premise that the chief reason people choose to pursue postsecondary education is monetary gain, a premium in wages over what can be earned with only a high school diploma. Doubtless that is a part of the general motivation, but it is also possible individuals are motivated to acquire education because they are curious about the world and want to expand their knowledge and enhance their creativity. Some individuals will also prefer a career that is satisfying to one that is high-paying.

The list of considerations is long, and the determination of what weight to assign to each item is complicated. But the discussion of the value of postsecondary education is not aided by analyses that make sweeping judgments based on a misreading of the available evidence. Students deserve better than that, as do all those who care about the future of education in Canada.

Michael Milde is the dean of Western’s Faculty of Arts & Humanities.
Research

Imaging may unlock new diagnosis options

By Adela Talbot

Imagine suffering from a mental illness and waiting up to a decade to get a proper diagnosis. All the while taking the wrong medications. This is an unfortunate reality for some patients suffering from bipolar disorder (BD) and major depressive disorder (MDD), said Dr. Elizabeth Osuch, a researcher at Western’s Lawson Health Research Institute and a psychiatrist at the London Health Sciences Centre.

The problem is, diagnosis isn’t an exact science, she noted, being heavily weighted on patient observation and history. BD and MDD are two commonly misdiagnosed disorders in psychiatry.

“The diagnostic criteria are inadequate for the task. They’re not about pathophysiology – there’s no lab tests, no imaging tests to test for these things,” Osuch explained, noting psychiatrists mostly rely on set descriptions of ailments when diagnosing patients.

But, as with any medical condition, mental illnesses can sometimes present themselves differently, varying from patient to patient, so misdiagnosis is a frequent risk. That’s where Osuch’s work comes in.

In a recent test group of 30 young patients, 15 diagnosed with MDD and 15 with BD, Osuch found a biomarker in the brain of patients with BD. She imaged the brain with magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), looking for a region that corresponded with the bipolarity index, a diagnostic tool that encompasses varying degrees of BD. The MRI tests revealed an activation of the putamen, a round structure at the base of the forebrain, which has a positive correlation with BD – and what could be the differentiating factor between BD and MDD.

“In young people, BD presents differently than an older adult. Sometimes you see mixed states, so you can mistake BD for MDD,” she said.

“The first thing you have to keep in mind is these illnesses present themselves in adolescents and young adults, and if someone is malfunctioning in their later high school and university years, that’s messed up their life pretty seriously,” Osuch continued.

This is why it is so important to get a proper diagnosis – the earlier the better – and treat the ailment appropriately from the start.

“If you treat somebody with MDD as if they have bipolar disorder and you give them a mood stabilizer, when they need an antidepressant, you’re overmedicating them and giving them adverse affects,” Osuch said. The same is true when mistaking BD for MDD and prescribing an antidepressant.

Her recent study is unique in the field, as she is not looking at patient diagnoses or mood states of the individual, but instead at the dimensional aspects of the patients. She plans to continue this study with a larger sample group, looking for the same findings.

“We’re looking for what really is going on here at the level of pathophysiology, to help better find these diagnoses. What I published is one piece of the puzzle. The distinction between BD and MDD is really quite important and coming up with a better distinction would be great,” Osuch said.

She added this is the ideal case scenario, and a possibility, in psychiatry, helping doctors to effectively and rapidly diagnose and treat patients.

“Looking to pathophysiology for diagnoses rather than descriptions would be great.”

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Huron University College is seeking to fill the position of Manager – Organizational Services. This position will be responsible for coordinating meetings and events, new revenue generation and overseeing ancillary services at Huron.

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ncarruth@huron.uwo.ca

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Student business on the razor’s edge of success

BY PAUL MAYNE

MORGAN NORDSTROM IS a brave man. How many other 19-year-olds do you know shave with a 200-year-old straight razor?

“My grandpa taught me how to shave with one when I was 16, and that’s when I inherited my great-grandfather’s straight razors,” Nordstrom said. “They were beautiful things, but they were broken and rusted. So, I polished them up, got new handles and fixed them up in order to keep them.”

“I thought being able to use something that’s 200 years old, and that belonged to my family for five generations, was kind of cool.”

While a great story, it doesn’t end there. Others questioned Nordstrom’s obviously different shaving habits, thought it was a cool idea and asked him if he could fix up similar razors they had in their garages and attics.

“I said, ‘Sure, I can fix them up,’ and was able to make a little money while in high school,” he said, “which is kind of how I got into the business.”

Today, the second-year Western Science student has his own business, Modern Edge Razors, selling straight razors and other related products. When he came to Western, Nordstrom found a supplier in Arizona who had thousands of old beat-up razors. He bought a few, began restoring them, and took a chance at seeing if there was any interest.

During first-year, Nordstrom, an Ottawa native, decided to hang back over the Thanksgiving weekend and by the Monday had 14 razors ready to go.

“I decided to put them online and figured, what’s the worst that could happen? I sold out immediately,” he said. “I had made enough money when I started up, I really didn’t have to put any of my own money in. I figured I could take this money and pay for a textbook or start up my own company. It’s been spectacular.”

Interest in Modern Edge Razors (modernedgerazors.com) increased to the point Nordstrom incorporated this past summer. For a Science student, it was quite the learning curve jumping to the world of online sales.

“I’m not a business student, so I didn’t know what I was doing at first, and whether or not it would be right or wrong. I learned a lot because it’s so far astray from what I’m ever done before,” he said. “I had made enough money when I started up, I really didn’t have to put any of my own money in. I figured I could take this money and pay for a textbook or start up my own company. It’s been spectacular.”

In first few months, he has sold razors in the United States, Canada and around the world. And, ironically, Nordstrom sold 90 per cent of his sales to women, looking to buy a unique gift for the men in their lives.

“They tend to find them attractive, sort of a James Bond feel to it,” he said.

And it didn’t hurt business either when the most recent James Bond flick, Skyfall, featured the use of a straight razor, reportedly increasing online sales of the ‘cut-throat’ blade by a whopping 400 per cent. Nordstrom sold out his first batch less than two months after the movie’s release.

Nordstrom says the average straight razor can be used for three to five months before needing to be sharpened, which he also takes care of for his customers.

With suppliers now in the United States, Pakistan, Germany and France, Nordstrom is getting into customizing razors for his customers, everything from blade, type of wood for the handle, strokes, brushes and more. Razors can go anywhere from $100-$1,000.

While the business is fairly new, Nordstrom quickly learned the first thing that comes from running your own company. “It’s only been a few months, but I’ve already found I don’t sleep as much as I used to,” he laughed. “I got so much work, but it’s exciting.”

“Every time my grandpa emails me he asks, ‘How’s my business?’ He thinks it’s pretty cool. I get to chat with him about it and he’s an expert at old straight razors, so he’s a great resource for me.”

London’s David E. White Clothier has been another great resource, with a cold call leading to Nordstrom’s first in-store retail venture.

“I, literally, just walked in and said, ‘Hi, my name is Morgan and I make straight razors.’ He said, ‘Hi, I’m David. I own this this store, nice to meet you.’

The razors are now available at the Richmond Street store, with David E. White products available on Nordstrom’s website. A trade show in Toronto next month may lead to further retail opportunities for Nordstrom.

So, after all this success on the razor’s edge, would he ever use a generic razor?

“I’ve never owned a Bic, or anything, but I went to France this summer and, of course, I couldn’t bring a straight razor in my luggage,” he said. “I had to pack a Gillette, and I couldn’t shave with it. I was发挥ing it across my face and nothing. Never again.”

PAUL MAYNE // WESTERN NEWS

Western student Morgan Nordstrom receives a shave by Ken Knisley, a barber at David E. White Clothier. Nordstrom has teamed up with the London store, as well as having an online presence, to sell straight razors.
**Internationalization**

**IN THEIR OWN WORDS:**

**Students reflect on journey to Rwanda**

The Rwandan culture, society and reconstruction course in the Department of French Studies taught by Professor Françoise Namarro involved a five-week international service-learning experience in Rwanda. This course started five years ago.

Western News asked three students from the 2013 course, Sarah Ellen, Kaitlin Rocha and Katrina Rocha - to reflect on that trip. Here's what they had to say, in part:

**Kaitlin Rocha** – to reflect on that trip. Here's what she had to say, in part:

Kaitlin Rocha is a student at Brescia University.

I had never before the young girls who carried a jean cap filled with sand on their heads as she walked up one of the many steep hills that make up Rwandan landscape.

As volunteers, we confronted challenges in our places that culminated in questions we posed to ourselves and to the people who told us the stories of the students about which we had learned.

We were struck with pride to see the young girls who did not have any but shared the joy of their lives, because they were comfortable with what they had and from connections of spirit, and found was a country whose people were human beings.

Most days we would teach English to 45 children (GM) a textbook or in the classroom.

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HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee will meet in October 2013 to select candidates for honorary degrees to be awarded at Western’s convocations scheduled in 2014. To ensure that consideration is given to as many worthy candidates as possible, the Committee invites the submission of nominations from any member of the University Community.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the following website: uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/senate/honorary/hondeg.pdf and submitted electronically to ibirrell@uwo.ca prior to October 24, 2013, for consideration by the Honorary Degrees Committee.

The movie will appeal not only to Nintendo enthusiasts, McCallum said, adding fans of TV shows like Pawn Stars and American Pickers will also enjoy it.

"I want to raise awareness. I’m nostalgically involved in this era and I want people to recognize the importance of this company and this industry and how it really changed the face of everything," he noted.

"I want to point people to rediscover that sense of community; that’s what’s lost today in social interaction – the crafting of memories. It takes a bit of effort to put that forward." 

McCallum, who now lives with his wife in Las Vegas, said the pair hopes to complete production of The NES Club by next summer, putting on a limited theatrical run of the documentary, one that will feature a showing in London.

Post-production has now begun on the movie, McCallum said, but noted he can’t say if the mission was successful as it would give away the film’s ending. He added the pair has no plans of disclosing the total cost or games’ worth in order to make the focus of the film the games themselves and the Nintendo era.

The duo credits the help of everyone involved, acknowledging the fact the film does cater to a niche audience, and adding they couldn’t continue on their journey without the support of friends and fans.

For more information, visit nesclubmovie.com.
A ‘Tree’-mendous beginning

PhD student Janet Loebach of Western’s Human Environments Analysis Lab (Geography) joined students and teachers at Blessed Sacrament Catholic School in celebrating the planting of a large Sycamore tree Tuesday afternoon. With a $25,000 grant from the London Community Foundation, Loebach is leading a ‘greening’ project to make Blessed Sacrament’s schoolyard a healthier place to play. Located in a high-traffic area on busy Oxford Street, one of the school’s play areas is considered ‘out-of-bounds’ for the children over safety concerns. Testing showed high levels of pollutants from idling vehicles as well as the exhaust of nearby vehicles. Work on the school yard will be ongoing.

By Adela Talbot

Research

Study: Media reflection of immigrants not reality

BY ADELA TALBOT

A NEW WESTERN-LED study shows Canadian media outlets exploit already existing negative portrayals of immigrants in order to create a crisis mentality. It’s an approach, researchers argue, that harms the nation as a whole.

Led by Western psychology professor Victoria Esses, along with PhD student Stelian Medianu and Andrea Lawson of Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, the study reveals the effects of the media’s negative depictions of immigrants and refugees.

“I’ve been interested in the public’s attitude toward immigrants and immigration for a long time, for 20 years,” Esses said. “The media’s depiction of immigrants is rather extreme than moderate, and they portray this kind of hysteria and crisis mentality about immigration.”

The study, Uncertainty, Threat, and the Role of the Media in Promoting the Dehumanization of Immigrants and Refugees, published recently in the Journal of Social Issues, found numerous explicit and implicit suggestions — including immigrants spreading infections diseases, refugee claims are often fake and terrorists enter countries disguised as refugees — are all responsible for the dehumanization of immigrants and refugees, a group already on the margins of society.

Esses cited the arrival of the Tamil refugee boats on the shores of British Columbia in 2010 as an example.

“You could look at those people as people who might be pitied, people we who might try and help. But positive messages don’t sell; research has been done to show negative messages sell better,” she explained.

“The media took advantage and portrayed the (refugees) in a negative light, leading to changes to refugee policies and claims of Canada’s safety being threatened,” Esses continued, noting given a relatively low number of refugees coming to Canada each year, the threat is not that great.

Meanwhile, in the coverage of the Tamil refugees’ arrival, pictures of Canadian immigration officials in full Hazmat suits circled, alongside claims the refugees were illegal and a threat to Canada.

“On the other hand, they (the refugees) put themselves at risk and lived in horrible conditions to get here. We could have focused on that. But we didn’t. The media focused on the hazards — that they might be bringing in terrorists or bringing in disease,” Esses said.

“In events we’re uncertain about, it’s easy to blame other people. The media takes advantage of that to have this crisis attitude,” she continued, adding the SARS epidemic is just one more example that proves her study’s hypothesis.

“The costs of the negative associations the media assigns immigrants and refugees are grave, Esses said. “The consequence of that is people aren’t (seen as) quite human, so they don’t deserve human treatment. This allows us, in a moral way, to believe we are not doing anything wrong, so what we do they deserve because they are outside our scope of justice.”

But the cost of the media’s dehumanization of immigrants and refugees extends far beyond the less-than-appropriate attention they receive once they arrive in Canada; it harms the nation as a whole, Esses continued.

“We need immigrants. We’re in a crisis. We want immigrants and we’re bringing in immigrants to build our economy and our population base. “This isn’t just about being fair to immigrants; this benefits all of us.”

Esses said the next steps include looking at what can be done to change the media’s attitude, perception and approach when dealing with stories relating to immigration and refugee issues.

“Can more balanced media stories that humanize immigrants be used to improve perceptions of them? What are refugees experiencing? What are they lives like?” she asked. “If we can induce some empathy, which isn’t hard to do, we would be more likely to have support for refugees and policies.”

Research
**Student Life**

**Mustangs athletes stress Sports Are For Everyone**

**BY ADELA TALBOT**

The ‘IT GETS’ better message is still going strong at Western, with many athletes adding their voices and stories to the mix. These voices especially are a valuable contribution, according to members of Get REAL, a student-run anti-homophobia initiative that started at Western in 2011. Since, Get REAL has gained momentum, spreading and growing on campuses across the country, all while garnering media interest and growing on campuses across the country.

A new Get REAL video, *Sports Are For Everyone: Western Varsity Athletes Speak to Youth About Homophobia*, features Mustangs athletes sharing their experiences either playing on a sports team with someone who identifies as part of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender) community, or being part of the community themselves and feeling sidelined while playing for a sports team.

In the video, most of the (LGBT) athletes talk about how they didn’t feel welcome and how it was harder for them to be who they are (on high school sports teams),” said Hillary Renkema, an English and Creative Writing student who is the co-director and coordinator for Get REAL Western.

“There is this underlying feeling, when you first come out to your team. Everyone has a stereotype in their head that athletic teams are these ‘big jocks’ and ‘pretty girls’. It’s hard enough, especially if you don’t feel like you fit into that category in real life, how are you going to fit into it (in sports?)”

Renkema explained the video targets new Western students, and, by way of the group’s outreach, high school students. The goal is to encourage new students to pursue the sports they love in university, ‘come out’ to their teammates and expect a welcoming community, even if they felt marginalized in their high school years.

“When you get to university, you realize that it (sexual orientation) doesn’t matter. Even if you are in high school and your team might not be supportive, there will be a team that supports you,” she said.

The raw emotion and the honesty in the video will resonate with students, added Valerie Pepin, vice-president of communications for Get REAL Western, who is doing a double major in Physiology and Criminology.

“That preconceived notion that (sports) teams aren’t accepting isn’t as accurate as you might think. It does happen, but not always. Have a little bit more faith,” Pepin, who came out in high school, said. “It was tough for me in high school, but when I got to university, it was totally different.”

Pepin joined the rowing team and Western’s all-girl cheerleading team when she came to university. Her teammates accepted her when she came out, and didn’t treat her any differently.

With chapters popping up on campuses across the country, from Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan, Get REAL is a not-for-profit organization aiming to eliminate homophobia. The group reaches out to young adults, sharing the message that homophobic language, such as using the word ‘gay’ in a derogatory manner, is hurtful and easily unlearned and eradicated.

The group’s first video, *To My Grade 7 Self*, was picked up by national media and garnered the attention of sites like BuzzFeed, The Huffington Post as well as LGBT publications and programming across North America.

“We have events as much as we can, info sessions, and outside of campus, we go to high schools and middle schools and we talk to students about homophobic language and how it’s really harmful, how at a young age, it can be really detrimental to a person who’s just finding out that they’re gay, and hearing negative language about it at the time,” Renkema said.

“We try to create safe spaces in the community.”

**Academics**

**Classroom turns into a fleet of canoes**

EACH FALL, THE third-year Honours students in the Department of Geography leave the conventional classroom behind and embark on a week that takes geography back to its roots — in the field.

As part of Field Camp Week 2013, sections of the Field Methods and Practices course headed to three wildly different regions: the major urban centre of Montreal, Que.; the deep caves of Kentucky; and aboard a fleet of canoes in Killarney, Ont.

Eight students started planning the Ontario excursion in September, in association with Western Geography professor Micha Pazner and lab coordinator Erika Hill. The group pulled together gear, shopped for supplies and brain-stormed trip project topics.

Once in the field, the group quickly bonded, learning to depend on each others’ skills and abilities.

In addition to locally relevant academic topics, students learned how to paddle, portage and set up a wilderness camp. They also navigated with maps, satellite images, compasses and GPS, to create field maps and co-exist with the local fauna. (The students also learned Killarney raccoons have become so successful at zipping open daypacks and opening coolers that the animals are noticeably obese.)

“I enjoyed my first Canadian outdoor experience with some awesome people,” said Rachel Riley, an exchange student visiting from northern England. “I definitely made the right decision choosing Killarney.”

Pazner said the students, all safely back in London, are working on their term projects, and looking forward to the post-trip dinner, slide show and photo exchange. “Perhaps the most enduring legacy of Field Camp Week is the enthusiasm for hands-on geography that can only come from this kind of experience,” he said.

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**RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

**Prevention and Early Intervention Program for Psychoses (PEPP)**

PEPP is seeking a full-time assistant to provide research support within PEPP and on projects related to global and Aboriginal mental health initiatives. Responsibilities will include interviewing clients, data collection and entry, literature searches, and assistance preparing ethics submissions, grant applications and manuscripts. A minimum of an undergrad degree in behavioral, social or health sciences is required, as well as experience with qualitative methods and a strong background in database management and the use of SPSS/Excel. Good organizational skills, ability to work well in an interdisciplinary team setting, a strong work ethic, and excellent interpersonal skills are essential. Experience working with mental health clients, familiarity with psychiatric diagnoses (e.g., SCID interviewing), and an interest in the fields of psychotic disorders and global/Aboriginal mental health would be definite assets.

Please send your resume to: Dr. Rosa Norman, UHSC/VH 42-643 800 Commissioners Road, E. London N6A 5W9

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**On the Web**

Visit the Get REAL website to watch the video or learn more about other initiatives, gettherealmovement.com.

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**Special to Western News**

Geography student Alex McKee studies a hand-drawn navigation map he created as part of his team’s excursion in Killarney, Ont., as part of Field Camp Week 2013.

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**Academics**

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**Special to Western News**

Geography student Alex McKee studies a hand-drawn navigation map he created as part of his team’s excursion in Killarney, Ont., as part of Field Camp Week 2013.
Team looks to steel tower power against storms

Ashraf El Damatty, chair of Western’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, hopes his research into mitigating the failures of transmission line structures during tornadoes and downbursts, will lead to better designs not just in Ontario, but worldwide.

BY PAUL MAYNE

TORNADOES AND DOWNBURSTs pound transmission towers across Ontario, causing not only huge economic losses from the needed repairs, but also the interruption of electric service to thousands of customers and businesses, which, in some cases, can be weeks to remedy.

While Ashraf El Damatty cannot control when and where these severe weather patterns strike, he can do the next best thing – build a better tower.

“The weather we are seeing is getting worse,” said the chair of Western’s Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. “We have the knowledge to improve (towers), so we need to do so.”

El Damatty, along with Engineering professors Eric Savory, Horia Hangan and Girma Bitsuamlak, eight graduate students and two postdocs, have initiated a research program with Hydro One to mitigate future failures of transmission line structures during those events.

The $1.2-million research project is also supported by Ontario Centres of Excellence and the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

“Unlike large-scale events such as hurricanes, the localized nature of tornadoes and downbursts make the prediction of the structural behaviour very challenging,” El Damatty said.

“Unlike large-scale events such as hurricanes, the localized nature of tornadoes and downbursts make the prediction of the structural behaviour very challenging.” — Ashraf El Damatty

While he can’t guarantee the towers will not fail in the future, El Damatty said improving the design will at least increase the probability of them surviving severe weather.

“The material is steel, so you cannot get any better than that,” he said. “But if the dimensions of the members are not sufficient, you’re going to continue to have the problems. So, it’s in the design.”

El Damatty is excited to take his research on a much larger scale, as he will begin conducting tests at the new WindEEE Dome facility later this fall.

“Western is taking the lead worldwide in various aspects of research and applications related to tornadoes and downbursts,” he said.

“The developed software will be the first of its kind worldwide and is expected to be used by utility companies around the globe. Being able to contribute how these sorts of structures are designed is exciting.”

If successful, El Damatty’s research could be incorporated into the design of new lines, and retrofitting of current structures, within the next 2-3 years.

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For more information: www.commonlaw.uOttawa.ca
**PhD Lectures**

Carlos Pardo, Hispanic Studies. Entre el juego y la memoria: el detective y la ciudad en la narrativa neo policiaca de Paco Ignacio Taibo II y Leonardo Padura Fuentes. Oct. 10, UC, 224A, 1 p.m.


Alma P. Ramirez Trujillo, Hispanic Studies. Producción de la Concordancia en Español por Hableñas de Náhuatl, Oct. 11, UC, 207, 1:30 p.m.

Saeed Chehreh Chelgani, Geology. Study on the surface chemistry behavior of pyroclastic during fresh frostation. Oct. 16, B&C 1084, 9 a.m.

**EDITORIALS**

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**STUDENT BULLETIN**

Student Central In-Person Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Wednesday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Student Central Helpline Hours

519-661-2100 Monday to Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

New: Fall Study Break

Beginning this academic year, many Western students will be given a reprieve from their studies during the first term mid-exam term examination season. This year’s break will take place Oct. 31-Nov. 1. Visit westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2013-Academic-Calendar-Undergraduate-Sessional-Dates to see if this break applies to you.

Group Career Counselling Sessions for International Students

Eight group counselling sessions geared toward undergraduate and graduate international students looking for non-academic employment in Canada. Register at westerncareercentral.ca.

Graduate and Professional School Fair

Not sure what to do after graduation? Identify your academic options at the Graduate & Professional School Fair. Recruiters will share information about their programs, the benefits of their educational opportunities, and how to apply. Thursday, Oct. 24, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Western Student Recreation Centre, 4th Floor

Psychological Services Groups

Offering a variety of multi-week groups on topics including: Managing Anxiety and Stress, Distress Tolerance, Mindfulness Meditation, Emotion Regulation, Healthy Communication and Social Anxiety. Also offering an International Student Group, an International Women’s Group, a Graduate Student Writing and Support Group and Mindfulness Meditation Drop-in Sessions. Register at pdc.uwo.ca/psych.

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSE REGISTRATION DATES**

Oct. 14: Thanksgiving Holiday

Oct. 15: Deadline to apply for relief against non-major grade in Spring/Summer Distance Studies course.

Oct. 21: First day of first-term second section deadlines (Courses Ki).

Oct. 25: Last day to add a first-term second quarter (Y) course (Kn).

Oct. 31-Nov 1: Fall Study Break. Autumn Convocation.

Nov. 1: Last day that students registered in W accelerated language courses may transfer to the equivalent full-year course with the permission of their Faculty. Last day to receive official transcripts for courses taken on Letters of Permission during the academic year 2012-13 and the Spring/Summer Terms of 2013. Last day to receive admission applications. Law for 2014.

For more information, please visit us online at studentcareer.uwo.ca or contact us by phone at 519-661-2045 or email advertise@uwo.ca.

Full-Time Academic Appointments

Faculty of Law - Academic Appointments

The Faculty of Law at Western University expects to make two appointments (open as per asked) effective July 1, 2014, subject to budgetary and University approval. The Appointments Committee proposes to review applications upon receipt, and will continue to do so until the appointments are filled.

All positions are subject to budgetary approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Western Ontario is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, Aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.

Place an Ad Today

For Classifieds, call 519-661-2045 or email advertisesales@uwo.ca. Rates: Faculty, staff and students – $15; others and services/commercial ads – $20. Beyond 35 words, add $12 per word. Payment must accompany ads. Submit by 9 a.m. Monday to Friday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

For mor...
Feminism and the academy
By Adela Talbot

A ONE-DAY forum meant to explore the challenges of engaging feminism and issues of diversity in Canadian universities kicks off on Western's campus Oct. 19.

The conference, Twenty-first Century Feminism and the Academy, is presented by the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research, along with The Royal Canadian Society. It will provide a platform for discussion of issues pertaining to contemporary feminism and diversity, particularly in the postsecondary environment.

“Western’s goal is to increase diversity among staff and faculty, and there are two goals of the conference,” said Helen Fielding, who chairs the Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research. “One goal is to address the issue of diversity in the university, to what extent we have achieved it, and what work is yet to be done. The other goal is to talk about how feminism has developed into the 21st Century. What does feminism look like (now) and how is the academy responding to the call for diversification?”

Fielding noted contemporary feminism has become a point of intersection, with discussions surrounding other sociopolitical issues joining the mix.

“Gender is understood as inseparable from multiple axes of identity, including race, age, socioeconomic status, sexuality and ability, and considered from a global perspective. In other words, being a woman or a man is never the sum of ‘who’ or ‘what’ one is,” she explained.

“Feminist inquiry in the 21st century is not limited to research on gender. It is to ask questions about knowledge production across the disciplines – who produces knowledge, for whom and to what effect? The composition of who teaches, conducts research and studies at the university has social effects that extend beyond the walls of the academy. Who are the Canadians being served by the knowledge we produce, and how are we accountable to them?”

Fielding hopes questions like these fuel discussions at the conference set to spotlight feminism and the academy.

For more information, visit the conference website uwo.ca/womens/pages/events.html.
Fire damages University Tennis Centre

Members of the London Fire Department were called to campus over the lunch hour Tuesday as a fire broke out at the University Tennis Centre. The fire marshal’s office is currently investigating the cause of the fire; a damage estimate has not been made. The centre will be closed until further notice.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY FEMINISM AND THE ACADEMY
OCTOBER 19, 2013

A one-day forum to explore the contemporary challenges of engaging feminism and issues of diversity in Canadian universities.

Presented by the Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research, Western University, and The Royal Society of Canada.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Carla Fehr, Voelke Chair in Scientific and Technological Literacy, Philosophy, University of Waterloo

Excellent Science: of the People, by the People, for the People

Fannie Henry, Professor Emerita, York University

Sexualization, Gender and the Academy

Diana Majorsky, Professor of Law and Legal Studies, and Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Affairs, Faculty of Public Affairs, Carleton University

Outwitting the Dragon: the Paperbag Princess in the 21st Century

Scott Morgensen, Associate Professor, Gender Studies, Queen’s University

Indigenous Feminism and Settler Sovereignty: Responding to Idle No More

9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Dawid S. Chu International Student Centre
2330 W55B

EARLY REGISTRATION by Oct. 4, 2013 –
includes lunch and refreshments
Faculty/Staff - $25 (plus HST)
Graduate Student/Unemployed - Free (plus $10)
Western Undergrad Student - Free

To register please contact Monica McInerney: amcint4@uwo.ca | 519-661-3799
or visit uwo.ca/womens/pages/events.html

The talks will also be available on Internet live-feed, and as podcasts at uwo.ca/womens/pages/events.html
For further information, please contact:
Helen Patting (hpatting@uwo.ca)

www.uwo.ca/womens/pages/events.html

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