Western, London ‘Rise’ up for economic opportunity

BY PAUL MAYNE

ALLISON MOYER is not one to mince words. “I was sick and tired of being sick and tired,” said the 31-year old, discussing her mental-health challenges.

A budding entrepreneur, she had failed repeatedly to secure financing to grow her vintage clothing idea. But with the help of Rise Asset Development, the brainchild of philanthropist Sandra Rotman, wife of Western chancellor Joseph Rotman, Moyer’s life has turned around with the opening of Tickety Boutique in downtown Toronto.

In 2009, the Rotman School of Management in Toronto and Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) founded Rise; it has since assisted more than 400 budding entrepreneurs.

“I was living on disability for a number of years and I didn’t know if I had it in me,” said Moyer, a Toronto resident. “With the funds, I brought my online hobby into a brick-and-mortar facility – vintage and vintage-inspired items. Without Rise, I don’t think the notion of self-employment would have entered my mind.

“I had been given something to live for. It has allowed me to be free again, get out of the house and interact with the public, like a normal person.

Now, that opportunity has arrived in London.

Through collaboration between Western’s Ivey Business School and multiple community agencies in London, Rise Asset Development launched a new avenue to economic independence through entrepreneurship for people who have mental health or addiction challenges.

At its heart, Rise provides small-business loans and mentorship to individuals interested in pursuing self-employment. Rise uses four micro-financing programs to target specific audiences:

• The Individual Lending Program allows an individual to access up to $25,000 in financing, with an average initial financing starting at $4,000.
• The Youth Small Business Program targets individuals age 16-29 with a free course where participants develop entrepreneurship skills, while converting their idea into a viable business plan. Those who successfully complete the program may be eligible for $500 for start-up costs of their business.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY // CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
24 // THURSDAY

MCINTOSH GALLERY

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY AND CELL BIOLOGY
20th Annual Murray Lecture. Marek Michalak, Distinguished University Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta. A tour of protein quality control, coping with the ER stress. 9:30 a.m. UH (Auditorium A).

GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL FAIR
Recruiters share information about their programs, educational opportunities, and how to apply. 100 organizations are participating. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Student Recreation Centre, 4th floor gym.

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM
Patrick Durrell, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Youngstown State University. Searching for Virgo’s Intracluster Globular Clusters. 1:30 p.m. P&A, room 100.

CLASSES WITHOUT QUIZZES
Why you hate math and how to feel the love. Join education professor George Gadaindis for hands-on activities to flex your imagination and experience the pleasure of ‘math surprise,’ with songs and videos from grades 1-3 classrooms exploring ideas you struggled with in high school. Register at classeswithoutquizzes.uwo.ca.

7 p.m. Stevenson Hunt Room, Central Branch Library.

HISPANIC FILM SERIES
Nueve reinas.
7-9 p.m. Spencer Engineering Building, room 1200.

25 // FRIDAY

FLU SHOT CLINICS
Student Health Services (SHS) offers flu shots by appointment to students from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Oct. 25, 29-31 and Nov. 4, 6, 8, 11-12, 15, 18-19. Call 519-661-3030 or drop by SHS, UCC, room 11. Western Health Services offers staff flu shot by drop-in 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Nov. 7, 28. Remember to bring your health card and Western ID card.

DON WRIGHT
FACULTY OF MUSIC
The Italian Lesson by Lee Holby. Diva Lounge Productions brings this charming operatic monologue to our series, performed by Sonja Gustavson, soprano and Tanya Ellis, piano. 12:30 p.m. von Kuster Hall.

26 // SATURDAY

DON WRIGHT
FACULTY OF MUSIC
Brass Day, with concert at 5 p.m. 10 a.m. von Kuster Hall.

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

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
Waterloo at Western. 8 p.m.

DON WRIGHT
FACULTY OF MUSIC
A festival of Song. Choral Celebration. Annual event showcasing the talents of the five choirs: Western University Singers, Les Choristes, Chorale, St. Cecilia Singers and Thames Scholars. 3 p.m. St. Peter’s Cathedral Basilica.

27 // SUNDAY

DON WRIGHT
FACULTY OF MUSIC
Student composers. 8 p.m. von Kuster Hall.

28 // MONDAY

GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP
12:30-1:30 p.m. UC, room 208.

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

DON WRIGHT
FACULTY OF MUSIC
Lance Lochner, Director, CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity, Economics, Western. Economics of Education – Financing higher education in the U.S.A. and Canada. 9:30 a.m. UCC, McClemor Room.

NEUROSCIENCE GRADUATE PROGRAM SEMINAR
Philippe Monnier, Toronto Western Hospital. Modifying lipid rafts to promote neuronal regeneration. 9:30 a.m. Robarts Research Institute, 2nd Floor, Fisher Scientific Room.

JAPAN DAY AT HURON
Hakku readings from the annual poetry contest along with information booths on Japanese tourism, the JET program (Teaching English in Japan), exchange programs, and refreshments. Everyone is welcome. For more information, contact Keiko Hinooka at kihinooka@huron.uwo.ca. 12:30-2:30 p.m. Kingsmill Room.

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM
Eric Donovan, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Calgary. Using the Aurora to Remote Sense Plasma Processes in Near-Earth Space. 1:30 p.m. P&A, room 100.

ITALIAN FILM SERIES
Our Life. 8 p.m. UC, room 84.

30 // WEDNESDAY

THE CHINESE PROGRAM AT HURON
Anyone wishing to speak Chinese and meet people who study Chinese is welcome. Email hswu1@huron.uwo.ca. 10:30-11:30 a.m. A18, Huron.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE RESEARCH FORUM
Adrian Moc, Shelley’s Mont Blanc and the Advent of Knowledge. Open to everyone. 11:30-12:30 p.m. UC, room 207.

TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS
Build your confidence in public speaking. Contact Donna Moore, dmoore@uwo.ca.

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E-mail: comingevents@uwo.ca

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uwo.ca or 851-59
12 -1 p.m. UCC, room 147B.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION
2:30-4:30 p.m. UC, room 208.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
La Tertulia. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Email tertulia@uwo.ca. 4:30 p.m. UC, room 203.

GERMAN FILM SERIES
The Marriage of Mana Braun. 6:30 p.m. UC, room 288.

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12 -1 p.m. UCC, room 147B.
Postdoctoral scholars join Banting Fellowship

BY ADELA TALBOT

WESTERN POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARS Hannah Neufeld and Corey Maggiano have been named among 23 members of the 2012-13 Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship class.

The Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship was created by the Government of Canada in 2010 in an effort to boost Canada’s ability to attract and retain world-class postdoctoral talent. In collaboration with Canadian institutions, the program develops candidates’ leadership potential and helps prepare them for success in research, all the while contributing to Canada’s economic, social and research-based growth.

Each of the three main funding bodies recruits fellows – the Canadian Institutes of Health Research reviewed 163 applications this year, and named 23 scholars; the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada reviewed 180, and named 23; and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council reviewed 99, and named 24.

Fellows are funded $70,000 for up to two years.

Corey Maggiano
Reconstructing short and long term change in human behavior, biology and environment using a novel technique combining bone histology and isotopes

Taking multidisciplinary to a whole new level, Corey Maggiano’s research encompasses three campus groups – Anthropology, Earth Sciences’ Laboratory for Stable Isotope Science and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry’s Joint Motion Program.

“I’ve always flirted between anthropology and biology, relating human behaviour to ecological and biological parameters and limitations; that’s been the focus of my interest,” said Maggiano, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

By doing a specialized microscopic and chemical analysis of bone, Maggiano looks for hints of previous human diet, activity and migration in relation to seasonal changes and physical environment. By analyzing bone, he is looking for indicators of human biomechanical adaptation, hoping to better understand the interactions between biology, environment and behaviour.

And Western is the perfect place to conduct such research, he said.

“This is the only place where I can get the expertise I need to do this research. It’s quite a tripod of requirements and, luckily, it was all here,” Maggiano said of Western’s facilities and research resources.

“I feel really lucky to have fallen into the circumstances here. The focus of my supervisor (Christine White), and the cooperation between groups here on multidisciplinary work, that’s what’s made this possible and it’s really rare to see it in practice. I never want to leave,” he laughed.

Hannah Neufeld
A generational investigation of traditional food knowledge among First Nation communities in southwestern Ontario

The last time Hannah Neufeld approached a postdoctoral opportunity, her prospects didn’t quite pan out. Instead, she took up a post at the World Health Organization in Geneva, working in nutrition.

She returned last year, only to find a postdoctoral door at Western, where she initially hoped to be, had opened. She successfully applied for the Banting Postdoctoral Fellowship, proposing to study nutrition and the passing of traditional food knowledge in First Nations communities.

Originally from Guelph, Neufeld holds an undergraduate degree in applied human nutrition from the University of Guelph. She has worked in community health and nutrition, as well as traditional medicine initiatives in Brazil and Indonesia, before returning to Canada to pursue graduate work in the field.

Neufeld, funded by Canadian Institutes of Health Research, completed her master’s degree and PhD at the University of Manitoba.

“My research here (at Western) will be focused on the bigger picture – diabetes prevention. A disconnect came up – cross-generational – between the young mothers having babies and their grandmothers having knowledge and not being able to share it,” Neufeld said. “There were (different) lifestyles, activity patterns with grandmothers hauling water, chopping wood, etc., when pregnant. There was a real disconnection.”

Neufeld plans to partner with local First Nations communities and organizations such as the Southwestern Ontario Aboriginal Access Centre, and potentially helping to develop culturally relevant nutrition programming and diabetes prevention programs.

Honours

Postdoctoral scholars join Banting Fellowship

Western News October 24, 2013 3

Fusion Sushi, and now featuring fresh Osysters & Izakaya Bar.

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Finding hope for others during my life’s most challenging time

KATHERINE BUTSON

One year ago last month, I accidentally discovered a lump. I was diagnosed four times before finally being diagnosed in January with a rare, aggressive breast cancer. Following an unsuccessful surgery to remove the cancer, I began aggressive chemotherapy treatments in February. These eight treatments were to sweep my body of cancer cells and prevent them from returning.

On the eve of my fourth treatment, I was informed I was the recipient of diluted drugs for each of my first three treatments — not the news any cancer patient wants to receive, and news that haunts me every day.

This summer, I had major surgery, after which I learned I would have to have radiation treatments over a six-week period. My journey has been long, arduous and beyond frightening.

Breast cancer has not only terribly affected me over the past year it has affected everyone who loves me. I wish to thank my former life back. The cancer-free life when I could be a terrific, active mom to my son, a caregiver, friend and companion to my family. I wish to leave cancer behind.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and I would like to bring everyone’s attention to this nasty, humbling and sometimes deadly disease.

This year alone, more than 23,000 Canadian women and men will be diagnosed with breast cancer. I want everyone, women and men alike, to realize the importance of performing monthly self-exams. If I hadn’t found that lump when I did, it is most likely I wouldn’t be writing this article now. I wasn’t a self-examiner and I found that lump accidentally. It is vitally important to realize the necessity to check oneself.

So please, ladies, remember to check yourselves monthly. And, gentlemen, please remind your ladies to do so.

You may save the life of someone you love.

On Sunday, Oct. 6, I participated in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation’s CIBC Run for the Cure in London’s Victoria Park because breast cancer has changed my life forever.

Team Katherine Butson was the idea of a mere acquaintance of mine, whom I now call a friend, to participate in the run with the intention of heightening breast cancer awareness and raising money to help find a cure. I am honored she supported me in this way. I’m touched by all who joined my team, including colleagues from the Faculty of Education and Western as a whole. I’m indebted to those who made donations and, by doing so, gave me the gift of hope.

Every donation counts and no donation is too small. Those donations move the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, cbcf.org, closer to achieving its vision of creating a future without breast cancer.

When I think about how breast cancer has changed me forever, and those who will be diagnosed this year in Canada, it feels good to know I’m doing something, along with the other members of Team Katherine Butson, to change those statistics through my participation, fundraising and by learning more about breast cancer. My team raised just under $22,000 for this important cause and donations continue to come in.

On Friday, my doorbell rang and I was presented with the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation 2013 Determination Award for being the second highest individual fundraiser in London. This award inspires me to beat breast cancer and move forward to a life filled with hope and much better times.

I’m very grateful for everyone’s support and incredibly proud of the success of my team of supporters.

You can make a difference, too. With your support, the foundation will continue funding breast cancer research, education, awareness, advocacy and health promotion initiatives across the country, aimed to significantly reduce the burden in Canada.

During the most challenging time of my life, while fighting to survive breast cancer, I learned that with tenacity and faith, one can truly turn lemons into lemonade.

Katherine Butson, BA’88, has managed The Althouse Press at the Faculty of Education since 1986. She currently remains on medical leave.

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.

WHAT’S IN A NAME? McINTOSH GALLERY

ESTABLISHED IN 1942, the McIntosh Gallery is the oldest university art gallery in Ontario. Wilhelmina Morris McIntosh, after whom the gallery takes its name, is a bit of a mystery because, as a widow, she lived the last part of her life’s most challenging time as a widow, she lived the last part of her life’s most challenging time in public speaking, geography, business administration, artwork, and financial support, over to the university’s strict orders for the gallery’s construction. Of a mystery because, as a widow, she lived the last part of her life’s most challenging time in the campus and broader university.

The first issue of the Western News was published on Nov. 16, 1972 – L.T. Moore, then president of Western University, and Information director, was informed of a mystery because, as a widow, she lived the last part of her life’s most challenging time. The first issue of the Western News was published on Nov. 16, 1972 – L.T. Moore, then president of Western University, and Information director, was informed of the gallery’s construction.

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.
Commentary

Learning among the Little Zapatista School

Editor’s note: Annaliese Pope, a master’s student in Sociology at Western, recently returned from a trip to a mountainous region in Mexico, where she was one of 3,000 people from around the world to receive an invitation to attend a school on autonomous government in secluded Zapatista communities. The Zapatistas are leftist Mexican revolutionaries; this year marks the 10th anniversary of their autonomous government.

What follows is an edited version of Pope’s reflections on that trip.

BY ANNALIESE POPE

IN 1983, a group of indigenous people – the Zapatistas – in the mountains of southeastern Mexico, organized against the oppression they faced from a Mexican government implementing neoliberal policies that would make Mexico more attractive to foreign interests. These policies often involved the privatization of communal lands as well as the eviction of indigenous people from these lands.

A critical turning point was the enactment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) on Jan 1, 1994. On that same day, after 10 years of preparation and military training in the mountains, the Zapatistas flooded several cities in Chiapas and overtook the major cities of Catabal de las Casas. After a 12-day battle with the Mexican government, the Zapatistas were recognized as a serious and legitimate presence in Chiapas.

The next 10 years were spent in negotiations between the Mexican government and the Zapatistas. One agreement was reached, stating the Mexican government would recognize the rights and autonomy of the Zapatistas, halt all attempts to privatize and appropriate their lands and cease all military aggression. Several days after the agreement, the Mexican military sent helicopters to harass Zapatista communities by dropping bombs next to their villages. It has also been reported that paramilitary groups, who receive funding from the Mexican government, used severe violence against Zapatistas as a harassment technique. This accelerated to the point of the massacre of 45 Zapatistas in Acteal in 1997.

At this point, the Zapatistas terminated discussions with the Mexican government and began organizing amongst themselves to create their own autonomous governments. In 2003, they celebrated 10 years since their initial uprising and had an international Encuentro, or ‘meeting,’ where they invited individuals from all over the world to their communities, to demonstrate solidarity and to discuss organization against neoliberalism on a global scale. This year was the second Encuentro and the Zapatistas decided to invite people from all over the world to their communities, not just for the Encuentro, but also to live with them for a week in their homes to understand what life is like. Part of this experience would include classes about what freedom means to the Zapatistas as well as the creation, organization, and functioning of resistance through their autonomous governments.

This experience is the Escuelita Zapatista, or ‘Little Zapatista School.’ I’ve lived in Mexico several times for a total of about two and a half years. During my time there, I met a group of travelling musicians, artists, and street performers. I spent a great deal of time living with them; we used to play instruments on city busses to make cash. I returned to Mexico in the fall 2012 to do fieldwork with this group for my thesis; I was with them in San Cristobal de las Casas in December when the Zapatistas had a silent march to demonstrate their presence in Chiapas and raise awareness for their continued struggle. Witnessing this inspired me to do more research on the Zapatistas and I continued to follow their activity online after I returned to Canada following my fieldwork.

Upon my arrival at the Little Zapatista School, I was assigned a guardian, a Zapatista that would stay with me 24/7 and translate the local indigenous language into Spanish so that I could understand what was going on.

Ten students and their 10 guardians were assigned to a small community of 10 families on the side of a mountain in the jungle with no electricity, no water, where we would take baths in the river and sleep in hammocks. In order to achieve the experience of complete immersion, the students were kept separate from one another. We woke up every morning at dawn to cut corn in the fields with machetes, then we would later grind by hand and make into tortillas, atole (a type of corn drink) and several other foods. In the afternoon, we hiked down the mountain to bathe in the river and then spent several hours studying the texts we were given alongside our guardians. On my last day there, I was sitting on a tree stump outside of the shack, waking up, drinking coffee and looking at the mountains when the small elderly Mayan Zapatista woman I was staying with came in front of me with a chicken, gave me a wide grin and killed the chicken in front of me. I’m a vegetarian and hadn’t eaten meat in eight years, but it was clear the chicken had been killed in my honour, so I wouldn’t have allowed myself the option of not eating it.

The senora made soup with the chicken and I got violently ill several hours later. Two doctors were sent to see me and I was later taken to the hospital. Although it was clear I came from a place where I was economically fortunate enough to not have to take a bath in a river, I was not allowed to pay for my medical treatment. The Zapatistas covered all of the costs, as they were required to do. They laughed at me when I asked to contribute. “We don’t work that way here,” they said.

The Zapatistas have created an economic system in which each village has several areas of collective work such as food, artisan goods or livestock. These are then sold. Everyone contributes; the money earned goes into a collective fund. Whenever a family needs something, such as a new corn grinder, clothes, etc., they are given money from the fund. This is where the payment for my medical care came from.

Although many Zapatistas still live in poverty, many say they are happier because they are in control of their lives and have autonomous governments. As well, life has changed greatly for Zapatista women. Before the uprising, women were in a subordinate position. Now, they are expected to contribute and are respected for their input. Half of all government boards are women. Men help women with women’s work, such as corn grinding and other tasks “too feminine” for them to perform before.

We need to be more conscious of on-the-ground impacts of foreign policies and financial agreements, especially in the ‘Global North.’ NAFTA threatened to take away the Zapatistas’ land, which is synonymous with control of their lives, but also with life itself.

There is a different way of understanding I was constantly confronted with during this experience. I would ask a lot of questions that weren’t answered. I understand certain indigenous knowledges emphasize experiential learning over question-and-answer learning, because the former is seen to be more reflexive and developmental and the latter a bit rude. I’m still reflecting on my experiences and believe I will be doing so for quite some time.

Letter to the Editor

// An update from a ‘single dad’

My name is Paul Bigus. I am a former Western student who was featured in a Western News article written by Karmen Dowling a number of years ago (Single dad graduates from dropout to dean’s list, June 10, 2004). I just wanted to send in a thank you and an update.

Since that point in time, I have gone on to complete a degree in education and have worked as a teacher with one of the school boards here in London, as well as a case writer at the Ivy Business School.

However, over the past few years, I have been attempting to complete my master’s degree here at Western and finally graduated during the fall convocation. Still very passionate about the value of a university education, I have started teaching here at Western for the first time during the current fall term. Throughout my career as an educator, I have been very fortunate to have my experiences about overcoming adversity, making sacrifices and working hard to achieve life goals. The article featured in Western News has been something very special. I have used in many classroom learning situations to help reach out to students and the unique challenges they face.

It just might seem like one small article, but I wanted to communicate back how truly instrumental it has been and continues to be. Thank you for interesting stories and content Western News provides.

PAUL BIGUS
HBA’04, BED’08 AND M.ED.’13

// Remembering more than one in the family

I was saddened that you picked up on the celebrity son, the golfer, to highlight and missed another one – a half relationship, I believe – who died for his country in the Great War (What’s in a name? Somerville House, Sept. 26). You can find this fallen son of the mayor on the Virtual War Memorial project, run online only by Veterans Affairs. Just search the surname, look for Kenneth Ian and you will see his identity file, including a remarkable local honour roll that carries his name.

CHARLES BABBAGE
Western News | October 24, 2013

CANADA’S TOP 100 EMPLOYERS

Western named among nation’s elite employers

BY JASON WINDERS

FOR THE FIRST time in the competition’s history, Western counts itself among Canada’s Top 100 Employers.

Now entering its 14th year, the Canada’s Top 100 Employers project is a national competition to determine which employers lead their industries in offering exceptional workplaces for their employees. The list was announced by Mediacorp Canada on Monday.

“Our faculty and staff deserve the credit for this honour,” said Amir Chalma, Western president. “One of the most attractive things about Western is offering exceptional workplaces – with more than a quarter of the list changing from year to year.”

The list features some familiar organizations, but also many new winners – including Western – with more than a quarter of the list changing each year. With 4,700 full-time and 8,700 part-time employees, Western joins 3M Canada as the only honoured employer based in London; 45 of the 100 employers call Ontario home.

“As the years go by, I am increasingly of the view that it really comes down to a question of leadership,” Richard Yerema, author of Canada’s Top 100 Employers, said of what it takes to make – and stay on – the list. “Winning organizations consistently have leaders who recognize the importance of becoming an employer of choice, making it part of their organization’s DNA from the shop floor to the boardroom.”

The Canada’s Top 100 Employers competition is the largest editorial project of its kind in Canada, with thousands of employers taking part in each year’s application process.

To create the list, Mediacorp Canada examined the recruitment histories of more than 75,000 employers across the country that it tracks for its job-search engine, Flurk.ca. From this initial group, editors invited 20,000 employers to participate in the competition. Employers completed an extensive application process that included a detailed review of their operations and Human Resources practices, comparing them to others in their industry and region.

Judges Richard Yerema and Kristina Leung, Mediacorp Canada staff editors, cited a number of the reasons why Western was selected including:
• New mothers and fathers receive maternity and parental leave top-up payments (to 95 per cent for 17 weeks), including adoptive parents;
• Employees can take advantage tuition support for courses at one of Canada’s most celebrated universities, from $4,000 to unlimited per year, depending on their employee group;
• Mothers can apply to extend their maternity leave into an unpaid leave of absence and can take advantage of an onsite daycare centre operated by the YMCA;
• New employees receive three weeks of starting vacation as well as receiving additional time off for Christmas and the New Year;
• Employees and faculty are encouraged to keep fit with subsidized memberships to the impressive 160,000-square-foot recreation centre, the largest of its kind at a Canadian university;
• With a focus on the longer term, new employees can participate in free retirement planning sessions and receive contributions to a defined contribution pension plan.

In addition to the comments, each employer is graded by Mediacorp Canada editors on eight key areas; the same eight criteria have been used since the first edition.

For Western, the judges gave the university the following marks: Physical Workplace, rated exceptional (A-plus); Atmosphere and Communications, rated very good (B-plus); Financial Benefits and Compensation, rated very good (B-plus); Health and Family-Friendly Benefits, rated above-average (A); Vacation and Personal Time-Off, rated very good (A); Employee Engagement, rated very good (B-plus); Training and Skills Development, rated exceptional (A-plus); and Community Involvement, rated very good (B-plus).

Only five universities – Western, Dalhousie, Simon Fraser, New Brunswick and the University of Toronto – made the cut for Canada’s Top 100 Employers. With the exception of Western, all the universities appeared on last year’s list.

Founded in 1992, Mediacorp Canada Inc. is the nation’s largest publisher of employment periodicals and guides. For 15 years, the Toronto-based publisher has managed the annual Canada’s Top 100 Employers project, which includes 20 regional and special-interest editorial competitions that reach more than 13 million Canadians through a variety of magazine and newspaper partners.

To learn more, visit uwo.ca/topemployer.

THE ROOKIE

Stephanie Desarmeau was looking for something different. Most recently at a local TD Bank branch, she searched a number of places for her next career step, and Western had always appealed to her.

“I wanted a company similar to TD in terms of its reputation in the community, and its community involvement,” Desarmeau said, “as well as compensation.”

Answering an online advertisement for the position, she applied and, after an interview process, got her current job as a faculty assistant with Western professor Paul Beamish’s Asian Management Institute in the Ivey Business School. Desarmeau started on Aug. 29, and is one of Western’s newest employees.

In her first few days, she has opened the faculty’s new $310-million Richard Ivey Building, rubbed elbows with Canadian astronaut Cmdr. Chris Hadfield, bid one dean farewell and another welcome. Not a bad start. “I’m new, so I don’t know anything else beside this beautiful place,” she said with a laugh.

But beyond the glimmer of her first weeks, the personal aspects of the job keep her hopeful for the future.

“The people here are so knowledgeable, and just incredible in their field,” she said. “It’s quite an honour to work here.”

JASON WINDERS // WESTERN NEWS

October 24, 2013
THE GENERATIONS

No matter what they tell you, neither Christopher nor Alek Essex helped build the Western residence sharing their name, Essex Hall. And believe me, they will try.

“We’re always very interesting in trying to get the students at Essex Hall to give us Essex Hall swag. In the old days, they thought it was really great to truck us out. But not the current generation,” Chris said dropping a heavy hint.

Despite the fact “not a dime” of Essex Family money went to building the residence – named after the region, by the way – the two men added to the university’s rich tradition this summer when the father and son became Western faculty colleagues.

A London native, Chris Essex, BSc’76 (Honors Astronomy), attended Western as an undergrad, and then saw his academic career take him across Canada and the United States. “To be honest, we didn’t expect to ever return to London,” he said.

But the Applied Mathematics professor did just that when a faculty opening lured him to Western in 1984. In tow on that move from Toronto was his toddler son, Alek, a future Electrical and Computer Engineering professor.

Alek, BESc’04 (Computer Engineering), grew up on campus, playing in the halls around his father’s office. And perhaps something rubbed off.

In the 1980s, the Applied Math Department shared a building with the Faculty of Engineering. There, Alek was first exposed to computers, using them, tinkering inside of them, when the university started bringing in the devices for faculty. Alek found himself using the Internet long before the Internet was the Internet.

“When you grow up in a geeky environment like this, it is sort of contagious and infectious, and I think that’s a large part of why I ended up going in this direction,” Alek said. “It was a fun environment to grow up in.”

When he arrived at Western as a student – in the second year of Essex Hall, built in 1997 – Alek avoided his father’s classroom by agreement. But that didn’t matter as many of his friends reported back. “I would be riding the bus home and have to hear about some of the crazy things he did in class,” he laughed.

Despite the fact the father and son became Western colleagues this summer, when Alek joined the university, don’t expect dad to accept it right away.

“Give me a year or two and I’ll tell you what it’s like to be colleagues,” he laughed. “We’re taking long time scales, decades, for this kind of thing to sink in for a father.”

THE VETERAN

Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry professor Stanley Kogon, MSc’70 (Pathology), never expected to be a lifelong academic.

In the mid-1960s, Kogon completed his DDS at the University of Toronto and moved to London on the advice of a cousin to take over a successful dental practice. After two years in the office, he started teaching dental histology part-time – working “only one page ahead of the students” – in Western’s Anatomy Department in 1967.

That would be the first of many Western opportunities Kogon would say “yes” to over the next half century. “Turns out, that was a bit of serendipity there,” he said.

A love of that first teaching experience led him to graduate school at Western. He finished his master’s degree in Pathology in 1970, and was hired on full-time by the university before he convocated. “And I just stayed. It was a young school; I was young. I grew with the school,” he said. “I threw the dice and came up sixes.”

With an official start date of Nov. 1, 1967, Kogon is the longest-serving university employee, ahead of legendary Mustangs coach Bob Vignars in Kinesiology, who started at the university in Sept. 23, 1968. Kogon’s career has seen him take on numbers positions inside the classroom and administration, including serving as the director of Schulich Dentistry from 1998-2003.

“When I started teaching part-time, I never in my world thought I would be director of the school,” he said. “I couldn’t even imagine it. But those opportunities came, and I took them. I’m pretty lucky.”

Seizing on those opportunities and challenges early on has been a key to his longevity at Western, Kogon said.

“The university has offered me an opportunity to express myself professionally and academically and grow with this place,” he said. “That’s not always the case for someone who is dropped in their 40s or 50s. I have been able to evolve with the place.”

Kogon has taught every student who has graduated from the dental school. It’s a point of pride for his career. “That is almost 2,000 students now, and they’re all over the world,” he said. “Whatever influence I have had it’s that when I see them after they have graduated – some now have their own children who have become dentists as well – it is really satisfying feeling.”

“I don’t know what my actual influence is, but to see you have touched upon them in one way or another, that is the thing I am moved by most.”

THE COUPLE

Anabel Quan-Haase and J. Bruce Morton always knew the hunt wouldn’t be easy.

“For academic couples, that’s the No. 1 challenge – finding jobs at the same university – when making choices about where you are going. First off, it’s having that academic fit, but then also finding that fit for two people,” Quan-Haase said.

Morton finished his PhD first, and hit the job market with eyes not only on academic excellence, but family accommodations. In 2002, he landed a position with Western’s Department of Psychology, Quan-Haase, who finished her PhD soon afterward, followed in 2004 with a position co-appointed in Western’s Department of Sociology and Faculty of Information and Media Studies.

The couple, who met in 1996 at the University of Toronto, understand what happened to them is rare – both members of the family landing top-tier academic jobs in their given fields at a top university.

“I would say it just doesn’t happen most of the time,” Morton said.

They credit both the faculty union and university administration for going out of their way to facilitate an environment conducive to their family.

“There are many things that make it a good place to work, over and above the fact academically it’s a great climate to come to work and enjoy every day,” Morton said. “There’s both a supportive union and a constructive and forward-thinking administration that combined make it a hospitable environment for us.”

“Their combined forces make our life pretty easy to live.”

At Western, Morton said the issue of faculty recruitment and retention is taken seriously.

“They know that goes a long way toward retaining people who are happy, productive and capable of balancing personal and professional obligations,” he continued. “I think Western has done yeoman’s services on those kinds of issues.”
**SURVEY OF GRADUATING STUDENTS**

*If students are the best ambassadors for a postsecondary institution, then Western’s 2013-14 graduating class have confirmed that tradition according to the recently released report on the survey of graduating students. 2013-14. 4 PERCENT OF PARENT GRADUATES WOULD RECOMMEND WESTERN TO A FRIEND. THAT NUMBER REMAINED CONSISTENT WITH LAST YEAR’S MARK OF 42.8.

THE SURVEY, WITH FINDINGS POSTED PUBLICLY THIS WEEK, WAS DISTRIBUTED TO 5,549 UNDERGRADUATE, CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA STUDENTS WHO WERE EXPECTED TO GRADUATE AT THE FALL 2013 OR SPRING 2013 CONVOCATIONS. OF THESE, AN amazing 2,209 QUESTIONNAIRES (27.4% PER CENT) WERE RETURNED.

THE SURVEY WAS A 12-ITEM QUESTIONNAIRE IN WHICH GRADUATES RATED THEIR SATISFACTION WITH ACADEMIC COURSES AND PROGRAMS, QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION, DEGREES TO WHICH THEIR UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE ENHANCED A RANGE OF ABILITIES AND SKILLS, AND SATISFACTION WITH WESTERN’S PHYSICAL FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES. GRADUATES WERE ALSO ASKED TO DESCRIBE THEIR REASONS FOR CHOOSING WESTERN, THEIR FUNDING SOURCES, WHILE AT UNIVERSITY, EDUCATION-RELATED DEBT UPON GRADUATION, AND PLANS FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT OR STUDY.

FOLLOWING YEARS OF DECLINING RESPONSE RATES, THE SPRING 2013 SURVEY WAS STREAMLINED: QUESTIONS REGARDING LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, EMPLOYMENT, REASONS FOR PURSUING A POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, AND SATISFACTION WITH PHYSICAL FACILITIES WERE REMOVED TO FOCUS MAINLY ON ACADEMIC QUESTIONS.


**92.4% WOULD RECOMMEND WESTERN TO A FRIEND.**

**23.4% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT LEADERSHIP.**

**13.5% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT MATHEMATICAL PROFICIENCY.**

**82.5% CITED QUALITY OF PROGRAMS OFFERED AS AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR ATTENDING WESTERN.**

**83.3% WERE SATISFIED WITH CAMPUS SAFETY, TOPS IN THE SUPPORT UNIT CATEGORY.**

**71.3% CITED GOOD SOCIAL ATMOSPHERE AS AN IMPORTANT REASON FOR ATTENDING WESTERN.**

**47.9% WERE SATISFIED WITH EMPLOYMENT SERVICES, LAST IN THE SUPPORT UNIT CATEGORY.**

**82.9% THOUGHT THEIR PROGRAM HAD SUFFICIENT THEORETICAL FOCUS.**

**52.5% THOUGHT THEIR PROGRAM HAD SUFFICIENT PRACTICAL FOCUS.**

**38.8% PLAN TO CONTINUE EDUCATION IN A GRADUATE PROGRAM, PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.**

**27.4% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT ETHICAL ISSUES.**

**37.2% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT WORKING ON THEIR OWN.**

**24.3% LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT WORKING WITH OTHERS.**

**18% HAD A JOB ARRANGED PRIOR TO GRADUATION.**

**2.5% Think they had sufficient professional focus.**

**36.2% GRADUATE DEBT FREE.**

**71% GRADUATE WITH BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF $26,000 IN STUDENT LOANS.**

**1.3% WERE SATISFIED WITH PARKING FACILITIES. THIS QUESTION WAS DROPPED FROM SURVEY.**

**N/A WERE SATISFIED WITH PARKING FACILITIES. THIS QUESTION WAS DROPPED FROM SURVEY.**

**3.6%**
Research

Engineered cells offer hope Parkinson’s sufferers

BY ADELA TALBOT

RESEARCHERS AT WESTERN’S Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry have discovered a potential, ‘likely promising treatment for patients suffering from degenerative neurological ailments – one that comes from small brain biopsies. “It’s an exciting opportunity not only to obtain living brain tissue from patients so we can study it, but the ability to develop a cell therapy where you could re-implant a person’s own brain-derived cells,” said Dr. Matthew Hebb, who led the study.

Hebb, a Schulich professor in Clinical Neurological Sciences (Neurosurgery), Oncology and Otolaryngology, teamed up with Western colleagues Hui Xu, Louisa Belkacemi, Mandar Jog and Andrew Parent for the study. Neuritrophic Factor Expression in Expandable Cell Populations From Brain Samples in Living Patients with Parkinson’s Disease was published in the October issue of The Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. Funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research, the study comprises the largest cohort of biopsied patients suffering from Parkinson’s disease and demonstrates the potential for significant growth of a patient’s own cells following small biopsies collected during a patient’s routine neurological care.

But why is this important?

“When grown in culture, these cells are complex in their make-up, but exhibit regeneration and characteristics of a fundamental class of brain cells, called glia, that express a broad array of natural and potent protective agents, called neurotrophic factors, with well-recognized ability to preserve and protect brain cells from injury, toxins and diseases,” said Hebb, also a Lawson Health Research Institute scientist.

“This is the first time these cells have been characterized in this way, in such a large cohort of Parkinson’s patients.”

Dr. Matthew Hebb

As part of the study, Parkinson’s patients scheduled to have deep brain stimulation surgery, a common procedure involving electrodes in the brain to reduce symptoms, underwent small biopsies to provide small policed brain cells nourished in culture, producing millions of patient-specific cells favorable for re-integration back into the patient’s own brain.

“Cell transplantation in the brain offers potential for the treatment of many common and devastating neurological ailments.”

Down the road, the team will look at the method’s treatment potential for other neurodegenerative problems such as Multiple Sclerosis and Alzheimer’s.

The new tissue, grown from biopsied cells, is a promising treatment option because it is able to cross the blood-brain barrier and protect the brain, potentially stopping the progression of Parkinson’s by stopping the death of neurons affected parts of the brain. Current treatment methods of drugs or cell-based therapies cannot cross the blood-brain barrier and cannot directly target affected areas of the brain.

“What we’re working on, what we’re hoping to do in the near future is to determine what these cells are capable of when re-implanted, looking at their survival, their ability to migrate, release protective factors,” he noted.

“Imagine if you could develop such a strategy – you may be able to engineer cells in a lab, before putting them back so they secrete chemicals or agents that are missing, like dopamine, in Parkinson’s, for example,” Hebb added, alluding to the potential for personalized medicine and treatment.

Challenges in this field remain, however, and he added a major stumbling block is the selection and effectiveness of the most appropriate cell types. While it could be years before this method proves an effective treatment, Hebb is optimistic, noting the potential to deliver effective, personalized therapy would be of great benefit to patients.

By ADELA TALBOT

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

well as may be eligible to apply for Rise financing.

• The Group Lending Program works with three of six bor-

rowers and connects them to busi-

ness mentors and industry experts in a region to design and roll-out of the program in the coming months.

• Rise has been instrumental in helping the lives of its clients by

helping them start up, grow or re-

start their entrepreneurial ventures,”

said Rotman who, as an outpatient of CAMH, became aware of many

creative men and women who could not obtain meaningful work.

• Employment in large corpora-

tions and other traditional work places can be problematic, and the path to

entrepreneurship comes with some

obstacles, too,” she added. “Tradi-

tional bank loans are not available, plus I assess the need for mentorship

and coaching support as important as financial support.”

That mentorship and coaching sup-

port is how Ivey alumni will step up to

the plate.

More than 1,400 alumni from the

London and the region will be there to

assist in getting ideas off the ground,

said Anne Snowdon, chair of the Inter-
national Centre for Health Innovation

at the Ivey Business School.

“Meaningful employment is an

important pillar in a person’s well-

being and identity, however, people

with mental health issues or addic-
tions often face barriers to the tra-
nitional job market,” Snowdon said.

“This program improves the lives of

this population, empowering them to

become successful entrepreneurs through access to financing and busi-

ness mentorship from the local busi-

ness community and our business school alumni.”

She added the program is about

connecting and engaging Ivey alumni

with creative entrepreneurs and creat-

ing a path forward.

“Rise is a tremendous asset to our com-

munity for both social and health

innovation. It’s a helping hand, not a

handout,” she said. “It is the creation

of meaningful networks of support that enables, empowers and inspires to get over the hurdles, the tough days and celebrate those wonderful successes.”

While the catalyst behind the Rise program, Rotman is quick to def-

ect the accolades.

“I want to thank the entrepreneurs who trusted us to help you help

yourselves,” she said. “I’m delighted entrepreneurs in the London region

facing employment problems as a result of mental health or addiction challenges will now be able to benefit from the mentoring and financial sup-

port provided by Rise.”

With that guidance and financial

support, these men and women can

realize their potential and become

entrepreneurs, and the impact could

be enormous – enhanced self-esteem, community involvement and indepen-

dence.”
Program offers novel route to secondary school success

BY ADELA TALBOT

KEVIN HESLROP KNOWS his story is all too familiar. In fact, he calls it a “classic” tale.

Attending high school in London, while coping with his parents’ divorce and a brother’s struggles with mental health at home, Heslop’s attendance and grades simultaneously started to slip. His attention turned to music, at times marijuana, and soon he found himself off track. He needed one credit to graduate from high school, but he felt less-than-suited for either the traditional classroom or adult learning centre.

For his subsequent educational success, the now 21-year-old first-year English student at Western credits a program that brings together the university and the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB), offering high school students an innovative route to finish their studies, at the same time taking a university course for credit.

The School Within a University Program (SWAU), modeled after one that started at Mohawk College a few years ago, is in its second year at Western. Housed within Huron University College, the school operates as a partnership between the university and TVDSB.

SWAU targets high school students who face major challenges in their lives, giving them the opportunity to earn their last credits in a university environment while taking a course of their own choosing on campus, with an emphasis on self-directed learning and a flexible schedule.

Though Heslop needed only one credit to get his secondary school diploma, he took five in the program last year. He wanted to get his average up, he said.

“My year was great. I’d be on campus if I wasn’t in class. I wouldn’t be here today if it weren’t for the program. ”

Heslop credits the program as well as Rob Bell, his TVDSB instructor on campus, for his success.

“The start of a similar program at Fanshawe (College) was the impetus for Western,” Bell explained. He noted Julie McMullin, Western’s vice-provost (international), approached the board with an interest in bringing SWAU to campus.

“All my students have some kind of challenge in their life that has adversely affected their grades – from mental health issues to trauma. Because of that, they may not have done as well in high school as people would have expected them to do,” said Bell, who teaches all of the SWAU courses on campus.

The program gives students a year to get their marks where they should be. As a bit of a carrot, Western pays for one full-credit course where they are integrated within a university class. The program accepts applications from students up to the age of 21.

That’s great, Bell said, is Western students cannot tell SWAU students from one of their own. This gives them freedom and a space to learn where no one knows about their previous challenges, eliminating the stigma and judgment accompanying a less-than-ideal high school experience.

Bell taught roughly 20 students last year – 11 were accepted to a university program and four went into college programs.

“That’s a pretty good success rate, considering most of them wouldn’t have graduated high school,” Bell said.

“The way it works is, we have mandatory class a couple days and other days were flexible. A number of them have jobs they’re working, supporting themselves, paying for their own apartments and, in the meantime, they’re coming in with me to finish courses,” he continued.

“I love this job; it’s phenomenal. It’s really rewarding because a lot of the kids need that extra help and I have the flexibility to do what helps them succeed. I’m really proud of the kids from last year.”

Bell, who previously taught high school in London and worked at the board office, said the program is able to accommodate 25 people as it stands, with him as the sole teacher, working with a part-time counselor. He hopes to see the program grow and expand, giving more students the opportunity to continue their education.
Ivey-CUPL partnership opens new doors in China

Officials from Canada and China came together to celebrate the official launch of a new business-law program from Ivey Asia and China University of Political Science and Law (CUPL). Pictured are, standing from left, Amit Chakma, Western president; Iain Scott, Western Law dean; John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs; David Johnston, Governor General of Canada; Joe Oliver, Minister of Natural Resources; Guy Saint-Jacques, Canadian ambassador to China; Zhu Yong, CUPL vice-president; and Chai Xiaoqin, CUPL professor; seated from left, Jan De Silva, Ivey Asia dean, and Sun Xuanzhong, CUPL Business School dean.

In addition to participating in the summit, the student team participated in APEC’s Voices of the Future program where they met with youth leaders from the other APEC economies. Together, they discussed economics, sustainability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. These young professionals then created a Youth Declaration that was presented to ABAC (APEC Business Advisory Council) representatives as well as to the H.E. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the president of the Republic of Indonesia.

At the end of the mission, Shon met with Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, pictured above, and Minister Ed Fast about his experiences.

The Rotman Institute of Philosophy, in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, has established five new faculty fellowships through a donation from the Rotman Family Foundation, which was matched by Western. The $210,000 over four years will support the following fellowships: Rotman Institute of Philosophy Faculty Fellowship in Physics ($10,000); Rotman Institute of Philosophy Faculty Fellowship in Cognitive Neuroscience ($20,000); two Rotman Institute of Philosophy Faculty Fellowships ($20,000 each); and Rotman Institute of Philosophy Interdisciplinary Faculty Fellowship ($20,000).
Dental student all smiles over handbag success

Second-year dental student Sarah Shell’s love for fashion has seen her designer handbags on the arms of such stars as Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift, among others. While her love for fashion and designing handbags continues, her main focus is on school and becoming Dr. Shell.

She was wrong. “I simply loved it. I loved the people and the creative freedom that I felt,” she said. “I felt like I was also discovering myself, plus it’s so hard not to be a happy person when you’re in Florence. I guess I was happy on all levels and felt fulfilled doing sketching and venturing out.”

During her last year at McGill, she was accepted to Parsons: The New School for Design, an elite century-old design institute in New York. Within a week of arriving in the Big Apple, it was system overload for the then-21-year-old.

“People are so surprised when I tell them it was the most intense year and a half of my life,” Shell said. “I was so enthralled with the New York scene. (Parsons) gets you right into the mix. Within the first week, I was working at New York Fashion Week. I just remember being backstage, and when you’re in that scene, you are that scene.”

“I felt like a rock star. You don’t sleep for the two weeks; you are in it, you are living it, you’re in front of those cameras that you were always sort of behind growing up watching,” she added. “I indulged in it.”

Shell soon found herself interning for various companies such as Club Monaco and Gucci, but found it too much of a desk job.

“I didn’t feel that creative freedom that I fell in school. The reality is, it’s not glamorous. What I saw growing up is reality, but not in the way I wanted it to be,” she said. “Being part of the scene, it just started to feel a little off. I started to feel, down the road, was that the impact I really wanted to have.”

“Drawn to the business side of the industry, Shell returned home and began doing freelance work for a firm in Calgary. Asked to create a report on leather straps, she rediscovered her creative side in a hunting store.

“I saw these rifle slings and they were so beautiful, how intricately they were designed,” she said. Never able to find a leather bag she liked, Shell bought one of the rifle straps and decided to make one for her mom; she then made one for herself. And, as fate was following her into a Calgary retail store, the owner would change her life with a simple question.

“She asked me ’Where did you get your bag?’ I told her I made it and she asked me to make a few for her,” Shell said.

A few weeks later, a fashion magazine was in the store and did a story on the bags. Then a few more articles were done. And a few more.

At this point, Shell, working as an assistant buyer at the Forzani Group, was unable to keep up with orders. She quit her job and launched 442 McAdam (442mcamad.com), named after the address of her grandparents’ home in Winnipeg.

“It was nerve racking, but I was making money. I was getting a great response from customers and had a hard time filling orders,” she said.

And when names like Gaga, Swift, Perry and Cyrus all want your bags, life has got to be good.

“I remember hearing about Lady Gaga and going gaga,” Shell said. “It’s a wonderful moment, but to me the ’I made it’ moment is when my mom comes home and tells me people stopped her on the street and asked her about her bag. My moments are when people text me a saying they just saw my bag go by on the street.”

Moving back to Toronto in 2009, Shell began to feel less fulfilled, and other life changes, including the death of her grandfather, had her contemplating where she wanted to be. Starting to crave science again, she took the Dental Aptitude Test and was accepted into the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

“We’re not as emotionally tied to our teeth as we are to our heart,” Shell laughed. “Dentistry has the creative side, social side, entrepreneurial side, the more I thought about it, it fit my personality.”

Shell still spends her weekends keeping the designs flowing and the company thriving.

“Things are going great for me. I’m not doing it (designing) for the career aspect anymore, but for the love of doing it for myself. I got lost in the business side of it, but it’s now back to doing it for me.”

By Paul Mayne

Sarah Shell’s name has been linked with the likes of Lady Gaga, Katy Perry, Miley Cyrus and Taylor Swift. So how does a second-year dental student find herself in such company? It’s all about the handbag.

“From day one, I knew I was in it all the way. I love it every day,” said 32-year-old Shell, at her time so far at Western. “I’ve met such incredible people in this program, the doctors and students are so interesting.”

While dentistry and fashion may seem an odd mix, neither was where she initially planned to be. Graduating from McGill University with a biology degree in 2002, Shell had thoughts of medical school in her future.

“When I was volunteering in the hospital, I felt too emotionally connected to every patient,” she said. “I saw the doctors and how their temperament had to be and I just felt this couldn’t be me. I was crying with the patients. I didn’t have that emotional maturity I felt was needed. I didn’t feel like I was in the right mind space in medicine.”

With plans of becoming a doctor dashed, the then-third-year student decided on a summer adventure to Florence, Italy, for a two-month fashion course.

“I thought it would be a nice break and I’d get it out of my system. I honestly thought I would suck at it, I’d hate it and I’d realize I have no talent and could check it off my list,” she said.
// ACADEMIC

**PhD Lectures**

Catherine Bornbaum, Health and Rehabilitation Science, Measuring the sixth vital sign: A descriptive analysis of distress in individuals with head and neck cancer and their caregivers. Oct. 25, EC 1576, 1 p.m.

Janet Loebach, Geography. Children’s Neighborhood Geographies: Examining Children’s Perception and Use of Their Neighbourhood Environments for Healthy Activity. Oct. 25, SSC 9420, 9:30 a.m.


Terry Loerts, Education, Multimodal Literacy Learning Opportunities in One Grade Six Classroom: Possibilities and Constraints. Oct. 28, FEB 1010, 1 p.m.

Richard Booth, Nursing. Nurses’ Learning and Conceptualization of Technology used in Practice. Oct. 29, HIAS H14, 9 a.m.

**// CLASSIFIED**

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**Miscellaneous**

Christmas Bazaar – Saturday, Nov. 2 between 11 a.m. -2 p.m. London Central Lions will be holding their Annual Christmas Bazaar at St. Luke’s Anglican Church, 1204 Richmond at Bernard (just north of the University gates). Books, bake table, treasures etc. Refreshments, free admission, enter off Bernard.

**// 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-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 applies to you.

**Autumn Convocation**

Information has been sent out to all students who applied to graduate for the Autumn Convocation, and guest tickets are available at convocation.uwo.ca.

**Alternative Spring Break**

Are you interested in engaging in community service work - locally, or across the globe? Applications are now open for Alternative Spring Break 2014. Information about the program and applications can be found at asb.uwo.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. Oct. 24, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Western Student Recreation Centre, 4th floor gym.

**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 asb.uwo.ca/psyth.

**Undergraduate Sessional Dates**

**Oct. 25:** Last day to add a first-term second quarter (‘F’ course) (Kins).

**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 drop a first-term summer course (2013-14 Fall/Winter Term) without academic penalty. Last day to drop a first-term second quarter (‘F’ course) without academic penalty (Kins).

For more information, visit studentser-vices.uwo.ca and follow us on Twitter @ Western_WSS.

**// CAREERS**

**Full-Time Academic Appointments**

**Faculty of Engineering – Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineer ing**

The Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering and the Faculty of Engineering at Western University – one of Canada’s leading research-intensive Universities – seeks applicants for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Head Injury Biomechanics. Based on qualifications and experience, the successful applicant will receive a probatory or tenured academic appointment at the rank of assistant or associate professor. Consideration may also be given to a joint appointment with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry or the Faculty of Health Sciences. In accordance with the regulations set for Tier 2 CRCs, the candidate will be an exceptional emerging researcher, acknowledged by his/her peers as having the potential to lead in the field. The candidate must propose an original and innovative research program of high quality which would attract excellent trainees, students and future researchers. Applications will be accept ed until the position is filled. Review of applications will begin after Nov. 1. The physical sciences and/or the health sciences (depending on the number of candidates with the required experience and qualifications, one or more may be filled as a term rather than probationary appointment).

One (1) term appointment position for a one (1) year period anticipated to end by Nov. 14, 2014, preferably supporting the physical sciences. Submission deadline is Oct. 30.

**Place an Ad Today**

For Classifieds, call 519.661.2045 or email advertise@uwo.ca. Rates: Faculty, staff and students – $15; others and services/commercial ads – $20. Beyond 35 words, add 50 cents per word. Payment must accompany ads. Submit by 9 a.m. Thursdays to Western News, Suite 360, Westminster Hall. No refunds. Visit Classifieds Online at communications.uwo.ca/cms/classifieds_menu.

**Write a Letter**

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

Hospitality Services pushes to keep it local

“There is a much greater interest around where products are grown, how they’re grown and the added ingredients they may or may not contain.”

- Anne Zok

BY JASON WINDERS

IT’S ALWAYS NICE to know your home-away-from-home-cooked meal came from closer to home than you think.

More than 43 per cent of Hospitality Services’ annual food purchases have been deemed ‘local,’ according to a recent survey of food purchases conducted by the Toronto-based Local Food Plus. In dollars and cents, that means nearly $2.3 million of a $5.3 million annual food budget would be spent with local producers.

Conducted to establish a baseline for the organization to build future sustainability efforts, Hospitality Services staff didn’t know what to expect going in. But the findings turned out to be a pleasant surprise, said Anne Zok, Hospitality Services nutrition manager.

“The Princeton Review, which recently profiled Western as one of only two Canadian schools in its Guide to 322 Green Colleges: 2013 Edition, noted local food sources for a number of the institutions. For comparison, Yale University sourced 39 per cent of its food locally, while other northern institutions like NorthWestern University (20 per cent), University of Michigan (18 per cent), Ohio State University (15 per cent) fared far worse. The University of British Columbia, the only other Canadian institution mentioned in the publication, sourced 48 per cent of its food locally.

“It is a very exciting time in the hospitality services industry,” Zok said. “People, I feel, are moving away from the tell-tale ‘diet’ crazes and are settling on a more realistic, holistic approach to wellness. To this end, there is a much greater interest around where products are grown, how they’re grown and the added ingredients they may or may not contain.

“Quite simply, consumers want to know what they’re putting into their bodies.”

The study focused on 2012 food purchases of three on-campus locations – Saugeen Hall, Delaware Hall and the Great Hall (catering) – from five different vendors. For the purpose of the analysis, a local product was defined as one produced and processed in Ontario. The five vendors surveyed – Green City Produce, Hayter’s Farm, Norwich Packers (Norpac), Agropur and Sysco (specifically Bumbrae Eggs) – showed a variety of success.

On the high end, Hayter’s Farm, which provides turkey products, and Norwich Packers, which provides beef products, both produce and process within Ontario, much within a 100 km of Western. The study celebrated both producers as examples of tight supply chains. While both companies comprise a small percentage of the total food buy at Western, they demonstrate the potential to work with farms and processors in close proximity, the study stated.

On the low end, Bumbrae Eggs sourced only 26 per cent of its egg products from Ontario. While all shelled eggs come from inside the province, liquid egg products are sourced through facilities in Quebec and Manitoba. The study did give the company credit for using 78 per cent free-run chickens in those non-local facilities.

Overall, Sysco, Bumbrae Eggs’ parent company and Western’s largest supplier with a complex product list, sourced only 11 per cent of its products locally.

Hospitality Services is not new to the sustainability push, which was formalized on campus with the release of a university wide sustainability strategy, Creating a Sustainable Western Experience earlier this year.

Data back to 2007, the division’s Sustainability Team has focused on Eating On Campus Initiatives as well as composting, travel mug and water preservation programs. More are to come in the near future.

For next steps, the study made a few suggestions for improvement on the number including working with vendors to identify local foods on invoices; shifting spending to vendors providing best local sourcing service, and adding more sustainability measures to procurement decisions.

Placing a greater emphasis on seasonality also got a nod from the survey.

Some food is not available locally, but has a near equivalent or equivalent replacements available. For example, Granny Smith apples are not grown locally, but are a significant (approximately 2 per cent of the produce bought) purchase. Other apples are available locally and Ontario apple storage infrastructure enables qualities of Ontario apples to be available throughout the purchasing year.

Additionally, Western purchases significant quantities of imported fresh products like pineapple, grapes and melons. In the case of pineapples and grapes, there are no or limited local opportunities. With melon, the local season is constrained.

Within limitations of pricing, and with consideration for providing balanced nutrition and variety, the study suggested shifting and/or increasing spending on preserved and frozen local foods that could serve as partial alternatives to imported products. Potential may also exist within the limitation of kitchen and staff infrastructure to engage in preservation of local seasonal product on campus to extend local product beyond the growing season.

As next level steps, the study also cited opportunity to expand considerations for pesticide use, animal welfare and antibiotic use, energy use, labour practices, Fair Trade in products other than coffee and water use.

“As we move forward, we will continue to benchmark our local purchasing practices and set targets for future growth,” Zok said. “Our goal is to continue to align ourselves with partners who share our sustainability commitment recognizing, that in doing so, we can have a tremendous impact on the health of the Western community as well as the health of the planet. I believe our personal health cannot be divorced from the health of the food chains of which we are all a part.”
Seeking a bit of last-minute knowledge

Students line the hallway outside Conron Hall Tuesday afternoon, as they cram in some last-minute studying prior to their History of Asia class. The rest of the campus will get a chance to put in some extra studying time this week, as fall study break means no classes Thursday, Oct. 31 and Friday, Nov. 1 for students.

Teaching Fellows Program Call for Proposals 2013-14

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) is pleased to announce the new Teaching Fellows Program. Applications are invited from full-time Western faculty for a three-year teaching fellowship, commencing January 2014.

As indicated in our Strategic Mandate Agreement (2012), Western affirmed its commitment to student success and student focused teaching and learning as part of the best student experience by providing funding to create the Teaching Fellows Program.

The goal of the Teaching Fellows Program is to enhance teaching innovation and teaching quality at Western. The Program will bring together a cohort of outstanding faculty (Teaching Fellows) who will provide educational leadership, perform research on teaching, and disseminate the knowledge they acquire to the larger university community and beyond.

The newly selected Teaching Fellows will provide educational leadership and initiate and coordinate Faculty-specific programming and research to promote teaching excellence and curriculum innovation. Teaching Fellows will be outstanding educators selected competitively to work collaboratively with the Teaching Support Centre (TSC) and their Faculties.

Up to five new Teaching Fellows will be selected through this competition in 2013/14. The first theme of the Teaching Fellows Program will focus on technology-enabled learning. Fellows will develop and complete an innovative technology project designed to enhance teaching and learning in their disciplines. In subsequent years, Teaching Fellows may work to integrate other themes into the curriculum.

Teaching Fellows are eligible for up to $10,000 funding per year for three years to conduct their scholarly project related to teaching.

At the beginning of their term, Teaching Fellows will participate in a two-day Great Teachers Seminar to prepare for their role and build their skills for educational leadership.

Deadline for applications: November 15, 2013

For more details and application procedures, please see the Teaching Fellows - Call for Proposals on the Teaching Support Centre website at: www.uwo.ca/tsc