Lessons of LEARN

Community meeting to convene in wake of student neighbourhood program refocus

By Adel Talbot

With increasing talk of inappropriate conduct – whether of London’s student population or the perceptibly heavy-handed response of the police – a public participation meeting is just around the corner.

Called by London Police Chief Brad Duncan, and set to take place likely in November, the meeting will provide a stage to solicit the community’s input in generating a positive, proactive engagement strategy in the city’s student-laden neighbourhoods.

And Western is up to the collaboration task.

“The positive thing, going forward, is people are talking about this. At the end of the day, everyone is interested in good relations,” said Susan Grindrod, Western’s associate vice-provost for Housing and Ancillary Services. Grindrod is among the university’s administrative staff that regularly meets with London’s police chief, ensuring open communication and a working relationship.

“We want to work with everybody to come up with some good way to move forward. There are no simple solutions here; we have to work with the student government, and the city, to ensure we are all communicating in supporting each other,” she added.

Grindrod said the university would continue to encourage students to be mindful of their communities, be respectful citizens and remember their behaviour, whether they are on or off campus, is a reflection of the university.

With criticism abounding, Duncan announced at a press conference last week he had decided to recant Project LEARN’s practice of collecting personal information from students during police canvasses of student neighbourhoods. What’s more, he promised a purge of all information collected to date, acknowledging critics have called it an invasion of privacy.

Duncan noted a different approach, a new strategy that would...
Coming Events

OCT. 31–NOV. 6

31 // THURSDAY

FALL STUDY BREAK FOR STUDENTS.

AUTUMN CONVOCATION
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Alumni Hall.

FLU SHOT CLINICS
Student Health Services (SHS) offers flu shots by appointment to students from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Oct. 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.

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

3 // FRIDAY

FACULTY MENTOR PROGRAM
Tenure and Promotion Under the Collective Agreement: How the Process Works. Program details and registration available at uwo.ca/hr. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Weldon Library, room 258.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Choral Commissions. Les Chantistes music in honour of Remembrance Day and Western University Singers celebrate the choral contributions of composer Benjamin Britten and music for double choir. 12:30 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

AUTUMN CONVOCATION
10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Alumni Hall.

EARTH SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM
Alastair Fraser, AAPG Distinguished Lecturer. In overcoming the technical challenges of oil product in the Arctic are we making the most of a strategic resource or heading for an environmental and political minefield? 3:30 p.m. BGS 0153.

2 // SATURDAY

FOOTBALL
Western vs. McMaster 4:30 p.m. TD Stadium

4 // MONDAY

CHARLES W. GOWDEY
DISTINGUISHED LECTURE AND RESEARCH DAY
Student poster presentations, 11 a.m. Great Hall, Somerville House. Research Talks, LHSC, UH, 2:30 p.m. Auditorium A. Mina J. Bissell, University of California, Berkeley. The Importance of Tumor Microenvironment in Initiation, Promotion and Therapy of Cancer. 4 p.m.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Optimize Lecture Learning. Sign up at tdh.uwo.ca/learning. 11:30-12:30 p.m. WSS 3134.

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

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY & WESTERN LIBRARIES
J.J. Talman Lecture Series. Alan Taylor, University of California. Settling and Unsettling Borders: Continental Legacies of the War of 1812. 3:30 p.m. SEB, room 1200.

ARABIC CONVERSATION GROUP
4:30-6:30 pm. UC 222.

5 // TUESDAY

SENIOR ALUMNI PROGRAM
Rob MacDougall, History and Centre for American Studies, Western. The Killer App – How the Cold War created video games and vice versa. 9:30 a.m. UCC, McKellar Room.

LEARNING SKILLS PRESENTATION
Online Research Skills. Sign up at scic.uwo.ca/learning. 1:30-2:30 p.m. WSS 3134.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES
The Wild Duck. Tickets $10 students/$15 adults. Available at Western connections and at the door. For more info, contact Jo Devereux at jdevereux@uwo.ca. 8 p.m. Nov 5-9. Conron Hall, UC 224.

6 // WEDNESDAY

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

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE RESEARCH FORUM
Anda Pleniceanu, Mono no Aware: the Poetics of Impermanence in the Tale of Genji. 11:30-12:30 p.m. UC 207.

TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS
Build your confidence in public speaking. 9119.toastmastersclubs.org/. Contact Donna Moore, dmoore@ uwo.ca or 85159. 12:1 p.m. UCC 147B.

APPLIED MATHEMATICS COLLOQUIUM
Edward A. Zeron, Departamento de Matemáticas, CINVESTAV/IPN, Mexico. A quite simple genetic clock whose deterministic ODE models fail to oscillate. 2:30 p.m. MC 204.

ITALIAN CONVERSATION
2:30-4:30 p.m. UC 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. Email tertulia@uwo.ca. 4:30 p.m. UC 205.

EARTH SCIENCES COLLOQUIUM
Jacob Hanley, GAC Howard Street Robinson Lecturer. The origin and role of valatites in the formation of magmatic Ni-Cu-platinum-group element deposits: What have we learned from fluid and melt inclusions? 5 p.m. BGS 1056. 3:30 p.m. BGS 0153.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Faculty recital by clarinetists Jana Starling and Marie Johnson. Chamber music of three centuries for the complete clarinet family. 8 p.m. von Kuster Hall.

Flickr.com/groups/western/
Continuing the dogged pursuit of the canine mind

BY ADELA TALBOT

YOU'VE HEARD THE stories. The owner is in trouble, maybe drowning in a lake, so his trusted canine companion rushes to town, gets help and saves his owner's life.

The idea of 'the canine hero' was, in some sense, the impetus for Western's Dog Cognition Lab, supervised by Psychology professor emeritus William Roberts, and run by doctoral candidate Krista Macpherson.

It started in 2004, when Macpherson was an honors thesiss student in Psychology. "She had a long interest in dogs and I had this idea for a study in the back of my mind, that I didn't have the facilities to do myself," Roberts said. "I always thought it would be interesting to test the idea that dogs would go to the aid of their owner if their owner was in trouble."

They proceeded with experiments to test this hypothesis, with owners feigning heart attacks, dogs seeing owners pinned under bookcases, all with the opportunity of running to a bystander for help.

"Well, no dog ever went for help," Roberts laughed. "It was counter to the folklore about dogs, not much to our surprise. I doubted dogs really understood the nature of the situation and would go for help. We published an article and it got quite a bit of attention."

Together with Macpherson, Roberts, whose research focuses on animal cognition, started a lab on campus. Over the years, its studies have focused on canine spatial memory, metacognition, anthropomorphism and deception. Macpherson is currently looking at numerical discrimination in dogs – seeing if and how dogs keep an account of the length of elapsed time.

"There's a lot of research on social cognition – very cool stories. The owner is in trouble, maybe drowning in a lake, so his trusted canine companion rushes to town, gets help and saves his owner's life. But you don't see the kind of variability in animals like you see in dogs – and all are sub-species of the great wolf. That's pretty fascinating to me," Macpherson said, noting the various breeds, their temperaments and purposes in herding, protecting and working with humans.

"Dogs have been typically ignored in psychology up until about 10 years ago. The idea was you wouldn't want to study a dog because it's a domesticated animal and it's artificial. We've bred dogs to do different things and to be our companions and it's possible we've changed some of these abilities. But that's precisely why they're so fascinating – cats are domestic, but haven't been bred to work with us. Dogs have a very unique relationship with us. You could argue the same about horses, but horses don't sleep in your bed, hopefully," she laughed.

"That's why it's important to see what's going on with them cognitively. We tend to think dogs as geniuses – that they understand everything we do. But in terms of actual data, we understand very little of what's going on in their world."

So, can dogs count? Can they tell the difference between you leaving them alone for an hour versus two or three? The lab's experiments so far seem to indicate that dogs don't assign a specific numerical measure to items, they have a sense of numerosity, or an approximate number system. So, while they might not be able to count the two treats in your right hand, they can tell that you are holding more (say, five) in your left.

Other studies in the lab have shown dogs can, to some extent, discern differences in the amount of elapsed time, that they seek out information from humans when a task is at hand and, while they show signs of spatial memory, they don't stack up to other animals in maze-centric spatial tasks.

The test subjects in the lab are people's pets, with Macpherson's rough collies, Cash and Sedona, being the primary participants. Though the question of breed hasn't been studied yet, Macpherson and Roberts are interested in looking at cognitive differences between different dog breeds.

The lab has a number of undergraduate volunteers and attracts a lot of attention. This summer, it was featured in a Maclean's magazine article.

"There's a lot of research on social cognition – very cool – but the bulk of what we study is fundamental cognitive processes," Macpherson said. "There is a gap in literature, we don't really understand basic cognitive processes in dogs."
Editor's Letter

Police open door for better relations; so don’t slam it on your foot

JASON WINDERS
Western News Editor

N ow is your chance to prove everyone correct, students. So don’t blow it.

Just last week, London police chief Brad Duncan disbanded the department’s ‘papers, please’ portion of the Project LEARN initiative and promised to destroy all records of its misguided efforts. Applause all around. That was not an easy moment. Most police officers don’t like microphones to begin with; they especially don’t like them when they stand in front of them and admit fault.

Some criticized Duncan for not directly apologizing for the invasive policy. But as someone who has covered police officers for more than two decades, I know what you saw amounts to a police apology. Accept it.

They were wrong; they are fixing it.

Before I continue, let me go on record here: Placing the new Fall Break on Halloween weekend is a terrible idea. As if Homecoming and St. Patrick’s Day were not challenge enough for those charged with students’ care, now we’re giving students a drinking-based holiday weekend off. This decision shows zero situational awareness by refusing to acknowledge recent events in the city. No matter how today turns out, the date must change going forward; the odds will never be in the university’s favour. We are one good weather day away from a mess.

Oh, did I mention it might be 16 degrees today? Halloween is the first big test for the University Students’ Council’s ‘Good Neigh-bour’ campaign, which stresses partnership over policing. Their protests struck a big blow against some of the most aggressive parts of the city’s Project LEARN initiative. I hope the positive momentum continues.

If their message gets out to students, and the parties are contained and respectful, that would be a huge step toward rebuilding town-gown relations. But let me warn you, if Halloween festivities turn ugly, the students will lose this entire city. Taking your name and address will be the least of your worries, as this city has had enough of postsecondary student shenanigans.

The city made a big concession on one of its marquee programs, one quite popular with most of us ‘towners. Don’t waste the opportunity. It’s time to rebuild trust.

What’s in a Name? Lawson Hall

Originally opened in 1931, the Lawson Memorial Library was made possible by a bequest from Lorena Lawson, the widow of former newspaper reporter Frank Lawson, and donations from their children.

Frank Lawson founded the printing firm Lawson & Jones Limited. His son, Ray, a prominent London businessman, who later became Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, took over the business following his father’s sudden death in 1911. Ray also helped lay the cornerstone of the new Huron College in 1950 and his farm played host to an Attawandaron archaeological site that was eventually donated to Western.

- 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.

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.

In Memoriam

SHIRLEY MERRIAM

Never made headlines in this newspaper. She never wrote a story, took a photo or sold an advertisement. Yet, she was as valued a member of the Western News family as any of us. And she predated the whole lot of us to boot.

Shirley, pictured above left, and her husband, Larry Merriam, middle, along with Bill Little, right, have been delivering the Western News across campus and around town for nearly a quarter century. Most of you don’t know them because they do their job well under cover of early morning darkness. This newspaper ‘appears’ in your building every week, without worry, because of them.

Sadly, Shirley died suddenly at the family home on Tuesday, Oct. 22. She was 67.

She was as hard a worker and as nice a woman as you would ever meet. She was a wife, mother of three, grandmother of five and great-grandmother of three and, even still, she always took time to ask you about your family when business was done.

Our team will miss her terribly. Our thoughts are with Larry and his family during this difficult time.
Commentary

Own the experts

Editor’s note: Western President Amit Chakma penned the following commentary, Own the Experts, for the Oct. 28 edition of the National Post. Read the full commentary at the National Post website, nationalpost.com.

BY AMIT CHAKMA

BY MANY MEASURES, Canada is falling behind in the highly competitive game of knowledge creation and adoption.

Canadians should be concerned about this slippage as our future prosperity hinges on our ability to build and leverage intellectual capital in support of social and economic progress.

Canada can be a world leader in knowledge creation. To achieve this goal, however, we must first recognize the value in creating world-class universities, and then find the political will and public support to change how our universities are funded.

Some compelling arguments for this change are found in last month’s QS World University Rankings, and in Times Higher Education’s version of a similar annual survey released earlier this month. Both rankings hold good news for a few of Canada’s top schools.

In the QS Rankings, for example, Canada placed a total of five schools on the list of the world’s top 100 universities, led by the University of Toronto at 17th overall.

But the QS also signals a trend that universities from other countries are faring better, in greater numbers, than Canadian schools as a whole.

Australia has two-thirds of Canada’s population and a lower postsecondary participation rate, yet it has seven universities ranked in the QS top-100 list – versus our five. The Australians have also overtaken Canada in the number of doctoral graduates they produce, with 26 PhDs per 100,000 population in 2010, compared to Canada’s 16.

Other countries are also upping their game. The U.K., Germany, Israel, China and India are all making more selective and aggressive investments to support research excellence in their top universities.

If universities in other jurisdictions are beating us on key academic and research measures, it’s not surprising that Canada is also being out-performed on key economic measures.

For instance, the OECD reports that Canada ranks 22nd in the proportion of our workforce involved in science and technology, and that more than 25 per cent of Canadian businesses cite “lack of skills within the enterprise” as an obstacle to innovation.

Given these standings, we need to ask some tough questions about how our university system can help Canada compete more effectively internationally. Those questions, I suggest, resemble those asked by our Olympic sports leaders a decade ago before they created Own The Podium.

Own The Podium’s philosophy embraces the idea of selective investment in excellence. Within its highly competitive system, training resources are allocated strategically to provide differentiated levels of support for the development of athletes demonstrating the greatest potential for success. The results spoke volumes when Canada won 14 gold medals at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, where our athletes stood atop the podium more times than those from any other nation in a single winter games.

Canada’s postsecondary sector needs its own gold rush. The current funding model and government policies, however, were designed long ago to maximize the number of students we teach. This ‘bums-in-seats’ model fails to support excellence.

For example, Canada’s top-ranked University of Toronto receives the same per-student funding as another Canadian institution that falls below the QS rankings’ top 700 schools. Public policy also dictates that both institutions charge nearly identical tuition fees. Add to this the mounting indirect costs of research not covered by granting councils, and we have a recipe for mediocrity in a knowledge-based economy.

Innovation demands the creation of new knowledge – and the application of that knowledge – to improve productivity and to develop new technology, products, services and processes that will help us compete in the global marketplace. In short, innovation demands significant intellectual capital.

To win the race in creating and adopting new knowledge, Canada must first find the political will to make the competition a national priority. By removing the structural barriers and focusing on quality – rather than quantity – we can build a system that will close the gaps that threaten our future prosperity.

Amit Chakma is president and vice-chancellor at Western, and chair of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities.

“Innovation demands the creation of new knowledge – and the application of that knowledge – to improve productivity and to develop new technology, products, services and processes that will help us compete in the global marketplace. In short, innovation demands significant intellectual capital.”

- Amit Chakma
Research

Innovation Grant targets breast cancer subset

Research gives you the opportunity to do something new every day, to do something you’ve never done before,” Li said. “It’s like an adventure. You know you want to climb that mountain, but you don’t know how to get there. And don’t be surprised if a bear may jump out of the woods along the way. You need to be prepared for different surprises and make another turn. You get frustrated all the time, but you need a high resilience level to move ahead. You try to see as far ahead as possible, but you can’t get ahead of yourself. With each step you take, you may have to tweak a bit.”
The Perilous Journey of Gavin the Great: A Fable
Book Reviews // Page 10
M. NourbeSe Philip uses the written word to spy on her life and the world around her

BY ADELA TALBOT

M. NOURBESE PHILIP never set out to be a poet. She didn’t really want to be a lawyer, either. She wanted to be a spy.

“I never considered writing as a career and I think that had to do a lot with the system I had been born into. Trinidad and Tobago was a colony. I wanted to be a spy, and that made a lot more sense. You could work for the government and spy on behalf of the imperial majesty, so to speak,” said Philip, Western’s newest writer-in-residence.

“It’s interesting, because I think writing involves a fair degree of secret activity, spying on other people, listening, carefully observing, thinking, ‘That’s a great story; I want to use that somehow,’” she continued.

In some roundabout sense, Philip would come to realize this aspiration.

Having completed a B.Sc. (Econ.) degree at the University of the West Indies, she came to Western in 1970 for an MA in Political Science, following it with a law degree in 1973. Though never a spy, she moved to Toronto to practice law, becoming a witness to others’ stories.

“I believed then that lawyers could change society. Very quickly, I began to realize no, we weren’t going to,” Philip said.

Disheartened by family law – the bulk of her private practice – somewhere along the way, she found her calling as a poet and storyteller, one uncannily tasked with bearing witness for the self and others.

“For me, writing began as a therapeutic function, here in London, actually, when my first marriage was breaking up. It saved my life. I just kept journals – I just wrote. It just poured out and I know it saved my life. I just kept journals – I just wrote. It just poured out and I know it saved my life – my emotional life. I never contemplated that it would become anything else,” Philip said.

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- M. NourbeSe Philip
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Reviews

BY KANE FAUCHER

Learning at the Ends of Life: Children, Elders and Literacies in Intergenerational Culture
Rachel M. Heydon
University of Toronto Press, 2013. 235 pages

Making up for a critical deficit in studies pertaining to intergenerational curricula and pedagogy, Heydon’s foundational text addresses not only the need for, but the multiple advantages of, understanding intergenerational learning.

Richly detailed in descriptive studies and supported by fine-grained data that confirms outcomes, Heydon’s main approach is indexed on multimodal social semiotic theory taking under consideration the affordances of each communicative context. This is especially salient in intergenerational programming whereby the very young and seniors are in the same learning environment. In pedagogical contexts where education is built around assumptions of developing “future capital” among young people, this may be considered restrictive if not dehumanizing, if not denying the development of immediate meaning that is developed in the context of an intergenerational classroom in terms of identity construction and the multitude of opportunities that exist in leveraging the different literacies existing across the generational divide.

Rather than beginning with assumptions on the capacities and literacies of different generations of learners, and thus imposing a restrictive curricular model that denies their alterity, Heydon advocates for empowering the mechanisms of mutual responsibility and opportunities that arise from respecting the knowledge base of multi-generational learners, and precisely what they can learn from one another.

Some of the narratives are particularly touching in the emotional resonance that is created in the relationships formed by young and old. Among the many “take-aways” from this book, and a lesson already well heeded by those who support lifelong learning initiatives, is the discovery of meaning has no age restriction – and, in fact, the pairing of learners both young and old are generative of new knowledge.

Social Memory in Athenian Public Discourse: Uses and Meanings of the Past
Bernd Steinbock
University of Michigan Press, 2013. 411 pages

What was the role of social memory in Athenian public life? Does it constitute a far too subjective and unreliable narrative in understanding the core values and beliefs of Athens?

Steinbock explores the significant role occupied in the reliance on social memory and grants this a more robust role than simply mythologizing that inspired critical decision making in domestic and foreign policy. Inasmuch as archaeologists have traced the key locations, interpreted the written texts and constructed a narrative of Athenian life by appealing to artifacts, Steinbock effectively demonstrates these, on their own, are insufficient to grasp the full social and cultural narrative of what it meant to be an Athenian.

Steinbock achieves this, in part, by effecting the division between Greek orators and historians as standing on the antipodes of truth and falsehood, and, instead, traces a careful line in indicating that both rely on a collective remembrance, although take different approaches.

Depending on the needs of the moment, and which memory community one belonged to, relying on social memory for the purposes of persuasion was fairly common practice. And, given memory itself can be considered a fluid or dynamic record, it is rarely consistent among different groups even if they presume to share the same or similar identity.

This is a point that is more than sufficiently evidenced in Steinbock’s discussion of Athenian-Theban relations that varied from positive to hostile, and, in each case, drawing from myth and collective memory to determine a future course of action.

What is patently unique about social memory, as it was initially introduced by Maurice Halbwachs, and later adapted by others to the domain of historical study, is how our memory is inextricably bound to our conception of identity and belonging, and the key locus, or site of memory, is mediated by the groups to which we belong.

In sum, Steinbock provides a compelling case for why we ought to (re)read ancient Greek culture through the lens of social memory, and the history of that relationship between the Greek citizen and memorialization.

Basements and Attics, and Closets and Cyberspace: Explorations in Canadian Women’s Archives
Linda M. Morra and Jessica Schagerl (editors)
Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2012. 335 pages

If the acquisition, deposition, preservation and access of archival records were simply an “uncluttered affair,” there would be no need for a strong interest in devising and interpreting archival practices. This issue is further problematized when we consider the largely traditionally male assumptions surrounding archival practices, and in what relation these stand with respect to the literary and cultural works of Canadian women scholars and artists.

In some respects, it is more than just the archiving of work produced and collected by women, but the under-examined conceptual biases that seek to archive the identity of women themselves as ordered objects subject to the male gaze.

This book of collected essays explores these issues through the perspective of curators, researchers and archival practitioners. Each of the volume’s authors explores some of the unacknowledged, yet crucial, ethical, material and cultural boundaries that pertain to the archiving of, and access to, the works of Canadian women.

Traditionally, the archiving of prominent Canadian women had been woefully incomplete, fragmentary, revisionist and narrowly male-centred. Not only has a discussion that brings together feminist concerns to all aspects of the archival process produced a much more revealing historical knowledge, it also shifts emphasis to considering archival materials in their broader context that is richly benefited by considerations of community and aspects hitherto deemed “unimportant.”

The book’s contributors also address issues extending beyond gender, such as the challenges of archiving digital works and those of a more ephemeral nature, modes of resistant reading and in every way challenge the static view of how we might come to understand both archives and the process of archiving.

The Perilous Journey of Gavin the Great: A Fable
Don Gutteridge
Borealis Press, 2010. 288 pages

Loyal readers of Don Gutteridge might know him better through his lushly painted historical fiction, and so it might strike some as an odd detour that he undertook to write a book geared to a younger audience. (Although, it is not unprecedented given this reviewer’s belief there is some tentative complementarity between the literary foci of both Gutteridge and Saramago.)

Written in the fable genre, perhaps one could be forgiven for being reminded of Watership Down, but there is always a moral lesson to be gleaned in the narrative trials of animal characters.

In this case, a raccoon by the name of Gavin exemplifies how the challenging circumstances of a devastating deluge can make even the most meek and unassuming individual rise to the occasion to become a leader. As Gavin of Earthwood, his brothers and various survivors they attract along the way delve ever deeper into Everdark, they encounter many horrors, but through Gavin’s decisive leadership and the troop’s teamwork, their difficult quest amidst nightmarish creatures eventually − according to Gollum’s will − leads them to prosperity.

The story is peppered with clever and readily identifiable allusions such as Noah’s Ark, Hex-Calibre, Zeebub, The Arabian Lights and Knives of the Round Tablet, and populated by a cast of very colourful characters whose names may cause apathy. That the story ends happily is no spoiler, for it is truly the journey (that makes Gavin great) that is more important than the destination, what he learns about the maligned and feared Tallwalkers, and the lessons he learns about friendship and leadership are immediately transferable to audiences both young and old.

2013 CHARLES W. GOWDEY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE and RESEARCH DAY
Monday, November 4, 2013

11:00 a.m. Student Poster Presentations
Great Hall, Stewart House

2:30 p.m. Research Talks
LHSD – University Hospital, Auditorium A
Andrew Leask, PhD
“CCN2-expressing skin progenitor cells are essential for slim fibrosis”

Sean Gill, PhD
“From Development to Disease: The many roles of TPMP3 within the lung”

4:00 p.m. Charles W. Gowdey Distinguished Lecturer
Mina J. Bissell, PhD
Distinguished Scientist, Life Sciences Division
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, University of California, Berkeley

“The Importance of Tumor Microenvironment in Initiation, Promotion and Therapy of Cancer”
Communities in Bloom wilts on Western

BY JASON WINDERS

THE OLD CAMPUS still looks great to us – no matter what those judges have to say. Despite earning the organization’s top rating, Western was not named at its very best by committee, judges and sponsors.

The university was shut out of both the top rating, Western was not named of the Communities in Bloom Awards. Despite the snub, judges Gérald Lajeunesse from Ottawa and Bruce Hay from Brampton, who evaluated campus in July, made special note of Western’s campus recycling programs as an area of strength.

Within the context of climate change and environmental concerns, (all the participants) can be proud of their efforts, which provide real and meaningful environmental solutions that benefit all of society,” said Bob Lewis, national chair of the national organization’s recognition program, and Scotts Turf Builder Landscape Award.

Mental-health education continues to evolve on campus. Last week, Western launched a mental health e-learning module for students, staff and faculty. Mental health issues affect one-in-three people in Canada – including members of the Western community’s student, staff and faculty. This 30-minute module provides participants with a basic understanding of mental-health issues and available campus and community resources. It covers the topics of stress, anxiety, depression, suicide and eating disorders. The module is available to all Western students, faculty and staff.

After successful completion, participants receive a certificate confirming their participation in the course.

For more information, visit health.uwo.ca/mental_health/module.html.

Western Law PhD student Tashi Phuntsok was awarded recently a Dalai Lama Trust Scholarship. Tashi, a graduate of Western Law’s LLM program, was among 10 worldwide candidates of Tibetan descent selected to receive the $6,500 scholarship.

“I am honored to receive this scholarship,” Phuntsok said. “It’s a prestigious award among the Tibetan intellectual community and I hope I live up to the aspirations of its goals.”

Phuntsok, who was born and raised in a Tibetan refugee family in India, received his LLB from the University of Delhi’s Faculty of Law, and his MPhil in International Legal Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. His 2012 LLM thesis at Western Law was entitled, Indigenous Peoples Under International Law: An Asian Perspective.

Phuntsok joined Western Law’s PhD program in 2013. His thesis will develop an alternative perspective of international law based on the fourth world peoples’ (Indigenous Peoples) aspirations, views and experiences.

Whispers of Life (2013), written and directed by Florian Halbedl, BFA’09 (Film Studies, Medical Sciences), and produced by Joshua M. Ferguson, BFA’09 (Film Studies), has been awarded the Audience Choice Award and the Jury Choice Award at the 26th Annual Reel Pride Film Festival in Winnipeg, Man. Whispers of Life was one of 10 films in the festival’s Canadian GLBTQ* Short Film Competition on Oct. 16.

Whispers of Life tells the story about the interdependence of imagination and survival of Tom, a gay teenager, who is threatened by a bully’s homophobic words. As Tom sits on his park bench, a stranger named Charles suddenly appears next to him and strikes up a conversation that forever alters the teenager’s future and life.

“The idea behind Whispers of Life was inspired by the onslaught of publicized gay, teen suicides. The short film works as an artistic intervention to challenge the societal taboo of suicide, the pervasive and damaging effects of anti-gay bullying and the fact that these issues are not discussed openly,” Halbedl said.

Whispers of Life has been accepted into nine film festivals around the world so far including festivals in the United States, Canada, Switzerland, Italy, Germany and Australia. The film premiered at Cinema Diverse: Palm Springs Gay and Lesbian Film Festival in September and was selected a Festival Favourite by its audience.

The film was shot and produced in Vancouver last year with the support of 98 Vancouver industry professionals. Halbedl and Ferguson used the crowd-funding company Indiegogo to raise the modest budget for the film; 138 funders from all over the world, including significant donations from the Philippines and France, supported the project.

Aaron Joshua Pinto, a fourth-year International Relations major, was recently selected by Global Vision as one of 25 young Canadians to participate in a Southern Canada Trade and Development Mission to Iqaluit, Nunavut, this week. The meetings of the South Meets North mission, which follow Prime Minister Stephen Harper’s Northern Tour last August, will allow Pinto to meet with a diverse group of Nunavut’s business, development and political leaders, while also engaging in an open forum of dialogue with Inuit youth and elders to collaborate, discuss and identify the Northern Canada’s environmental and social challenges.

Western has reached a tentative agreement with CUPE Local 2361, the union representing approximately 330 employees in Western’s Facilities Management and Thompson Arena. The group’s contract expired June 30, and the two sides held four days of negotiations. Details of the agreement will not be released until after it has been ratified by both the union members and the university’s Board of Governors.

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATES
business.humber.ca/postgrad
Grant helps remind men work ends, life doesn’t

BY PAUL MAYNE

THE IDEA OF retirement has many men daydreaming of extra time with the grandkids and a few more rounds on the golf course. But for others, retirement can be a time of uncertainty and loss. Older men already have the highest suicide rate in Canada, that risk increases dramatically after retirement.

With a recent Movember Canada grant of $575,255, Western professor Marnin Heisel will explore ways to reduce that risk. “You’re spending all your time at work; working to try and advance what you’re doing, trying to have an impact in life, and then it all drops out on you,” said Heisel, a clinical psychologist and director of research in the Department of Psychiatry. “For some, they make that transition very well and, over a period of time, do whatever it is they do.

“The other side is, there are people who struggle throughout work, are coming towards the end of their career and, I think, some don’t plan for retirement the way they plan for work. In part, we think of people who are doing well, are healthy mentally and physically, but they come to the end of their work life and are then left to say ‘What do I do next?’”

The average adult spends more than a third of their life at work. So, the workplace has a major impact on many men’s identities, acting as a key source of friends, interests and support, Heisel said. For those men who spent much of their adult lives focused on work, retirement can signify an end to meaningful activity and a loss of social engagement.

One of Heisel’s patients described the transition to retirement as “racing to the edge of the cliff and you get to the end of the line, go right through the tape and off the edge.”

Previous research by Heisel, a professor in the departments of Psychiatry and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, showed people who experience ‘meaning’ in life are less likely to suffer symptoms of depression and thoughts of suicide, even in the face of major transitions. Research also shows enhancing the perception of meaning can have positive benefits for health and well-being.

In this new project, Heisel’s team will develop community-based groups for soon-to-be or newly retired men, many of whom face uncertainty and loss with this major life change.

“We’ll focus on meaning in life, meaning in health, meaning in relationship; what sort of impact have I had on the world,” Heisel said. “Although it’s supposed to be a positive time, you do get a sense that there can be a loss involved. Some will find it’s not quite what they wanted it to be; they may need to be helped through some of those issues.

“Work ends, but life doesn’t. Should they find retirement isn’t quite what they were looking forward to, or they just find it a bit daunting and don’t know what to do, this group can help them bridge that gap.”

Heisel anticipates the results of this study may even have positive benefits for health and well-being in the workplace. He believes study outcomes could lead to opportunities for wellness programs that employers can use to enhance mental health for employees approaching retirement.

“It’s something employers tend to be a bit slower to get on board,” he said. “Some are great in that area, but others really don’t think about it. Some of the issues that can actually create or enhance mental health problems have to do with work-related issues – the feeling of being pushed, being treated unfairly.”

Eventually, Heisel would like to create a manual around how to run these sort of groups and encourage others worldwide to do the same, including companies wanting to buy into it as part of their employee retirement packages.

“You’re spending all your time at work; working to try and advance what you’re doing, trying to have an impact in life, and then it all drops out on you.”

-Marnin Heisel

With funding through Movember Canada, Western professor Marnin Heisel looks to improve the mental health and well-being of newly or soon-to-be retired men, many of whom face uncertainty and loss with this major life change.
Masked Men serve as painter’s muse

Western graduate Michael Slotwinski, BEd’12, shows off just some of his Hockey’s Masked Men series of paintings. Now in its ‘second period’ of touring Ontario Hockey League arenas, Slotwinski will bring his latest works to London’s Budweiser Gardens on New Year’s Eve.

BY PAUL MAYNE

WHO IS THAT masked man?
Michael Slotwinski may have asked himself that question many times over the course of this past summer, while adding to his Hockey’s Masked Men oil painting series, now in its ‘second period’ touring Ontario Hockey League (OHL) arenas, including Budweiser Gardens this New Year’s Eve.

The Faculty of Education grad, BEd’12, has been “flying high” with the opportunity to showcase his artwork to thousands of hockey fans across the province.

“Many Canadians, hockey is life,” Slotwinski said. “Some people make it to the NHL as a player; I’m looking to make it as a painter.”

By combining his love for both, it has given him the chance to shake hands with many past and present NHL stars. Recently, he was invited to showcase his work at the annual NHL Alumni Gala Awards dinner in Toronto. There, he met the likes of Detroit Red Wings great Ted Lindsay and the Toronto Maple Leaf legend Johnny Bower.

“In my head, I’m doing leaps,” he said. “They are just people, but in such a good way. They are a great bunch of guys.”

Slotwinski did two initial goalie masks (Gerry Cheevers and Dominik Hasek) while a Studio Arts and Dramatic Arts program student at the University of Guelph in 2011; since, he has added two dozen more, each with their own personal back story.

“I would say each individual mask has its own theme,” he said. “The structure of the mask has evolved so much over time that they emit different emotions and have completely different aspects of craftsmanship and artwork than one another. A lot of the vintage ‘full-frontal’ face masks can look scary to people, but they also have more of an opportunity to depict more artwork across the mask because they don’t have the cage.”

Plus, Slotwinski added, as each one has its own unique depictions and colour themes, he must choose the correct way to represent each mask. Some are legendary; they had to be done. Some are artistic; some were an advancement in style or structure. And some are just cool,” said Slotwinski, who, after making a list of his own, sat down with his dad, brother and other hockey buddies to discuss which masks deserved to be done.

While on tour, he also listens to the suggestions of his audiences to gather ideas as to what they want to see. As far as a personal favourite, Slotwinski goes with the Grant Fuhr mask.

“It’s such a unique perspective looking down from the top of his mask,” he said. “It’s reinforced by the balanced colours and design qualities of his mask that suggest a pop-art style as a painting. It was one of my original ‘dark and mystic’ paintings. And best of all, it’s riddled with battle scars. People look at the wear and tear and are reminded these masks actually served a purpose, which most people forget.”

Slotwinski takes regular trips to the Hockey Hall of Fame in Toronto for inspiration, along with researching stock images and news photos. He tries to give the viewer something new and original to look at each time and perhaps even show them something they haven’t seen before.

“This is when you discover all of the unique ‘hidden’ qualities within each mask. You also learn the history, life story and even playing style of the goal tender,” he said. “Many times, I’m able to interpret this through my paintings and insert cool things here and there. Each mask has a place in my mind. Being nose deep, an inch away from each of them for so many hours, I have a special connection with each one.”

This second leg of the tour is in no way a money-maker; but the friends, connections and relationships he has built have made it worthwhile.

“It’s about getting my foot in the door and climbing further up on the ladder of success. It’s meant to be fun, exciting, cool and an event for the fans,” he said. “But it’s also meant to introduce myself to people. Believe me, the gears are turning and things are in motion. I’m still at the beginning of my career. I have so much more to climb, and I know I have so much more to show.”

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**ACADEMIE**

**PHD Lectures**

Daniel Abd, Civil and Environmental Engineering. Numerical evaluation of aerodynamic roughness of built environment and complex terrain. 9:30 a.m. Nov. 1. 1.5259.

Ryan DeForge, Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Re-cognizing Power in the Culture of Dementia Care Knowledge. 11 a.m. Nov. 4. EC 220T.

**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.

**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 sdc.uwo.ca/psych.

**The Student Success Centre Workshops**

Register at WesternCareerCentral.ca.

**NETWORKING & SOCIAL MEDIA TRAINING**

In today's job market, everyone is expected to have some knowledge of networking and social media. Learn how to utilize these skills in this training session: 12:30-1:30 p.m. Nov. 5. Great Hall at Huron University College.

**B2B: Dining Etiquette**

Which fork? How to sneeze at the table? Napkin nightmares? This interactive dinner will walk you through general etiquette practice with a focus on table manners and the finer points of formal dining. 5:8 p.m. Nov. 7. Aroma, 717 Richmond St.

**Undergraduate Sessional Dates**

Any of these deadlines that occur on a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday will be extended to the next working day.

Oct. 31 Nov. 1: Fall Study Break – Autumn Convocation.
Nov. 1: Last day that students registered in W accelerated language courses may transfer to the equivalent full-year course with the permission of their faculty. Last day to receive official transcripts for courses taken on letters of permission during the academic year 2012-13 and the Spring/Summer Terms of 2013. Last day to receive admission applications: Law for 2014.
Nov. 5: Last day to drop a first-term half course or a first-term full course (2013-14 Fall/Winter Term) without academic penalty. Last day to drop a first-term second quarter (FQ) course without academic penalty (K).
Nov. 30: Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course (on campus day and evening and Distance Studies) without academic penalty.
For more information, please visit us on the web at studentservices.uwo.ca and follow us on Twitter @Western_WPS.

**CAREERS**

**Full-Time Academic Appointments**

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry – Chair/Chief of the Department of Surgery
Schulich invites applications/nominations for the position of chair/chief of the Department of Surgery. Details about the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry can be found at schulich.uwo.ca. Western at www.uwo.ca. London Health Sciences Centre at lls.on.ca and St. Joseph’s Health Care at sjhc.london.on.ca. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Review of applicants will begin after Dec. 1.

**Public Administration**

Manager of the Professional Writer's Association and the Editors' Association of Canada. Telephone 519-432-1129. Email joey.hughey@rogers.com.

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 St. at Bernard (just north of the university gates). Books, bake table, treasures, etc. Refreshments, free admission, enter off Bernard.

**At its very best**

9:30 a.m.

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 rewrite or reject any submission, and will outright reject those based on personal attacks or covering subjects too removed from the university community.

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Abnormal brain activity points to damage in former players

BY PAUL MAYNE

FOOTBALL IS A rough game that takes a visible toll on the body. Now, researchers say that toll could have a serious mental impact as well.

Led by Adam Hampshire, Imperial College (London, U.K.), with the assistance of Western Psychology professor Adrian Owen, a recent study showed former National Football League (NFL) players faced a risk of subtle neurological deficits that don’t show up on normal clinical tests. These deficits may affect their ability to plan and organize their everyday lives.

Although the former players in the study were not diagnosed with any neurological condition, brain-imaging tests revealed unusual activity that correlated with how many times they had left the field with a head injury during their careers.

“The NFL alumni showed some of the most pronounced abnormalities in brain activity that I have ever seen.” - Adam Hampshire

The study, published recently in Scientific Reports, involved 13 former NFL players who believed they were suffering from neurological problems affecting their everyday lives, as a consequence of their careers. The players, along with 60 healthy volunteers, were given a test that involved rearranging coloured balls in a series of tubes in as few steps as possible. Their brain activity was measured using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) while they did the test.

Owen, Western’s Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience and Imaging, said being able to brain scan the NFL players sets this study apart. Because of the multiplicity of concussions these players suffered during their careers, they comprise a rather unique population for study.

While the NFL players performed worse on the test than the healthy volunteers, the difference was modest. More strikingly, however, the scans showed unusual patterns of brain activity in the frontal lobe.

“We found severe abnormalities in the frontal lobes of these players, a region of the brain I have studied for more than 20 years. The frontal lobes are crucial for planning, attention, concentration and many aspects of memory,” Owen said. He noted the difference between the two groups was so significant a computer program learned to distinguish NFL alumni and non-alumni at close to 90 per cent accuracy.

Of the thousands of people who have participated in our cognitive studies, we can literally pick out the NFL players, based on their abnormal pattern of brain activity alone,” Owen said.

The most “amazing finding,” Owen continued, was the severity of the abnormality correlated with the number of times the players had been carried off the field during their professional careers.

Research

Lessons of Lear

Lesson of Learn // Continued from Page 1

foster a more positive relationship between students, police and community members, was needed. The strategy would need to accomplish two goals, he said, ensuring the fair treatment of students and maintaining a safe environment in their neighbourhoods, all while addressing the continuing escalation of parties and rowdy gatherings in London’s student-centric communities.

“As I examined the issue of canvassing specific neighbourhoods, more specifically requesting occupant information, I found myself asking the question, ‘Is there a better way to manage the issues we collectively face every fall?’ The answer has to be a resounding yes,” he said.

Duncan explained despite the proactive efforts of Project LEARN over the years, irresponsible and disrespectful student behaviour in residential areas close to Western and Fanshawe College campuses hasn’t waned; parties are growing, complaints aren’t ceasing and something has to be done if the city is to prevent another incident like the St. Patrick’s Day riots in 2012 which cost the city $500,000.

Going forward, the police want to work with the community and students to alleviate the risk of alienation, he added.

“Relationships on many levels need to be established and nurtured. To move forward, we must have a fuller, more effective positive engagement strategy with students,” he said. “The next steps are critical. I am looking for the same commitment from students and others, for a respectful coexistence with neighbours, reducing the need for ongoing police intervention.”

Duncan added the responsibility of engagement should not be left to the police alone, noting the London community, and all stakeholders, should take part.

“Enforcement is a responsibility of the community. To assume police will keep a lid on (student) activity, keep it from boiling over, isn’t a sustainable approach. A public participation meeting is absolutely essential.”

That said, Grindrod recognizes the university’s responsibility in engaging with students and the community in moving toward progress. She is hopeful ongoing conversations, including the city’s Town and Gown committee, would be fruitful and that University Students’ Council initiatives, like the Good Neighbour Program, engage students in their communities, and that students are responsive to them.

“Streets should be treated like any member of the London community. If they break the law, they get charged,” she said. “There are no simple solutions here. I think everybody would love it if there was a simple solution.

“These are situations that developed over time in neighbourhoods and it will take time to work with everyone and come up with solutions.”

By P. Hampshire

The NFL alumni showed some of the most pronounced abnormalities in brain activity that I have ever seen.”

- Adam Hampshire

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HUMBER

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

October 31, 2013 15

Western News
A first-floor Biology & Geology lab was transformed into ‘mission control’ for a day as Grade 5 and Grade 6 students from two area schools took part in Mission Meteorite, an interactive program led by Neil Banerjee of Western's Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration. Students, such as University Heights Public School's Jamie Kall, learned hands-on about space-related specialties such as astronomy, robotics, physics and geology, and what it takes to run a space mission.

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