Professors remain jailed; calls for freedom grow louder

BY ADELA TALBOT

AS PROTESTS, RALLIES and letters calling for the freedom of Western professor and London physician Tarek Loubani and York University professor and filmmaker John Greyson continue to fall on deaf ears in Egypt, supporters at home are urging the Canadian government to take a stand, pleading for the direct intervention of Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Harper issued a statement Sunday saying, “in the absence of charges, (they) should be released immediately.”

Loubani and Greyson have been held in Egypt’s maximum security Tora prison since Aug. 16, without charges. Last week, Egyptian officials announced the men would be held for an additional 45 days, pending an ongoing investigation, potentially facing a number of serious charges, among them murder, an “intention to kill,” aiding and abetting murder, and “using explosives against the Azbakiya police station” in Cairo.

Friends, family and colleagues at home have vehemently denied all allegations against the men, noting their dedication to humanitarian work, even in the face of personal dangers.

The pair was arrested en route to Gaza at a time of intense violence in Egypt. Loubani had previously initiated a medical mission in a Gaza hospital and was returning to continue its work, while Greyson planned to film the mission.

An account of Loubani and Greyson’s experience in prison, sent to relatives and released last week, noted the men couldn’t cross the border to Gaza because of the ongoing violence in the area. Unable to cross, they visited the demonstrations where Loubani tended to wounded protestors while Greyson filmed the demonstrations.

In the letter, the men explain the deplorable conditions in which they’ve lived for more than a month, noting that:

“… We’ve been held here since August 16 in ridiculous conditions: no phone calls, little to no exercise, sharing a 3m x 10m cell with 36 other political prisoners, sleeping like sardines on concrete with the cockroaches; sharing a single tap of earthy Nile water … We were two of 602 arrested that night, all 602 potentially facing the same grab-bag of ludicrous charges: arson, conspiracy, terrorism, possession of weapons, firearms, explosives, attacking a police station.

The men are being urged to start eating again, after being on a hunger strike for more than two weeks. Liberal foreign-affairs critic Marc Garneau said Monday Harper and the Canadian government are doing everything possible to help Loubani and Greyson, while NDP foreign affairs critic Paul Dewar, who has been in touch with Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird and the Egyptian ambassador, has pressed for the men’s immediate release.

“Canada — including Harper — should continue to intervene on a direct and personal level with Egyptian authorities to advocate for their release,” Dewar said in an email this week.
3 // THURSDAY

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM
Martin Houdé, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Western. Non-Zeeman Circular Polarization of Molecular Spectral Lines in the ISM. 1:30 p.m. PB&4, room 100.

MCINTOSH GALLERY

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Time Management for Graduate Students. sdc.uwo.ca/learning. 3:30-5 p.m. WSS, room 3134.

CHINESE MOVIE NIGHT AT HURON
The Chinese Program hosts the first Chinese Movie Night event, featuring two Chinese movies (with English subtitles). Back to 1942 and CZ12. hwu1@huron.uwo.ca. 4:30-9:30 p.m. Huron University College, W12.

4 // FRIDAY

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
David Otchmpoint. Come hear the innovative and eclectic music of this highly acclaimed jazz guitarist and composer and his ensemble. 12:30 p.m. von Kuster Hall.

EARTH SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM
Graham Wilson, Turnstone Geological Services. Chromite Deposits and the Natural History of Chromium. 3:30 p.m. BSG 0153.

ROTMAN SPEAKER SERIES
Noomi Orinkes, Harvard University. Merchants of Doubt: Using History and Philosophy of Science to understand the climate change debate. 7-9 p.m. The Great Hall, Somerville House.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Parsa and Poole concert. Menahem Pressler, piano. 8 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

7 // MONDAY

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Making Effective Presentations. sdc.uwo.ca/learning. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. WSS, room 3134.

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

ARABIC CONVERSATION GROUP
4:30-6:30 p.m. UC, room 22.

8 // TUESDAY

SENIOR ALUMNI PROGRAM
Robert Solomon, Faculty of Law, Western. Powers of Attorney – and other mysterious things. 9:30 a.m. UC, McKellar Room.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Writing Multiple-choice Tests. sdc.uwo.ca/learning. 5:30-6:30 p.m. HSB, room 240.

9 WEDNESDAY

THE CHINESE PROGRAM AT HURON
Anyone wishing to speak Chinese and meet people who study Chinese is welcome. hwu1@huron.uwo.ca. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays Huron, A18.

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE RESEARCH FORUM
Laurence de Loofe, Western. The Letter, the World, and the Book of the World. 11:30-12:30 p.m. UC, room 207.

TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS
Build your confidence in public speaking. 9119.toastmastersclubs.org/ or dmocor@uwo.ca. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. WSS, room 3134.

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. tertulia@uwo.ca. 4:30 p.m. UC, room 205.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
McMaster at Western. 6 p.m.

WOMEN’S SOCCER
McMaster at Western. 8:15 p.m.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Preparing for Multiple-choice Tests. sdc.uwo.ca/learning. 2:30-3:30 p.m. WSS, room 3134.

E-mail: comingevents@uwo.ca
Homecoming 2013

Relive every moment at alumni.uwo.ca/connect/homecoming
**Editor’s Letter**

I cannot stand the Beatles. Not a simple note.

Yes, I recognize the band’s cultural significance. But I always viewed them as a Baby Boomer notion forced on every generation afterward. To me, the Beatles are what happens when a boy band doesn’t break up soon enough, and then decides to do too many drugs.

Now, I am a music lover, with one admittedly glaring hole in his collection, according to many. That one little opinion of mine has drawn plenty of ire and ridicule from friends, and strangers alike. It is beyond unpopular, and often has people calling into question my personal credibility and beyond.

But I stand by it.

So, perhaps that’s why the Beatles popped into my head last week, as I read about University of Toronto professor and author David Gilmour.

As you know by now, Gilmour created quite the stir when he offered publicly that he teaches only “the best” authors in his classroom. That means not girls, or Chinese people, or gay people.

“I’m not interested in teaching books by women. ... When I was given this job I said I would only teach the people that I truly, truly love. Unfortunately, none of those happen to be Chinese, or women,” he said in an interview with the publisher Random House. “What I teach is guys. Serious, heterosexual guys.”

After his comments exploded across Canada, he started backing down. Rapidly. He offered up a hasty – yet still classic – “non-apology apology” for his sad and desperate cry for attention. He was “sorry for those people’s bruised feelings” about what they read in the newspaper. His joking manner, he said, was lost in the article.

“The infliction of our voices, and consequently the intent of our sentences, gets entirely lost in the blankness of the print. And that’s what happened here. It looked as if I meant this stuff seriously,” Gilmour told the CBC.

Ah, yes, he was only being playful, perhaps members of the media hate women authors and twisted his words to fit their narrative. In fact, some of Gilmour’s best friends aren’t women.

Fortunately, as a society, we are beyond being overly shocked when an out-of-touch Baby Boomer white guy says something idiotic about sex or race. Most of us have seen it too many times to be surprised. Social media helps fuel this recent controversy very somewhat, as a younger generation got their first crack at this kind of ignorance.

But they will tire of it as soon as well. I hate he is a professor, as postsecondary has taken beyond its share of beatings recently. But nevertheless, I am not here to beat up Gilmour’s opinions. Plenty of better writers have turns doing just that. (Also, smart money might move off Gilmour’s chances for the Scotiabank Giller Prize in November. Just saying.)

While his comments are obviously lunacy, it’s the manner he rehearsed them back in that iritates me. Here’s a guy in obvious need of attention, tossing chum overboard for the amateur and professional punditry class, who then gets cold feet. Instead of either apologizing and moving on or owning his unpopular opinion, defending it even, Gilmour ran and blamed others – the media, in this case.

Seriously, if the guy’s writing is as lazy as his excuse-making, then CanLit is suffering more than I imagined.

Come on, David, you’re better than a rhetorical sucker punch. Don’t do another, else take your pounding like the “serious, heterosexual guy” we know you to be. It’s intellectual cowardice to blame others for reactions to your opinions.

Listen, I understand unpopular stances. I have taken a few in my day. And if you don’t like female authors, fine. Say it, defend it and then stand there and take the slings and arrows. That’s the joy of an academic institution. It’s built for the fight. Even in a losing battle like this, one where you find yourself far from the shores of reality, there is at least honour in suffering the consequences of your beliefs.

But blaming others only degrades you, and the profession associated with you by the public. It doesn’t represent “the best” of any classroom I know.

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**WHAT’S IN A NAME? THOMPSON RECREATION AND ATHLETIC CENTRE**

**COL. J. GORDON** Thompson, LLD’77, was a community and business leader who served on Western’s Board of Governors and numerous advisory committees, helping establish the School of Business Administration and the Faculty of Medicine. Thompson donated toward the construction of the new arena on campus, which opened in 1975, after students voted to help pay for it.

A vice-chair of the board when he retired, Thompson was known for his public service and community contributions, serving on the boards of many organizations such as the YMCA-WYCA, Red Cross and War Memorial Children’s Hospital.

During the Second World War, he chaired the National War Finance Committee and Citizen’s Auxiliary War Services Committee.

He was also chairman of the board of Supertest Petroleum Corp. Ltd and Canada Trust.

- Paul Mayne

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.

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**COMMENTS**

- 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 published simultaneously.

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

- L. Moore, University Relations and Information director, Nov. 16, 1972
Beat Goes On – even after 1,500 episodes

In celebration of 1,500 episodes of the CHRW program The History of Us, Western Studies and Actuarial Sciences lecturer Steve Kopp, who joined the station on Sept. 17, 1980, sat down to reflect on three decades of the iconic program. What follows is an edited version of that essay. Read the whole essay at chrwradio.ca/content/editing-30-years-1500-episodes.

BY STEVE KOPP

IT WAS 6 P.M. It was a Saturday. And it was Sept. 17, 1983. At that moment, a brand new weekly show made its debut on CHRW. The show was called The Beat Goes On.

Now, 1,500 episodes later, on Tuesday, Sept. 17, we celebrated the exact 30-year anniversary of the show. The show has changed time slots over the years and has changed the day of the week it was on. Heck, even the name of the show changed from The Beat Goes On to what it is called today, The History of Us.

But first, some musings from 30 years.

So, how did things get started? It was a long time ago, so my memory may not be all that clear. But I seem to remember a show that CHRW used to air in 1982 once a week. It came from McMaster University and it was called The History of British Pop (or something like that).

In September 1982, we received the last episode of the show on reel-to-reel tape. It was at that moment I came up with a grand idea. I convinced the station manager (David Freeman) to let me do a four-part show on the Beatles. These four shows would be considered the last four episodes of The History of British Pop.

In preparing my script and music for these four shows, I had to go through my oldest sister’s Beatles record collection. While looking for albums, I happened to come across the first four albums by the Monkees. I was also going out with a girl at the time whose older sister happened to own the fifth Monkees album (The Birds, The Bees and The Monkee). I thought, “Wow, I now have the first five albums by the Monkees. I could do a whole radio shift on the history and music of the Monkees.” An idea was born.

I started going through the rest of my sister’s collection. I found all sorts of music from the 1940s and it turned out that I remembered quite a bit of it. My girlfriend at the time also bought me a book as a Christmas present on the British Invasion. Inside, were one page stories about the formation and history of many British bands of the 1960s. That is when I really felt that I could do a weekly specialty show playing the music of the 1960s. I quickly decided that it would cover the period from July 1955 to the end of 1970.

The show was set to make its debut in September 1983.

Why not earlier than that? I was spending the summer of 1983 working in Toronto. But working in Toronto also meant trips to Peter Dunn’s Vinyl Museum to look for more ‘oldies’ music. And it allowed me to see, first-hand, the nostalgia boom taking place in Toronto. Classic rock radio was just starting to take hold of the radio airwaves. That summer, I had the opportunity to see, live in concert, 1960s groups such as the Temptations, Simon and Garfunkel and the Hollies. The time seemed right to have a show that played music from 1955-70.

The show was called The Beat Goes On (after the Sonny and Cher tune). Episode 1 started off with the song Surf City by Jan and Dean. That first show covered the Sounds of Summer. I had recently bought a book that was called The West Coast Story which talked about the music of California. That book provided the basis for the first few episodes: Sounds of Summer, The Byrds, Mamas and Papas and the Doors.

That first year ended with an advertisement in the Gazette student newspaper asking for people to vote for their favourite song from the 1960s. The winner, with seven votes, was White Rabbit by Jefferson Airplane. The Top 40 songs in our poll were counted down in order on the first anniversary of the show.

In the second year of the show (1984-85), I handed over the reins to another person. I can’t remember his name, but the show ran for the next eight months by committee. There were four of us and each one of us would do one show every four weeks.

I resumed my role of sole host in May 1985, and have never looked back.

Over the 527 shows, I did many a spotlight. From the Animals to CCR, Supremes to Dave Clark 5, Gene Pitney to The Zombies. And there were more than a few spotlights on the Beatles. But as 1993 was coming to an end, so was my enthusiasm for playing music from the 1955-74. (I finally allowed some early 70s music into the fray)

I decided to end the show and replace it with another.

On Saturday, Jan. 8, 1994, the 527th and final episode of The Beat Goes On was aired. The very next week, a new weekly show took its place. It was called The History of Us (named after an Indigo Girls song).

The original format of The History of Us was to choose a month from 1980-90, get out the CHRW Top 30 alternative album charts from that month and play it. I did not have access to the charts from every single month in that time frame. Actually, I had the charts only for 104 of the 132 months that make up the period. That meant the show would last 104 weeks, or two years, and that would be that.

The show would end in January 1996.

At least, that was the plan.

Now, here we are nearly 18 years later and every week another show gets aired. Since May 13, 2008, we have been on every Tuesday from 3:30-6 p.m. I estimate we have played over 37,500 songs over those years.

As we used to say in our ads for The Beat Goes On: tune in, turn on and listen to CHRW.
Commentary

Senate right to strip teaching integrity from research policy

BY M. J. TOSWELL

UNIVERSITIES BEGAN IN Western Europe in the late 12th or early 13th century when it became clear a more formal kind of establishment for learning would be necessary: the first medical school at Salerno, the first law school in Bologna and the liberal arts in Oxford and Paris. From this tradition, the modern university, itself largely an occidental phenomenon, developed.

Students arrived, obtained books and went to lectures. The lecturer’s notes would go at the foot of the page, below the large and elegant hand of the main text. Here, encapsulated, remains the modern lecture, the focus of the modern university classroom: a collection of received knowledge, and criticism or commentary upon it. When a student paid a tutor for a course of lectures or tutorials, the expectation was by the end of the term a set quantity of knowledge and an approach to that knowledge would have been imparted.

Some years later, the enterprising student would sit an examination and become a master of the material. The examinations were set and marked by a group of these masters, and any disputes among them were settled amongst themselves: sometimes they debated, sometimes they or their students fought, sometimes they appealed to a bishop or a magnate for a ruling. The pattern of university life set and hardened, and remained largely the same for eight hundred years.

Today, that pattern is changing.

The classroom is no longer wholly a redrawing where a member of the faculty instructs her students in received knowledge and ways to question and advance it. There is intervention, much of it useful.

The new Sakai works too much like the old WebCT for my taste, but it works. Heavy weather warnings are handy. Accommodations for students who need help to learn make sense. I would not want to return to the earliest days of the universities, when a student desiring to learn my subject would negotiate with me personally to establish the time and payment for classes (some tutors had a lean time of it).

So, largely, I appreciate the growth of a cadre of people in the university who would help to learn. This teaching integrity policy, welded into the 2013 revisions of the 2008 Research Ethics policy as was, only addressed misconduct and its punishment.

And the range of possible misconducts was terrifying.

The line between plagiarism and proper use of sources is, as students well know, difficult to draw. The fellow who replaced in my first teaching gig in Oxford in 1984 gave me the run of her office, including all her files and notes. It made me feel, pleasingly, that I am part of a long line of scholars.

But it’s not at all clear, from the policy presented at Senate, that I, or the colleagues I encourage to use my materials, would be cleared of plagiarism charges by an unidentified ‘Investigating Committee’ which, as best I can tell, would not be made up of my peers or of students who know what goes on in the modern classroom.

This is not to say there is no teaching misconduct today. But mostly it involves issues which can be addressed under the collective agreement that governs my employment at Western. It’s not wholly clear to me that teaching integrity requires a separate policy, though it might.

Lucrily, Senate did its job. It stripped out the pieces of teaching integrity policy from the document before it. This means the policy on research integrity, which had a Tri-Council deadline of Sept. 30, went through the Board of Governors in plenty of time for Western to be in compliance.

And I hope it means a committee of teachers and students, with serious help from the Teaching Support Centre, will address the question of what kinds of teaching policies this university needs — if it needs any. I also hope those policies will start from the positive position noting what constitutes good teaching, rather than listing misconducts and investigative procedures — things which belong in collective agreements.

That seems like a no-brainer to me; I don’t feel any need to pay anyone to teach me that.

M.J. Toswell is a professor in the Department of English in the Faculty of Arts & Humanities. She is a member of the university Senate.
Peggy Vandervoort has been one of the pillars upon which Robarts Clinical Trials Inc. has been built. As director of clinical operations, she continues to be selfless in her dedication to colleagues and staff and a key driver in the many initiatives undertaken within the group over the last 15 years. The depth of one’s emotional intelligence is based on qualities such as self-awareness, motivation, empathy and an advanced level of adaptive social skills.

Vandervoort exemplifies all of these qualities as a leader, a role model and exemplar of success.

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Karin Feulgen  
Department of Economics

Karin Feulgen is much more than a financial assistant in the Department of Economics; she is part of the Economics family. As she works to better the work environment for others at Western, better the city and better her family, Feulgen is someone who goes beyond the requirements of her job to help others reach their full potential. She brings to her role grace, compassion, excellence, respect, integrity and commitment in everything she does. A consummate team player, her work ethic brings joy to everyone she comes in contact with.

Leanne Trask  
Department of English

Leanne Trask’s impact within the Department of English extends far beyond responsibilities one could list on a job description. Her institutional knowledge – and her willingness to share that knowledge – makes her a priceless asset. Faculty and students alike talk about drawing on Trask’s knowledge and expertise as an administrator. One student described her as the “department’s encyclopedia,” saying, “seemingly, there is not a single question she is not capable of answering or does not know immediately who can answer the question.” Many, at some point, have shared another student’s feeling that “Leanne has saved my life.”
Mary Peterson
Western’s Southwestern Ontario Medical Education Network (SWOMEN)

Mary Peterson is the sole reason Western’s Southwestern Ontario Medical Education Network (SWOMEN) is able to produce the quality and extent of rural research year after year. She enthusiastically informs medical students about rural programs, and ensures each opportunity and each student’s interest is met. She has facilitated rural research scholarships for SWOMEN for more than a decade, allowing students to gain valuable experience and to participate in meaningful research projects. Her colleagues agree "there’s something about Mary" that has made SWOMEN a great success.

Kimberley Law
Department of Earth Sciences

To say Kimberley Law goes above and beyond her normal role expectations in the Department of Earth Sciences would be an understatement. As manager of the Laboratory for Stable Isotope Science, Western’s largest multidisciplinary lab group, Law is great with people because she can identify with, feel and respect the anxieties, tensions and other emotions that arise when a large number of high achievers take on demanding tasks, and must work together to be successful.
Susan Smyth
Postgraduate Medical Education Office

Susan Smyth works tirelessly and demonstrates consistently a genuine desire to help residents and fellows in postgraduate training at Western. She has been the registration coordinator in the Postgraduate Medical Education Office for the past six years. Her high level of professionalism compliments her warm and caring personality, and it is quite normal for Smyth to go above and beyond expectations. Her warm personality and great sense of humour make the office a fun place to be.

Penny Westmacott
Faculty of Science

Penny Westmacott has made exceptional contributions as an academic counselor in the Faculty of Science, and to the broader Western Science community. A devoted leader and manager, Westmacott worked hard at both the front lines and in the background, all with the goal of helping students be successful in science. She has a tremendous amount of empathy and yet strives to find the balance between helping students and empowering them to help themselves. Westmacott recently retired after a total of 23 years at Western.
Student gives Children’s Aid the royal treatment

Jacqueline Wojciechowski, a second-year Political Science student, was crowned Miss Canada Globe 2013. The pageant, which promotes “confidence and inner beauty,” lends itself to charitable organizations. Wojciechowski, whose family has been a foster family for more than a decade, will be advocating for The Children’s Aid Society.

BY ADELA TALBOT

AFTER HER FIRST year of university, Jacqueline Wojciechowski needed a breather. She wasn’t burned out by academics; the 21-year-old just wanted some time off – an opportunity to “collect” herself.

She found herself, and one year later, she was crowned Miss Canada Globe 2013.

“I’m looking forward to the opportunity now to represent the community, and do work, and see where doors open,” said Wojciechowski, who just started her second year of a Political Science degree at Western.

The Miss Canada Globe competition looks for “confidence and inner beauty” in their contestants, with a mission of selecting a young woman to provide assistance to charities and non-profit organizations, raising funds and bringing awareness to charitable causes while promoting multiculturalism, special events and non profit fundraisers throughout Canada.

Wojciechowski, whose family has been a foster family for more than a decade, wasn’t hard pressed to find a cause she believed in. The London native plans to spend the next year advocating for The Children’s Aid Society.

“My family has been a foster family for 12 years and it’s really nice to be able to do even more for them now; I’m really excited,” she said.

“The ones that were close to my age, you end up finding them on Facebook and you keep contact. It’s just really nice to see how much a child’s life has changed.”

But the pageant amounted to an opportunity for personal growth, too, she continued.

“I broke down a lot of walls that I had built up, and a lot of fears,” Wojciechowski said.

Prior to competing, she would have been too afraid to speak in a classroom, and after being on display for more than a week, during the pageant, she feels more confident and empowered.

At home, Wojciechowski is most comfortable teaching Polish folk dancing – something she has been participating in from a young age. Heavily involved in London’s Polish community, she teaches her “own group of little dancers” and enjoys every minute.

Wojciechowski will spend the following year advocating for the Children’s Aid Society, alongside completing her studies and keeping her commitments to the pageant, which requires her to make appearances and travel between London and Toronto during the week. She will then compete internationally for Miss Globe in Europe.

Fluent in English, French and Polish, Wojciechowski isn’t sure what the future holds – all she knows is that she enjoys travelling and sees herself working in some international capacity.

“I’m still young and still have plenty of time,” she said.

“Student Life

The 20th Annual
Murray Barr Lecture
The Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology Presents

Dr. 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”

Thursday, October 24, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.
Auditorium A, 3rd Floor LHSC, University Campus
Coffee and Continental Breakfast
Available 9-9:30 a.m. 

Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology

Western
MEETINGS at Spencer

By Paul Mayne

Revisiting the idea of how and when organs can be donated has given 50 individuals in London new life—a literally—thanks to Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro and his colleagues.

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry professor, and renowned liver surgeon, is hopeful reassessing a particular method of organ donation leads to more organs available for patients.

“This is a potential strategy to address the organ shortage in Canada and the rest of the world,” Hernandez-Alejandro said. “It will also be an option for organ donation the general public should be aware of.”

For any procedure, the problem centred on time. If organs are transplanted after the heart stops, the procedure is called ‘donation after cardiac death’ (DCD). However, organ damage occurs rapidly once the heart stops, and so decades ago it became difficult to use livers, kidneys or lungs, and impossible to use hearts. Doctors simply didn’t have enough time to remove, transport and transplant the organs successfully.

To combat that, most hospitals set out criteria for ‘donation after brain death’ (DBD) in the late 1960s. This method became the standard for heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas and intestine transplants. This gave doctors more time to transplant the organs.

“If a patient has brain death, we can consider them dead, even if the heart is beating. They are potential donors,” Hernandez-Alejandro said. “The benefit is the organs are well perfused, they have good blood supply and good oxygenation, and that’s the main thing. The outcomes of organ transplantation started improving and were very good.

“At that moment, there was a huge revolution and advances in immunosuppression, a very important part that makes the organs have less rejections. So, the successful outcomes became even higher.”

Unfortunately, as time has progressed, more people were in need of transplants than were available via DBD. While the waiting list was months a generation ago, the wait today can stretch into years. In London today, 15-20 per cent of individuals on the waiting list for liver transplants will die waiting for an organ, or be removed from the list because they have become too sick for a transplant.

To bridge that gap between organ supply and demand, Hernandez-Alejandro revisited DCD as an option.

“If you look at the rate across Canada, the rate of donors hasn’t been increasing, but those waiting continue to grow. We needed to explore other options, one being DCD,” he said. “Patients were not donating because we knew these organs didn’t have good blood supply or good oxygenation and were not going to work as well as brain-dead donors.

But Hernandez-Alejandro said medical technology has made huge strides.

“We have better surgeons, better preservation solutions, better research; so, we started looking at how much time we have between the patient’s (cardiac) arrest and the moment we start flushing the organs,” he said.

The liver has been the focus of Hernandez-Alejandro’s research role in Canada; we have learned a lot in these 50 cases.”

By Paul Mayne / File Photo

Research

New look at old organ donation procedure offering hope

BY PAUL MAYNE

REVISITING THE IDEA of how and when organs can be donated has given 50 individuals in London new life—a literally—thanks to Dr. Roberto Hernandez-Alejandro and his colleagues.

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For any procedure, the problem centred on time. If organs are transplanted after the heart stops, the procedure is called ‘donation after cardiac death’ (DCD). However, organ damage occurs rapidly once the heart stops, and so decades ago it became difficult to use livers, kidneys or lungs, and impossible to use hearts. Doctors simply didn’t have enough time to remove, transport and transplant the organs successfully.

To combat that, most hospitals set out criteria for ‘donation after brain death’ (DBD) in the late 1960s. This method became the standard for heart, lung, liver, kidney, pancreas and intestine transplants. This gave doctors more time to transplant the organs.

“If a patient has brain death, we can consider them dead, even if the heart is beating. They are potential donors,” Hernandez-Alejandro said. “The benefit is the organs are well perfused, they have good blood supply and good oxygenation, and that’s the main thing. The outcomes of organ transplantation started improving and were very good.

“At that moment, there was a huge revolution and advances in immunosuppression, a very important part that makes the organs have less rejections. So, the successful outcomes became even higher.”

Unfortunately, as time has progressed, more people were in need of transplants than were available via DBD. While the waiting list was months a generation ago, the wait today can stretch into years. In London today, 15-20 per cent of individuals on the waiting list for liver transplants will die waiting for an organ, or be removed from the list because they have become too sick for a transplant.

To bridge that gap between organ supply and demand, Hernandez-Alejandro revisited DCD as an option.

“If you look at the rate across Canada, the rate of donors hasn’t been increasing, but those waiting continue to grow. We needed to explore other options, one being DCD,” he said. “Patients were not donating because we knew these organs didn’t have good blood supply or good oxygenation and were not going to work as well as brain-dead donors.

But Hernandez-Alejandro said medical technology has made huge strides.

“We have better surgeons, better preservation solutions, better research; so, we started looking at how much time we have between the patient’s (cardiac) arrest and the moment we start flushing the organs,” he said.

The liver has been the focus of Hernandez-Alejandro’s research role in Canada; we have learned a lot in these 50 cases.”

By Paul Mayne / File Photo

Research

New look at old organ donation procedure offering hope
Police: Cheer team ticket still stands

BY ADELA TALBOT

DESPITE PROTESTS AND lunch lines from across the country, a ticket issued to the Mustangs cheerleading squad under the city’s nuisance bylaw will stand, according to London Police Service officials. And for many, that’s nothing to cheer about.

The $140 fine came after the team made an impromptu stop to cheer in a residential area near Western’s gates. According to London police, a crowd of roughly 2,000-3,000 people had already flooded a two-block radius of the Broughdale Avenue area, and the cheer drew an additional 200-300 spectators, increasing potential for risk to public safety and prompting the fine for team captain Max Gow.

The story of the cheerleading infraction gained momentum over Homecoming weekend, quickly becoming a national story, with articles and opinion pieces questioning the police and the motivation behind the fine. That exposure prompted London police into a hastily called ‘Homecoming 2013 press conference’ ostensibly to address overall weekend enforcement, but, in actuality, to discuss the cheerleading ticket.

“An important change emerged on Broughdale Avenue, with crowds that far exceeded the numbers of previous years,” said Brent Shea, deputy chief of the London Police Service. “The otherwise successful and enjoyable Homecoming celebrations are unfortunately being overshadowed by this one incident. Shea said noting there were no injuries or other incidents, save the one on Broughdale which came with ‘considerable implications for public safety.’”

He added an additional 60 officers worked to ensure Homecoming was a safe and successful event. A total of 270 tickets were issued to Western students, 212 for liquor violations and 27 for public urination, trespassing, noise and nuisance by-laws.

Given the crowd density in the Broughdale area — shown as a purple-clad mass, lined shoulder-to-shoulder, in a video played at the press conference — emergency services such as EMS or fire trucks, would not have been able to access the street, Shea explained.

The heavy consumption of alcohol in the crowd, with students climbing the rooftops of homes, made for a significant risk to public safety, he continued. What’s more, the area is a residential area, housing not just students, and it’s the context under which the ticket was issued that needs to be considered.

“(This) is not much different than what we witnessed on St. Patrick’s Day in 2012, with the exception that the crowd on Broughdale was much larger. The potential for escalation was considerable,” Shea said.

On March 17, 2012, St. Patrick’s Day celebrations turned violent when parties spilled onto the street on Fleming Drive, an area near Fanshawe College where many students live. That crowd of 1,000 or so turned the east end of London into a war zone by attacking police and burning vehicles.

While the Homecoming event was peaceful, the crowd in a small area was a concern for police.

“There are people that live on that street that are not students, and that is their residential street. Our intention is not to spoil fun or to interfere with people having a good time. Our intention is to ensure community safety, and safety for everybody, not just the student population,” Shea continued, asking to consider the question, “Was this a wise location for the cheerleaders to be?”

“This weekend was an excellent Homecoming weekend but just one thing is being discussed — one ticket,” Shea said.

Western issued a statement prior to the news conference Tuesday. The university applauded police efforts "in maintaining a safe and enjoyable environment through Project L.E.A.R.N., while allowing our students and alumni to celebrate another wonderful Homecoming." The statement also lauded a cheerleading team “known the world over for delivering incredible performances. The university believes strongly that an impromptu performance by some of the cheerleaders en route to campus was well-intentioned.”

“Western also understands that London Police felt the need to act and engage their crowd control strategies to manage this large gathering on Saturday,” the statement concluded. “We look forward to continuing to work with our students, the community and the London Police Service to ensure weekends like the one we just experienced, are as safe and successful in the future.”

Ward 13 councillor Judy Bryant, who attended the conference Monday, said she drove by the festivities and was concerned, finding the crowd "quite alarming." While councillor Stephen Orser has criticized the police for issuing the ticket, Bryant said the police’s concern is public safety, and that includes the city’s students.

“When you see students sitting on the roof like that, you get a lump in the throat because you’re wondering what’s going to happen, if they’re drunk, etc.,” she said.

“I am not concerned about the (city’s) image. I would be concerned if we had another Fleming Drive. Eighteen months ago, we had that incident in the east side and that cost the city half a million dollars,” Bryant added, when asked about the attention the city is getting from national media over the incident.

“I drove by and I was thankful I wasn’t driving onto my own street.”
Student Life

Student app looks to drive healthy behaviours

BY ADELA TALBOT

GIVEN THE OPTION of writing a term paper or designing a mobile application for Candace Gibson’s Health Information Management class last semester, six students picked the latter, perhaps more unconventional, option.

And now, they are spending the next few months working to introduce that project into the real world.

Within the app, Bhavin Prajapati, Steve Tailleu, Russell Pelar, Alexandras L’Heureux, Melissa Kargiannakis and Ufuoma Eghele chose to tackle the 4x4, a Michigan public health document stressing four healthy behaviours and the monitoring of four health measures.

The project’s motivation stemmed from Gibson’s connections to public health in Michigan. In that state, government health initiatives are a challenge due to a low-income bracket, higher-than-average obesity, diabetes and chronic illness rates.

The app the students created helps put a government health policy into practice.

“We wanted to try to address it in a way that’s feasible for the government. It was a way to convert the policy into something interactive and easy for people to use,” he added.

Called 4M: Health, the app encourages people to practice four healthy behaviours – exercise, healthy eating, getting routine health screenings and avoiding tobacco. It also stores and tracks the progress of four health measures – blood glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure and Body Mass Index (or BMI).

“The app is based on preventative care. It’s about building and promoting a healthy lifestyle by doing things that aren’t too difficult to do on a daily basis. It [the app] is as simplistic as possible, not intimidating,” Tailleu said.

For instance, in the Healthy Behaviours category, the app has a built-in tracker for food and exercise, allowing users to log the food they’ve eaten, see what categories of the food pyramid they are lacking, while also tracking the amount of daily exercise. It links users to recommended health screening schedules and also tracks their craving for tobacco, offering distractions and articles at random to read while waiting for the craving to pass.

The four health measures are likewise monitored, allowing the user to upload test results and measurements, tracking progress all the while.

“You can check off as you go. It tracks your progress and gives you feedback. It’s a positive reinforcement app,” Tailleu continued.

Tailleu and Prajapati, project leads, presented the idea at a Michigan conference earlier this spring. The pair also attended an eHealth conference in Ottawa this summer, hoping to gain exposure for the app and find a partner who can use and market the data collection the app is capable of.

Tailleu added the app could help doctors engage with their patients and it is obviously not just applicable in Michigan.

“Good health care is universal,” he said, adding the app isn’t a Band-Aid solution to a problem, which is what a lot of health-care software ends up doing.

“We need to make people want to use it,” he said.

The next step is getting public input. Prajapati and Tailleu are visiting various counties promoting the app. They will tailor the application for all platforms based on the feedback. They are still hoping to find partners that will help disseminate the app and put it to good use.

“We are looking for public feedback. We can’t go further without it,” Prajapati said.

As part of their Health Information Management class last term, Prajapati, left, and Steve Tailleu, along with fellow classmates, created a mobile application that encourages healthy habits and tracks health measures, offering users encouragement and feedback on their journey to a healthy lifestyle.

This fall the PMI South Western Ontario Chapter is offering 3 PMP/CAPM Certification Exam Preparation courses:

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<th>Location</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>London - 10 sessions, Tuesday Evenings:</td>
<td>October 8 - December 10, 4:30 - 10:00 PM</td>
<td>8775 + HST</td>
<td>Chapter Members: 6675 + HST</td>
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<td>London - 5 sessions, Saturdays:</td>
<td>October 19 - November 16, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM</td>
<td>8775 + HST</td>
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<td>Sarnia - 5 sessions, Saturdays:</td>
<td>November 2 - November 30, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM</td>
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Course Features:
- InAct Advanced PMP Certification Training program prepared by Andy Crowe, PMP
- 35 hours in-classroom training
- Follow-up web-based learning and resources
- PMP Chapter volunteer instructors with decades of collective experience

Benefits:
- InAct Exam Preparation Kit:
  - Textbook
  - Workbook
  - Flash Cards
  - Quick reference chart
  - Presentations and videos
- Access to online testing tools
- 5 and 10 week programs provides valuable time for reflection and self-learning

To register, go to www.pmiswoc.org

For more information contact:
Donald Ardiel, Director of Certification and E-Learning at dleariel@pmiswoc.org or 519-850-8792

Campus Digest

Board OK’s UWOSA contract

LAST WEEK, WESTERN’S Board of Governors ratified a four-year agreement with the University of Western Ontario Staff Association (UWOSA). UWOSA, represents almost 1,000 employees who are engaged in administrative and research support roles at the university.

As part of the agreement, UWOSA members will receive 1.5 per cent pay increase in year one and then 2.5 per cent, 1 per cent and 1 per cent over the remaining three years.

The association’s previous contract expired June 30, and the two sides held eight days of negotiations discussions. Western and UWOSA reached an agreement in August, 95 per cent of UWOSA members ratified the agreement soon afterward.
More than 15,000 people joined in the celebration of Western’s annual Homecoming with four days of festivities. This year, festivities centred on Western the 100th anniversary of sports excellence. Relive Homecoming 2013 by visiting the Western Homecoming website, alumni.uwo.ca/connect/homecoming/.

See ya next year