Dual degrees popular option

Western is a national leader in offering concurrent degrees.

By Jim Anderson

Western’s Faculty of Engineering and Schulich School of Medicine have joined forces to ensure future physicians can keep pace with biomedical technology and technical advancements in health care.

The arrangement is the most recent in a significant shift in recent years as Western’s schools and faculties increasingly leverage each others’ reputations to offer unique cross-disciplinary programs.

“Western is the national leader in concurrent degrees and Engineering has always been our most enthusiastic promoter of programs of study that allow our students to graduate with two degrees,” says Western Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Greg Moran.

In the most recent development, Western has offered since 1998 a combined program that allows students to earn both a BESc Engineering degree and Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree in seven years. Students spend three years in either the biochemical or mechanical undergraduate engineering program before applying to medical school. Once accepted, they complete four years of medical school while also finishing their fourth year of the engineering degree.

Starting in September 2005, three spaces in each Schulich Medicine class will be reserved for engineering students in the combined program.

“This is an outstanding example of such programs and illustrates the commitment of our Deans to continue to look for new combinations that meet the needs of our students and our society,” says Moran.

Moran says it is increasingly clear there are areas of student interest and societal need that can only be met through collaboration between faculties.

“This is true in undergraduate education, research and in professional education. This new program will allow select students to prepare for professional practice in biomedical areas where both medical and engineering expertise is essential.”

Engineering Dean Franco Berruti says he’s thrilled by the new offering.

“We are truly excited by the clear and explicit educational path that has been created with this unique partnership of Western Engineering and the Schulich School of Medicine,” he says.

“Engineering students interested in the concurrent degree with Medicine will have a great admission opportunity that will fully recognize their background and experience.”

Berruti says Western Engineering is committed to expanding the educational opportunities well beyond the purely technical education. Engineering is a core discipline that represents a solid foundation for solving many of the challenging problems of society.

In that vein, the faculty has taken in recent months to promoting what it calls Engineering Plus, a reference to the opportunity for engineering students to tie in to other disciplines.

Berruti says the market is wide open for graduates of the concurrent programs. “We like to use the term ‘liberal engineering education’ as a very modern type of liberal arts education of the 21st century.”

“As medicine advances and becomes increasingly technical, having a cohort of doctors who understand the engineering side of medicine is invaluable,” says Dr. Jim Silcox, Vice-Dean (Education), Schulich School of Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry. “The program is a win for both Faculties, the students and Western.”

There are currently three engineering students in Meds 2006 and two in the Meds 2007 class. They got in by the old system in which they competed successfully with more than 1,700 students who applied to Western’s medical school.

“That is the advantage of the new system,” says Silcox. “By protecting three slots, the students in the engineering side of the program will just be competing with themselves for those three slots in the medical program.”

Joe Barfett, Meds/Engineering 2006, says the concurrent program is the reason he came to Western.

“I wanted a career in academic medicine and regarded the technical skills of an engineer as an asset. This program is an outstanding way of gaining knowledge in the physical sciences, biological sciences and clinical medicine. This program offered...
TEACHING: The Teaching Support Centre (TSC) launches its Teaching with Technology Series Friday with a session entitled AA: Assessments Assessed. Workshops and mini-courses offered by the TSC support the improvement of teaching by developing new teaching and learning initiatives. The five-part series includes sessions on blended learning, virtual teams for the virtual classroom, preparing learning for effective research and effective use of PowerPoint. All sessions take place in the Teaching Support Centre (Room 121, Weldon Library) from noon to 1 p.m. For additional information including other TSC services and programs, please visit www.uwo.ca/tsc.

DRESS DORIC: The hotly anticipated annual Charity Ball Fashion Show is set for Jan. 16 in The Wave with a theme of Ancient Greece. Viewers can expect to see just about anything during this evening tailored to creating a unique fashion entertainment. Dance performances are also on the bill. Tickets are $5. The evening is part of the runup to the Annual Charity Ball. Proceeds from the two events will support Hutton House and the Canadian Diabetes Association. For tickets or information please contact Lindsay Cunliffe at uwo.charity.ball@uwo.ca.

FEELING GOOD! Healthy volunteers are needed for a blood pressure study by Dr. Stan van Uum. Researchers are looking at genetic contributions to blood pressure. “You must be in good health and between the ages of 18 and 50 years. Participation includes taking a blood sample, measuring weight and blood pressure. Procedures take about 30 minutes. Phone: 646-6170.

SCHOLARSHIP: The new Canada-Hope scholarship program set up by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in partnership with Aventis Pharma Inc., helps promising scientists and clinicians from low- and middle-income countries to be mentored by prominent Canadian researchers. The program exposes researchers to some of the best science, labs and training environments in Canada. The pilot round of this program will focus on sub-continental South Asia. Deadline for full application is March 1, 2005. Full information is available at www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/en/25850.html.

SUE U: Glendon College Students Union (GCSU) announced its intention to sue York University and several of its administrators for $2.7 million. At a media conference last week, GCSU said York cut its operating funds and re-directed nearly 20 per cent of the operating budget. GCSU said York changed the locks of the students’ union office, suspended elected student representatives and froze the association’s funds. In a media release, York said it is reviewing the claim and will respond but “the claim arises out of an insistence by the university that there be financial oversight with respect to funds received by the GCSU. The university took action following receipt of a petition signed by over 200 Glendon students, alleging financial impropriety and conflict of interest on the part of the GCSU executive.” York is arranging for an independent audit of the books and records of the association.

GIVING: Research in the United States suggests that when minority groups give, education is a top choice. The Christian Science Monitor says an analysis of charitable giving reviewed and make conditional admissions. Mostly, this process is used at high schools with reputations for sending a high percentage of students to college or university. Still, the process is also being employed to handle students from major feeder schools and to recruit from hard-to-reach groups, especially in areas with lots of first-generation college students.

The largest multi-disciplinary gathering of North American scholars is just under five months away as Western prepares to host more than 6,000 delegates from across Canada for the annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

The Congress, scheduled for May 28-June 5, provides researchers an opportunity to share information, a surprising amount of it destined to find its way in some form into social, economic and cultural policy in Canada.

Now in its 74th year and transformed into ‘The Congress’ from the Learned Societies’ gatherings that met in London with such success in the 1970s, it is an important meeting place for new and established academics and researchers.

The Congress has been described as a huge tent into which such diverse disciplines as anthropology, international development, communication and disability studies, political science and social work find their way. More than 75 scholarly associations are expected to gather at Western from all over North America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Behind the scenes, some academics, graduate students and researchers from other schools will be scouting Western as a potential employer. And Western, in the midst of a huge surge in new research facilities, a revitalized commitment to teaching and positive results in rankings by students and recent graduates, will be putting its best foot forward as it continues to recruit top-notch faculty.

This year’s Congress theme - Paradoxes of Citizenship: Environments, Exclusions, Equity - speaks to the diversity of the Congress and provides a fascinating framework for ideas to be debated and exchanged by scholars, policy makers and stakeholders from all levels of government, the private sector and national and international research institutions. An enterprise of this magnitude does not happen by magic.

More than 100 staff and faculty at Western are involved in the planning process with co-convenors Peter Neary (academic) and Susan Grindrod (logistics) leading the way. Thousands of delegates will be staying in Western’s student residences and several hotels throughout the city.

The Congress, expected to inject as much as $6.5 million directly into the local economy, will be the largest gathering London has ever seen.

“The Congress will be a major event for Western and for London and the Western Ontario region,” says Neary. “It will give Western researchers a unique opportunity to highlight the scholarly strength and diversity of our institution.”

Over the next few months, Western News will introduce some of the key players and stories behind Western’s hosting of the Congress, as well as what some of the University faculties are planning during the event.

Departments and individuals arranging special events during the Congress are encouraged to share their plans with Western News. We hope to include these events in future editions of Congress Countdown.

You can do so by emailing pmayne@uwo.ca.

Continued from page 1

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Barfett says the success of the program is due to the pioneering efforts of engineering professor Argyrios Margaritis and the strong support of Dean of Medicine & Dentistry Carol Herbert and Dean of Engineering Franco Berruti.

While the program is extremely demanding and challenging, Barfett says it provides “excellent training to one day combine patient-centred medicine with emerging fields such as nanoscience and computation.”

After medical school, medical students, Barfett hopes to enter a Canadian residency program and go on to earn a PhD. His ultimate goal is to create a model of a university that has medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry and engineering and become an academic physician, combining basic research with patient care. The field of medicine is becoming more dependent on technology to enable diagnosis to be made as well as to gain a better understanding of the complaint presented by the patient. The concurrent degree program not only produces a physician who is comfortable with technology, it ideally will also foster further research and development of tools to achieve a higher level of care.

Lanting hopes to use his engineering skills to practice medicine after he graduates and pursue biomechanical research.

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Lanting hopes to use his engineering skills to practice medicine after he graduates and pursue biomechanical research.
I just started running

By Paul Mayne

“He had the voice of an angel.” Those are the words of Rene Frey amidst the chaos and utter destruction of the December 26 Asian tsunami as he heard his brother call his name.

Ivey School of Business instructor (Biz 020) Rene Frey and his brothers are lucky to be alive after fleeing the Dec. 26 tsunami’s rage.

After about 500 metres, following residents up a small mountain, the water receded as quickly as it came. Rene ran back to find his brother Dave.

“I get to the bungalow, and there’s no bungalow. No clothes, no beds, nothing is left. My first thought was my brother’s dead.”

As he frantically searched, another wave began. Rene turned once again to race for higher ground. Then he heard someone yell: “Rene.” It was Dave.

Despite numerous cuts, Dave and his girlfriend, who had a massive gash in her back, were alive. Tossed by the torrent, they managed to grab and cling onto separate poles to escape being washed out to sea.

The three made their way up the mountain to safety.

About 15 minutes later, Rene decided to return to look for older brother Kevin, who was staying in a bungalow not directly on the beach.

Then, from the other side of the mountain, Kevin and his friend appeared, unharmed. Everyone stayed on the mountain overnight.

“It’s more than incredible that we all made it out alive. I still think how lucky I am to be sitting here, but at the same time you can’t help but feel guilty because you walked away and are at home while there are others who lost everything – and I mean everything.”

By Paul Mayne

As the science world pores over the December 26 earthquake and tsunami that shattered South Asia, Western’s own Earth Sciences Department investigates seismic risk closer to home.

Western researchers want to know more about earthquake hazards for southwestern Ontario.

The risk of local earthquakes is far from most minds yet Earth Sciences Professor David Eaton says, on average, the area receives 10 earthquakes a year – the most recent 3.8 magnitude last August in the middle of Lake Ontario.

“It was located near the centre of the lake, and so was not felt,” says Eaton, who is in Ireland on a fellowship this year.

Although local quakes are relatively small, the impact to the region and country are potential large.

Eaton chairs the recently formed Ontario Research Centre in Earthquake Hazards and Continental Dynamics, under the umbrella of Polaris, a Canadian geophysical research consortium. The group is focused on the Earth’s lithosphere and prediction of earthquake ground motion.

The five-year, $6-million initiative began in 2003 and is led by Western, with scientists and engineers from Queen’s and Carleton universities.

Along with determining seismic risk, rapid earthquake warning technology and measurement of crustal strain and magnitude.

POLO (Polaris - Ontario), provides a forum to exchange ideas and expertise.

“The project is taking great strides to achieve its interdisciplinary research objectives,” says Eaton, adding there are currently 14 broadband seismograph stations throughout Ontario.

The support from Canadians, and Western, is not lost on Frey, especially the work of first-year students from his and other instructors’ Biz 020 class who raised $4,000 in one day.

“Families were wiped out, there are no homes, no jobs, no drinking water… I’m normally not a person who gets stressed out by minor details, but when I hear stories complaining about their lives, I stop listening. I came home with no pictures from the trip, no clothes, no shoes, I lost about $3,000 worth of stuff, and to be honest with you I couldn’t care less.”

For Frey, each new day is a reminder of how he and his brothers cheated death.

“It’s going to be discussed at every family Christmas from now on.”

Twinning

Western seeks formal ties with a Sri Lankan city. See Page 10.
Another Canadian academic institution had 163 applicants for a tenure-track position, 13 of whom were women. All women and no men were short-listed, and predictably a woman was hired.

Again, other institutions in Canada openly announced that only women can apply (as, for example, for a position in developmental psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University). Such events cannot be discarded as anecdotes or deplorable dérégulations, but appear to be the rule, part and parcel of the Equity Industry, as Grant Brown (1993), Andrew Irvine (1996) and many others have convincingly demonstrated. At least since the 1970s, women have been significantly and unfairly favoured in university hiring relative to their availability in the pool of qualified applicants. There are compelling moral and academic reasons not to fill out the so-called Equity Self-Identification Questionnaire which is in the service of inequality. If as a consequence the university will receive fewer contracts, we may have to accept that in the interest of equity.

Preferential hiring of women and members of visible minorities, under a number of different disguises, has always been promoted with the argument that the woman etc. should be chosen whenever there are two candidates, male and female, with equal qualifications.

The statistics, however, show incontrovertibly that to the degree that women etc. are hired in excess of what the pool of qualified applicants. There are compelling moral and societal reasons not to allow this to continue. The Equity Questionnaire being promoted by the Equity Commissar would be another example of this.

The recommendation to resort to arbitration that would implement Sharia law in family matters ignores several important facts about the nature and the history of the Sharia, its implementation and administration and essentially the content of its laws that regulate the rights of women in divorce and inheritance.

The combination of the religious and historical nature of the Sharia law and its administration, with the specific rulings which limit women’s rights in divorce and inheritance, as well as the limitations on women’s representation in court and her freedom and rights, call into question whether submitting Muslim women to arbitration using the Sharia law is justified. If accepted, to my knowledge, it would be the first time that Sharia law had been incorporated into the secular code of a Western country.

It is crucial to understand that according to the Sharia law only males can be lawyers, legal experts and judges; that women cannot hold a public office, and that the testimony of two women in court equals that of one man. The Sharia principles on divorce and inheritance say that wives can be divorced unilaterally by the husband uttering the phrase, ‘you are divorced’. A divorced wife is entitled to food and shelter only during the waiting period, usually 3 months, in anticipation of pregnancy, and to receive child-rearing payments if she has a young child. As far as inheritance goes, all female family members are entitled to inherit from males but their share is always reduced. For instance, a daughter would receive half the share of a son.

The Sharia law is religious law which has its foundation in the 7th century Qur’an. It was implemented by judges, qadis, and muftis, who provided legal opinions, but who remained nonetheless, at arm’s length from the State’s own administration. Some degree of accommodation to local traditions and conditions occurred. Sharia law is therefore not amenable to human legislation, though a certain amount of interpretation is allowed.
COMMENTARY

Tsunami Disaster: What the experts say

With an ever-climbing death toll, extraordinary public outpouring and continuing uncertainty surrounding the effectiveness of a massive international relief effort, Western's academic and administrative experts stepped forward to offer some perspective with expert commentary over the past week.

FUNDRAISING

Ted Garrard, Western’s Vice-President (External), is Chair of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy.

The outpouring of support from Canadians has been extraordinary, perhaps the most generous response by the Canadian public to any appeal in such a short period of time. The challenges that charities face in accepting this outpouring of support have been significant as their phone lines and Web sites have been clogged.

Donors therefore need to be realistic about when they will get their tax receipts and recognize that there will be costs to the charity for being able to process their donations. Donors also need to be realistic about when the donations they have given will get to the people in need. Each of the charities has to work through internal aid organizations and governments to make sure the funds are directed where they will be needed the most.

There is concern from some groups that this outpouring of support to tsunami relief will impact some other charities and hopefully this will not be the case. I hope people will see the tsunami relief as a one-time appeal and continue to donate to their traditional charities that rely on their support.

PLANNING

Slobodan Simovic is Chair in Engineering at the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The recent tragic disaster in south Asia has proved that every-one is vulnerable and that disasters of high magnitude are not reserved only for the places where they have been experienced in the past.

It is very clear that better understanding is the only way to deal with these extreme events. Under better preparedness, I include predicting events, warning people in time and providing effective assistance. In many cases the capacity of the regions is not sufficient and an integrated cooperative effort of multiple countries, regions and even the United Nations is required. This is the main thrust of the International Flood Initiative that I am presenting in Kobe, Japan (January 10-22).”

At the moment, help is urgently required to deal with the physical and human side of the disaster. Tomorrow, different help will be needed – capacity building, better technical knowledge, transfer of technology, all aimed at being better preparedness and timely prediction.

The Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction and our expertise, together with results of the research conducted under our support, could be of great help.

ECONOMY

Western graduate Stephen Poloz is Senior Vice-President and Chief Economist of Export Development Canada.

According to a consensus of economists, growth in the region should be reduced by only a few tenths of a percentage point, less than during the SARS crisis, for example.

While these figures are reassuring, they should be interpreted cautiously, for a couple of reasons. First, economists’ calculations are based on assumptions about the damage. They take the contribution to a country’s GDP of the affected region (a fact) and combine it with an estimate of that region’s lost GDP (a guess – an educated guess, to be sure, but a guess nonetheless).

To illustrate, the southern region of Thailand contributes about 10 per cent of Thailand’s GDP. Hypothetically, then, if 15-20 per cent of southern Thailand’s annual GDP were lost, then 1.5-2.0 per cent of Thailand’s annual GDP would be lost – but we can only guess at the 15-20 per cent, for now.

Second, the shock itself is still increasing in both magnitude and dimension. On the magnitude of the shock, recall that the early reports estimated that there were as few as 12,000 deaths. Today, that number is over 150,000 and still rising.

If the economic impact is related to the number of deaths, then it is still growing. With regard to the dimensionality of the shock, relief agencies are now focusing on the risk of a massive outbreak of disease. If this risk were realized, the economic disruption would be greater than current estimates – a whole new shock could be on the horizon.

All to say that we should not take too much comfort from these early estimates of the economic fallout. But there are positives, too. The level of aid is now in excess of $3 billion and still growing. Some of this money will go to immediate everyday needs. However, the bulk will be available for the bigger clean-up and rebuilding. Rebuilding means investment, and the quickest way to get an economy up and moving again is in the perception of new investment, particularly in infrastructure.

Canada has risen to the occasion in terms of aid, not surprisingly. Beyond the usual outpouring of support for people in trouble, Canada has strong cultural linkages to the region, and significant business interests, too. Although our goods exports to the affected countries (India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Thailand) are only about $2.2 billion per year, our imports from the region are about $6.6 billion. Of this, we estimate that some 15-20 per cent represents intermediate goods – in other words, various companies in the region are embedded in Canadian companies’ global supply chains. Canadian companies have over $7 billion in assets on the ground in those countries, with about three-quarters of that total in Indonesia. So far, these interests look secure.

The bottom line? The Asian earthquake and tsunami were disasters of the first order. The human costs have been enormous and are still growing. Although early estimates of the economic costs look reassuring, we should at least be prepared for the risk of a worse outcome.

MEDIA

David Spencer is Professor of Information & Media Studies, who specializes in the history of media.

After September 11, the media was criticized for acting as a cheerleader for Bush’s policies. In the case of the tsunami, we’re seeing media becoming part of the solution. It shows the power of the different forms of media, especially TV in this case, to touch people and raise awareness of the tragedy and how they can help.

I recently read a letter to the editor in one of Canada’s national newspapers thanking the media for the extensive coverage of the tsunami disaster. Journalists are not accustomed to such praise.

Will you stay in London after graduation?

Krista McFadden
ACS ‘07

“I would gladly stay in London if a job opportunity presented itself but, so far, I’ve found that most of the job postings are for cities like Toronto and Vancouver. I love Vancouver, so I’d go there.”

Bernard Yu
MA Journalism ’05

“It would really depend on whether or not a job opportunity arises. I’d be thinking there’s more opportunity outside of London, however I would consider staying.”

Natalie Merner
Engineering ’06

“I was born in London so I think now I’m ready to leave. I want to move outside the city for work, wherever the job happens to be – anywhere but London. I’d perhaps consider moving back to London down the road but not immediately.”

Grace Lee
Social Science ’05

“I’d really like to head to Montreal to continue my studies. I want to experience a new city, a new school. If a job offer for London arose I would consider staying here, but I’m thinking Montreal.”

Theo Emons
Dentistry ’05

“I’m in Dentistry and there are just too many in London. Plus driving in London is one of the more hilarious experiences I’ve come across. I’m thinking of heading to the Kitchener-Waterloo/Guelph area.”

PUBLISHER: David Estok
EDITOR: David Dauphinee
SENIOR WRITER: Jim Anderson
REPORTER: Paul Mayne
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS: Ericka Barrett Greenham, Kate Brand, Kris Bandes, Douglas Keddy, Bula Pocke, Jeff Renauld, Christine Roulston, Malcolm Rudcock, Allison Stevenson,

Marcia Stewart
PRODUCTION/DESIGN: MMI Media Management Inc.
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER: Tim McGlynn
ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR: Denise Jones
ADVERTISING SALES: Campus, 434-9990

VICE-PRESIDENT (External): Ted Garrard
FOUNDERING EDITOR: Alan Johnston
WESTERN NEWS is published by the University of Western Ontario Department of Communications and Public Affairs every Thursday. A reduced schedule is in effect during December, May, June, July and August.

COPY DEADLINES
News: Monday noon
Letters: Friday noon
Events Section: Thursday noon
Advertising: Thursday noon
ISSN0336-6654
DEPARTMENT OFFICES: Room 335, Stevenson/Lawson Building
TELEPHONE: (519) 661-2045
FAX: (519) 661-3921

POSTAGE RECOVERY
$45 Canada, US $57 USA, $80 other

Post Office: Please do not forward. Return to Western News, UWO, London, Ontario N6A 5B9 with new address where possible.

www.WesternNews.ca
EMAIL: newseditor@uwo.ca
Film Studies Professor Margaret DeRosia is convinced the study of popular culture deserves to be treated with as much respect as the study of Shakespeare.

By Krissie Rutherford

She has written in-depth studies on Buffy the Vampire Slayer, America’s Most Wanted, and reality TV, and she’s putting the final touches on her first book. Meet one of Western’s new faculty members.

Margaret DeRosia is one of five full-time professors to join the new Department of Film Studies and she brings both a new perspective and a wealth of experience to the table.

First, she is a woman in the field of film studies she describes as “still very much a male-dominated faculty.” More importantly, DeRosia is an asset to the program because of her strong background in a variety of academic areas, said acting chair of Western’s film department, Christopher Gittings.

“Margaret’s teaching and research into new queer cinema, documentary and reality TV broadens student choices at Western and enriches a developing film studies research community.” New queer cinema is an independent genre of film that emerged in the early 90s to deal openly with queer culture, politics, and identity.

The 36-year-old Michigan native describes herself as “the Americanist” of the department, but her areas of expertise extend far beyond the realm of American cinema. As an undergraduate, she studied comparative literature at the University of Michigan where she began taking film courses. She got a PhD at the University of California at Santa Cruz in an inter-disciplinary program that allowed her to study several subject areas, including media, film, literature, and cultural studies.

“It’s a one of a kind, very well respected program where people who want to work in more than one traditional academic discipline,” she says.

She comes to Western after teaching at three different American colleges over the last eight years, including the University of California, Berkeley — but she says political disorder in the United States made the decision to move to Canada an easy one.

The possibility of starting a new program and the broad approach to the study of film also drew her to Western.

“We seek to position the department as, yes, autonomous, but also as one voice in a dialogue with broader academic circles, film cultures, and publics beyond the university,” she said.

As an undergraduate, DeRosia took an American film class that sparked her interest. “It was the first time I began to take American film seriously,” she said. “I began to really see a lot of depth and complexity to those films.” This attitude is reflected in her own teaching: “It’s about studying popular culture and taking it as seriously as one would Shakespeare,” she said.

A quick glance at the bookshelves in her office reveals a passion for film noir. In fact, DeRosia soon hopes to add a study of her own to this collection — she’s in the final stages of revising her first book on women and audiences in film noir.

The term ‘film noir’, DeRosia says, “was coined by French film critics in the 1940s to describe American film about crime and detectives. It’s a very common, really widespread and popular type of film.”

Over the last five years, DeRosia has been digging through archives and researching for her book — and much of what she has found is groundbreaking.

“Film Noir has a history in film studies academically as the type of film that appeals to primarily male audiences,” she says. As a result, DeRosia highlights how much the films were marketed to women in the 1940s.

“My work focuses on challenging that history of film studies on the one hand, and also looking at what might be called film noir’s eccentric audiences,” among those, women, African Americans, and gay and lesbian audiences.

Diverting from usual approaches to the study of film is one thing DeRosia and Western have in common.

“Western offers more innovative and intellectually challenging approaches to understanding film, both to faculty and students alike,” she said.

The writer is a student in the graduate journalism program at Western.
Van Fleet eyes one final deadline

By Ruta Pocius

It will come as no surprise to those who know her that University Secretary Jan Van Fleet has started a binder to assist her successor once she retires from her position on June 30, 2005.

The announcement of her retirement came late last week from Western President Paul Davenport who said that her knowledge, her commitment and her dedication had made her an outstanding University Secretary.

After nearly 40 years of employment with The University of Western Ontario, most recently as the senior governance and policy advisor to both the Board of Governors and the Senate, Van Fleet says she’s going to miss the staff and being part of Western, but she’s not going to miss meeting concurrent deadlines that total in the double digits.

Van Fleet came to London in 1966 when her former husband accepted a position as a psychology professor. Raised and schooled in the United States, the now-Canadian citizen says the environment on campus was quite different from her own experience as a university student.

“I was amazed at how the students were dressed, the fellows wearing jackets and ties, the girls were wearing something fur coats and high heels, and I thought ‘wow’! My biggest achievement in my last year of university (in the U.S.) was going to take final exams in cut-off blue jeans and barefooted.”

And while Van Fleet didn’t last much past her third exam in barefoot on that day, it’s an image that may come as a surprise to those who have come to know her as an influential and instrumental player at Western.

While Van Fleet studied French and Spanish as a post-secondary student, it was her attention to detail, her logical approach, her analytical skills and her ability to meet deadlines that led to success as Western’s University Secretary. The position, now part of the organizational structure as the senior governance and policy advisor to both the Board of Governors and the Senate, Van Fleet says she’s going to miss the staff and being part of Western, but she’s not going to miss meeting concurrent deadlines that total in the double digits.

Van Fleet was quick to point out that it wasn’t about anyone doing anything wrong. The Senate follows process but the Board sent its recommendation to the Board to close the school, the matter then became a public debate.

As Van Fleet says she feels good about the state of the University Secretariat and that her successor will not be working in a vacuum due to the competence and years of experience of the staff.

Although Van Fleet won’t be involved in selection of Western’s next University Secretary, she says the job will require someone who “is young really good citizens and I’m not going to be too worried in my old age.”

As she prepares for her departure, Van Fleet says she feels good about the state of the University Secretariat and that her successor will not be working in a vacuum due to the competence and years of experience of the staff.

Although Van Fleet won’t be involved in selection of Western’s next University Secretary, she says the job will require someone with a lot of stamina, an interest in detail, and a good sense of humour. When asked if she’ll meet her June 30th retirement deadline, there was no hesitation. “Oh yeah, absolutely,” she says.

Tradition, internationalization in Huron’s future

By Jim Anderson

Huron University College is expanding and changing, but plans to stay true to its roots as an intimate, smaller university-learning environment.

That was the message Huron Principal Ramona Lumpkin brought to Western’s Senior Alumni Program during a Tuesday address to a capacity audience in the ICC’s McKeirall Commons University Center underway with alumni and students in development of Huron’s strategic plan for 2005-2010.

Both alumni and students value the tradition of small classes, excellent teaching and a close-knit learning environment, said Lumpkin. She said first-year classes at Huron currently average 44 students and upper year classes 23 students.

Enrolment is expected to slowly rise to about 1,200 full-time students from the current level of about 1,000, including 60 students in Theology.

Focus groups with students have shown that students at Huron would like to see some changes, Lumpkin noted. These include more support services in academic advising and career counseling and greater diversification of program offerings with more interdisciplinary degrees.

Huron also plans to expand its internationalization efforts in student exchanges and academic programs. About 12 per cent of Huron students are from other countries.

In addition, Huron plans to build on its endowment fund to provide a stronger and more stable financial base.

Lumpkin is leadoff speaker at the winter term session of the Senior Alumni Program, a highly successful initiative of Alumni Western. A number of other keynote speakers are planned this term.

Next Tuesday Board of Governors Chair Don Dougall will address the group on the working of Western’s Board and whether it can make a difference.

Other upcoming speakers include: Ker Ferguson, Director and CEO of Western’s Research Park Corporation (February 15) on a new vision for the Research Park; Susan Horvath, Vice-President (External) Robarts Research Park, on RRI’s efforts to drive discovery (March 1); Murray Bryant, Richard Ivey School of Business, on how health care management can be improved.

Senior Alumni also participate in campus tours and other social activities.

Some facts about Huron University College

• Founded in 1863 by Anglican Bishop Benjamin Cronyn with Isaac Hellmuth as founding Principal.
• First location: The Ridout House at Grosvenor and St. James Streets - purchased for $52,000.
• College opened Dec. 2, 1863 with first lecturer, Rev. Charles W. Howland.
• In 1878, Huron and then Bishop Isaac Hellmuth, purchased for $12,000.
• In 1883, Huron University College opened Dec. 2, 1863 with first lecturer, Rev. Charles W. Howland.
• In 1951, Huron University College moved to its present location on Western Road in London.
• In 1989, Huron University College became a constituent college of the University of Western Ontario.
• In 1993, Huron University College became an independent college.
• In 2000, Huron University College became a constituent college of The Western University of London, Ontario.
• Huron University College is currently ranked 6th in Canada and 31st globally in the QS World University Rankings.

Paul Mayne, Western News

University Secretary Jan Van Fleet is to retire in June following almost 40 years at the University.

As one who has been privy to so much, when asked if there are any scenarios she replays in her head, things that she wishes she could do over again, her response is quick and candid. It was the debate that ensued over a proposal in 1993 to close the School of Journalism.

Van Fleet is quick to point out that it wasn’t about anyone doing anything wrong. The Senate followed process but the Board sent its recommendation to the Board to close the school, the matter then became a public debate.

In the end the Board voted to keep the school open.

She notes that “at the end of the day, things went the way they should have,” but in retrospect she believes there could have been more information sharing and consultation done in confidence with the Board at an earlier stage in the process.

“You have to let people get used to some idea . . . you don’t just say this is a properly made decision by proper people.”

Van Fleet believes that today’s administration is far more consultative and that over the last five to eight years its relationship with students has improved substantially. As for Western students, she says they’re impressive on many levels and that “they’re young really good citizens and I’m not going to be too worried in my old age.”

As she prepares for her departure, Van Fleet says she feels good about the state of the University Secretariat and that her successor will not be working in a vacuum due to the competence and years of experience of the staff.

Although Van Fleet won’t be involved in selection of Western’s next University Secretary, she says the job will require someone with a lot of stamina, an interest in detail, and a good sense of humour. When asked if she’ll meet her June 30th retirement deadline, there was no hesitation. “Oh yeah, absolutely,” she says.
Western researchers at work in Cuba

Source: Food and Agriculture Organization

Targeted Western research support for Cuba has led several professors to establish links at the universities of Matanzas and Holguin.

By Alan Johnston

Special seed money grants give Western professors a head start in developing international research collaborations in Cuba. The purpose of the International Research Awards (IRA) program is to support international research projects, get them off the ground,” says Associate Vice-President (Research and International Relations) Ted Tennant.

“The projects in arts, education and health sciences are having an impact on the island already,” Hewitt says. “The program is good for us and good for our Cuban partners.”

Western faculty members involved are: Prof. Jeff Tennant, Chair, Department of French; Prof. David Heap, Theoretical and Applied Linguistics Laboratory, in the Faculty of Arts; Prof. Corneilia Hoogland, Faculty of Education; and Prof. Volker Nolte, School of Kinesiology, Faculty of Health Sciences.

Tennant and Heap are collaborating with Prof. Jesus Fernandez, University of Holguin; and Lucero Moya (UHOML), on a research project in sociolinguistics and dialectology. They aim to create “a body of sociolinguistic interview data” on the Spanish spoken in the province of Holguin while also providing technical assistance to the Cuban counterparts in the form of equipment and skills training.

Western’s three-year relationship with UHOML has included joint organization of a language teaching conference, visiting professorships and development of teaching materials.

The collaborative research project, says Tennant, aims to “fill an important gap in the sociolinguistic description of modern Spanish while at the same time examining the effects of social factors such as socioeconomic status on linguistic variables in a country where one of the government’s explicit aims is to reduce socioeconomic disparities.”

Tennant and Heap hope the initial project will lead to a larger externally funded research program.

“They (IRA program support) allow the university to fulfill a role of solidarity with researchers in developing countries by facilitating their access to international networks in the field and to the necessary infrastructure for carrying out research.”

- Jeff Tennant
  Chair, Department of French

Heap and Hoogland received one of the first IRA grants. Their earlier research on the role and practice of storytelling, writing and language in Mexico, Brazil and Cuba “offered strong contrasts to Canadian cultural structures and practice, which will be useful to those working within arts and literacy education contexts.”

Nolte and Prof. Celia Hernandez, University of Matanzas, are collaborating in biomechanical research involving comparison of coaching techniques and rowing performance among Cuban and Canadian rowing teams.

The relationship between the two teams began when Nolte, a former Canadian national team rowing coach, visited Cuba with a Western delegation a couple of years ago. The possibility of cooperation between Western and Matanzas, particularly in biomechanics.

The Western delegation visited several training centres and recognized potential for Cuban excellence in rowing. Rowers are recruited by Cuba’s national team training centre in Havana from provincial training centres, including one in Varadero operating in association with the University of Matanzas. Cuba, however, is handicapped in its efforts by old European built boats, inadequate for competitive sport, and a lack of infrastructure for biomechanical research at Matanzas.

Nolte and mechanical engineering professor Brian Thompson at the new Dean of Engineering at the University of Ottawa - developed rowing research team Western in the spring on an International Development Research Centre scholarship. Using the University’s biomechanics research infrastructure, the researchers will analyse data from the two national teams’ rowers, and Hernandez will collect more data on the Cuban men’s and women’s teams.

The Hudson Boat Works has donated six boats to the Western/ Cuba project, the Western rowing team two. The Sherritt mining company has donated a shipping container for the boats and will also pay the transportation costs to Cuba. The Western rowing research team is asking all Ontario rowing clubs for donations of good used boats for the Cuban rowing teams.

Created in 2002, the International Research Awards are unique in Canada, Hewitt says. The Arts, Humanities and Social Science Fund established by the President has provided $60,000 a year for the grants programs developed in response to the university’s strategic plan for internationalization.

Tennant recommends the IRA program to any faculty interested in international research collaboration. “It is an excellent program for a small project or for obtaining seed money for the initial phases of a larger, longer-term research program. A research collaboration has just recently been established,” Tennant says.

International research projects are important because they give Western faculty access to materials that they would not otherwise be able to access without international collaboration, says Tennant.

“They promote the exchange of ideas with academics in other countries, thus enriching the discussion and contributing to the advancement of knowledge in the field,” Tennant adds.

“They allow the university to fulfill a role of solidarity with researchers in developing countries by facilitating their access to international networks in the field and to the necessary infrastructure for carrying out research.”

The researchers will observe literacy education contexts.

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Chiropractic Care "Turns Your Power On"
Fighting words: which book is best

By Carolyn Young

Ray Bradbury said: “You don’t have to burn books to destroy a culture. Just get people to stop reading them.”

As Western and community leaders get ready to debate the merits of five books at the Western Reads Debate this month, Bradbury would appreciate that reading and culture are alive and well at the start of 2005.

Ten celebrity readers will discuss books and recommend their chosen title to the audience at the Western Reads Debate on January 19 at 4 p.m. in the McKellar Room, University Community Centre.

The shortlist of books consists of five critically acclaimed Canadian novels published in the last two years.

Celebrity readers, Claire Calghan of Western Libraries and Brian Meehan from Museum London recommend The Romantic by Barbara Gowdy (HarperCollins 2003). The story of obsessive love based on the 12th-century legend of doomed lovers, Abelard and Louise. Narrator Louise is idealistic and self-destructive. Motherless at an early age, she latches on to a mother and establishes new relationships. Barbara Gowdy is an award-winning author of several bestselling books. The recipient of the Marian Engel Award in 1996, she has twice been a finalist for The Giller Prize, the Governor General’s Award for Fiction, and the Trillium Book Award, and was shortlisted for a Rogers Writers’ Trust Fiction Prize.

Recommended by Jim Etherington, Past President, Western Alumni Association and Delilah Deane Cummings, London Public Library, The Sojourn by Alan Cumyn (McClelland & Stewart 2003) gives readers an unforgettable glimpse into the horrors of trench warfare during the First World War. The Sojourn tells the story of Ramsay Crome, a young Canadian soldier and his unforgettable journey through duty, fear, and love. After a horrifying battle, Ramsay is given a 10-day leave to London where he must come to terms with his doubts and terror about war, knowing he must ultimately return to the Front. A Globe and Mail Notable Book of the Year, The Sojourn is a powerful yet intimate story about the passions of ordinary people caught in the tide of war. Alan Cumyn is the award-winning author of several books including Burridge Unbound, a finalist for the Giller Prize.

Megan Findlay, Western student, and James Reaney, London Free Press, endorse The Island Walkers by John Bemrose (McClelland & Stewart 2003). Longlisted for the 2004 Man Booker Prize, The Island Walkers tells the story of a family that slips from fortune’s favour in a southwest Ontario mill town during the mid-1960s. Like his father before him, Alf Walker is a fixer in the local textile mill. When a labour dispute forces him to choose between loyalty to his friends and his own advancement, Alf’s actions inadvertently set in motion a series of events that will reverberate far into the future. In this, his first novel, Bemrose presents a world that is familiar to anyone who grew up in a small town during the 60’s. A strong contender, especially if the students at Western have their say, Hey Nostradamus! by Douglas Coupland (Random House 2003) is endorsed by Mike Atkinson, Western Professor, and Janice Zolt, New PL. Using the voices of four characters deeply affected by a high-school shooting, though in remarkably different ways, Coupland explores the lingering aftermath of one horrifying event, and questions what it means to come through grief – and to survive. The author of 14 books, including the groundbreaking Generation X, Coupland has won several awards. Hey Nostradamus! was nominated for the 2004 Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best Book and Coupland won the Canadian Authors Award for Fiction.

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Western links with wrecked city

By Jim Anderson

Western is throwing support and expertise behind efforts to twin London with the tsunami-ravaged city of Galle in Sri Lanka.

“The University has formed a core group that is collaborating with the hospital and local community partners to identify potential areas of need,” says Ted Hewitt, Acting Vice-President (Research) at Western.

“We are currently establishing linkages in Sri Lanka and with individuals and groups at Western who have the skills that will be required to develop and implement programs for providing long-term aid.”

Galle, in southern Sri Lanka, with a population of 100,000 and regional population of one million people, was devastated by the tsunami which killed thousands in the area and left about 50,000 people homeless.

Galle is the oldest city in Sri Lanka, located about 120 km south of Colombo, the capital.

Western’s core group will consist of faculty and staff at the university and hospitals, representatives from University Students’ Council and the Society of Graduate Students. Plans are in the early stages of development with long-term aid objectives, rather than short-term.

“We are currently establishing linkages in Sri Lanka and with individuals and groups at Western who have the skills that will be required to develop and implement programs for providing long-term aid.”

Ted Hewitt, Acting Vice-President (Research)

and industry for his creative ideas in the theory and application of gas-solid fluidization. “Cedric is setting a clear example of the various benefits of productive partnerships between academia and the private sector,” says Berruti.

“His successful endeavours are recognized by numerous letters of support to his nomination, both from Canadian and international companies. Cedric is also very committed to the dissemination of the work of others.”

Teaching skills, research draw top awards

By Paul Main

Professors Jeff Wood, Rajiv Varna and Cedric Briens have been recognized by the Faculty of Engineering for teaching and research excellence.

Wood (Department of Mechanical & Materials Engineering) won the R. Mohan Mathur Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest award in the Faculty of Engineering.

“The message is very loud and clear. Dr. Wood is an exceptionally talented teacher who truly makes a difference in the eyes of both students and colleagues,” says Franco Berruti, Dean of Engineering.

Briens (Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering) has been awarded the USC Teaching Honour Roll Award of Excellence 2003–2004, the third year in a row he has won since coming to Western. He is the only recipient from Western’s Faculty of Engineering this year. This award is given to professors who receive an accumulated average of 6.3 or higher out of 7 on the first 14 questions of the Teaching Evaluations.

As a result of this award, he has been nominated for “The Award of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching”, which will be made from Western.

Varna (Department of Chemical & Biochemical Engineering) and Woods (Department of Chemical Engineering) have been nominated for “The Award of Excellence in Undergraduate Evaluations.

“His successful endeavours are recognized by numerous letters of support to his nomination, both from Canadian and international companies. Cedric is also very committed to the dissemination of the work of others.”

Students stick it to competition

With the NHL lockout at an impasse, all those unused hockey sticks wouldn’t go to waste if two Western students had their way.

Entrepreneurs David Bisninger (Ivey) and Peter Clarke (Social Science) began businesses like Furniture on the map, even while they are full-time students.

“If they win, they’ll represent the region as a finalist at the ACE Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award competition in Ottawa in March, presented by Advancing Canadian Entrepreneurship (ACE). If they win, they’ll represent the region as a finalist at the ACE National Exposition in Toronto in May 2005.
Martin top chemistry lecturer in Canada

BY JIM ANDERSON

Western’s Ron Martin has been named the top chemistry lecturer in Canada. Martin will receive the 2005 Chemical Institute of Canada Union Carbide Medal in recognition of his outstanding teaching record in the field of chemistry.

The award consists of a $1,000 cash prize, a framed scroll and travel allowance to attend the Canadian Chemistry Conference and Exhibition in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan May 28-June 1, 2005 where the award will be presented. Martin will present a lecture at the conference.

“I am very pleased and honoured to receive this national award, but I feel quite humbled because there were undoubtedly many worthy candidates,” says Martin.

“I am most grateful to those who nominated me. Most importantly I should like to thank the students and faculty members who have guided my efforts with constructive, thoughtful and generous advice.”

Martin is one of Western’s top award-winning teachers and is a recipient of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations teaching award and Western’s Edward G. Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching.

His research interests lie in advanced analytical techniques, especially as applied to environmental problems, using various forms of spectroscopy and microscopy. His most recent studies have focused on plant/metal interactions including metal in tree rings and behaviour of metals at the plant/root interface. This work is being extended to include studies of the trace metal distribution in human hair.

Research Day on Violence

The Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children will present a Research Day on Thursday, January 20.

“This Research Day is an opportunity for The Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children to introduce our Academic and Community Research Associates; as well as to showcase some of the recent feminist research relevant to stopping violence against women and children,” says Maria Callaghan, Administrative Coordinator for the centre.

Presenters will offer the latest research on studies into violence in the lives of girls in Canada, the implications of increasing numbers of children coming into the care of the Children’s Aid Society, alcohol-related aggression at universities, respect issues at work, and link between availability of domestic violence resources and the victimization of women.

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Western's McIntosh Gallery looks at the obliteration of identity, both physical and cultural, in two separate but related events in their latest exhibit.

Reclamations, which opens today and continues through February 20, offers artists Yehouda Chaki and Elsie Begay Cly an opportunity to tell the stories of their people and the devastation they endured.

Chaki’s exhibition, entitled Mi Makir (A Search for the Missing), takes its title from an Israeli radio announcement that ran for three years after the Second World War and that listed names and descriptions of missing persons in the hope that loved ones would be reunited.

The installation includes 200 drawings of faces, real and imagined, along with a number of corresponding photographs of Holocaust victims. Chaki will hold a walking tour January 14 at 12:15 p.m.

In her video Return of Navajo Boy (curated by Shelley Niro), Navajo artist Elsie Begay Cly recounts how her family members have been used unidentified in countless stereotyped publicity photographs and Hollywood films since the 1930s.

Niro will hold a walking tour January 18 at 12:15 p.m. as well as a Discussion Circle on Feb. 1 beginning at 7:30 p.m. For more information on the exhibit, please visit www.mcintoshgallery.ca

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Helping teachers to handle bullies

BY PAUL MAYNE

Bullying and violence in schools is an issue students from Western’s Faculty of Education cannot avoid when they become teachers. The thought, then, turns to how to respond to such hot-button events.

An information session to assist soon-to-be teachers was held at Althouse January 7. The session was organized following the tragic suicide of a Stratford teenager in December.

Education Professor Alan Leschied, who helped organize the event, says every time a student returns from a practice teaching session, violence and bullying are usually the first things they bring up.

“We’re trying to sensitize our students to the ideas of youth violence that they’ll be experiencing in their careers,” says Leschied, adding the violence is not just physical, but can be verbal and manipulative.

“We want to create awareness for the students on how to better understand and perhaps foresee and deter violence from happening in the first place. The idea we’re trying to get across is to be part of the solution.”

Students from Banting Secondary School shared some true life experiences for the packed auditorium through a number of one-act plays, which showed everything from lack of communication with parents, girl cliques, ethnic arguments and blackmail.

“Bullying and violence is a very serious problem that we as educators have a role in solving,” says Allen Pearson, Faculty of Education Dean. “Our responsibility goes beyond academic achievement to ensuring a safe and respectful environment for young children.”

Pearson adds bullying is not restricted to schools and, unless addressed, violence will breed more violence.

“We need to ensure that the students in our care feel safe to learn and that we, as teachers, have a safe environment in which to teach them,” he says.

Presentations were also made by Barb MacQuarrie (Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children), Ray Hughes (The 4th R Project), Bill Bryce (Director, Thames Valley District School Board), Joe Rapai (Director, London District Catholic School Board) and Education faculty member Christine Wekerle.

Wekerle says youth violence is not merely a rite of passage; it usually becomes more reinforced on one, from someone the same age and happens most often at school.

“There is a lot of a physiological pattern is created, which then becomes more reinforced and more violent.”

She notes most bullying is one-to-one, from someone the same age and happens most often at school.

Nomination for the UWOFa Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee invites members of the Association to volunteer or suggest names of members for consideration by the committee.

The positions open for election are the following:

• **Vice-President** (who succeeds to the Presidency)
• **Speaker** (one-year term, renewable)
• **Six members of Board of Directors** who will represent their faculty or units (two-year terms, elected by all members in their faculty or unit)

Faculty of Arts and Humanities
Faculty of Health Sciences
Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Faculty of Science
Faculty of Social Sciences
Librarians and Archivists

• **Four members of the Board of Directors** who will represent the membership at large. Of these four seats, one must be a part-time member, elected for a two-year term. The other three seats must be filled by a full-time member, two of whom will be elected for two-year terms and one for a one-year term.

All full-time and part-time members of the Association are eligible.

The term of office begins July 1, 2005.

Please send your suggestions to

Albert Katz, Chair, Nominating Committee
Faculty Association (UWOFA)
1393 Western Rd (campus mail)
Phone: 661-2111 (ext. 87965) or 661-3016 (or on campus, ext 83016)
Fax 661-3946
Email: uwofa@uwo.ca
Canadian artists show some imagination

By Jim Anderson

Just My Imagination, a provocative exhibition that explores the expansive practice of drawing, is now on view at the ArtLab in Western's John Labatt Visual Arts Centre and at Museum London.

Curators Kim Moodie and David Merritt, from Western's Department of Visual Arts, present recent work by 14 artists from across Canada whose practice reflects a rigorous and sustained engagement with drawing. The exhibition includes work by Stephen Andrews (Toronto), Sheila Butler (London), Lucie Chan (Halifax), Cathy Daley (Toronto), Raphaëlle de Groot (Montreal), Michelle Gay (Toronto), Luanne Martineau (Victoria), Jason McLean (Vancouver), Alison Norell (Saskatoon), Ed Pien (Toronto), John Scott (Toronto), Candice Tarowski (Edmonton), David Tomas (Montreal), and Anna Forma (Baie Verte).

The exhibition is at the ArtLab until January 15 (Mondays to Fridays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and Museum London, 42 Ridout St. N. (Tuesdays to Sundays noon to 5 p.m.).

Co-curator Merritt describes the theme of the show as one of transformation: in forms, space and drawing itself transformed into other forms of media. While most artists in Just my Imagination produce works that elude media definition altogether.


Merritt says the scale of the works reflects the artists’ expanded approach. “Drawing is intimate and generally discreet in scale and the works here have not only that quality but also a tendency to swallow you up. The viewer is immersed in the work itself,” he says.

The exhibition is organized by Museum London and the MMB Collective (London artists David Merritt, Kim Moodie and Sheila Butler). It is scheduled to travel to galleries across Canada over the next two years. There are also plans to launch a catalogue early this year featuring the work of the 14 artists and the contributions of nine writers from across Canada.

“Drawing is definition altogether.

The viewer is immersed in the work itself.”

- David Merritt

Department of Visual Arts

King’s University College at The University of Western Ontario invites applications for the position of Chief Librarian at its award-winning G. Emmett Cardinal Carter Library. The position will become available July 1, 2005. KUC is a liberal arts college affiliated with The University of Western Ontario and operates under the aegis of the Roman Catholic Diocese of London. The successful candidate will have the MLIS or MLS professional degree from an ALA-accredited institution; at least ten years’ administrative experience with progressive responsibility, preferably in the academic library environment, with strong qualities of leadership and advocacy. He/she will have a proven understanding of current and emerging technologies as they apply to library service and management; a thorough understanding of the publishing world, both print and electronic; successful budgetary management and allocation skills; and aptitude for strategic planning; and excellent oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills. Some familiarity with archives and records management will be an asset. The Chief Librarian currently supervises a permanent staff of 9, including 2 professional librarians, 2 library technicians, and 5 clerical staff, as well as an evolving complement of graduate and undergraduate student library assistants. The Chief Librarian reports to the Principal and is a member of the College’s senior administrative team. The G. Emmett Cardinal Carter Library serves a population of some 3,000 students and 100 FTE faculty, but also shares reciprocal borrowing and service privileges with the libraries of The University of Western Ontario, Brescia University College, Huron University College and St. Peter’s Seminary. Applications, including a covering letter, curriculum vitae, and three letters of reference, should be sent to Ms. Sandra Gosselin, Human Resources Officer, King’s University College, 266 Epworth Avenue, London, ON, N6A 2M3 by Friday, February 25, 2005. Salary to be commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The purpose of the Fellowship in Teaching Innovation is to encourage full-time faculty members to pursue teaching innovations at The University of Western Ontario. The Fellowship exists primarily, but not exclusively, to support undergraduate and professional school teaching at the University, matching Western’s commitment to the highest standards and quality of undergraduate education.

Teaching innovation projects may take many forms, such as initiatives involving the novel incorporation of educational technology into classroom settings or developing new directions for large group learning. The award may be used to develop teaching innovation projects through the purchase of release-time, support for graduate students, acquisition of technology, or to attend teaching conferences.

The deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, 2005. Application procedures for the $10,000 Fellowship are available at www.uwo.ca/tsc

For more information, contact Dr. Debra Dawson, Director of the Teaching Support Centre, by phone at ext. 84621 or e-mail: ddawson@uwo.ca
Rising star recent Canada Research Chair

By Jim Anderson

Funeral service was held in Hamburg, Germany January 7 for Karin Gatermann, one of Western’s newest Canada Research Chairs.

Gatermann, of the departments of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics, died December 31, 2004 from cancer at age 43. She had joined Western’s faculty only July 1, 2004.

Born in Bad Oldesloe, Germany, she completed her undergraduate and Masters (Diploma) degree in Mathematics at the University of Hamburg, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Bodo Werner. She followed this with a Ph.D (magna cum laude) in 1989 under the supervision of Werner and Prof. Hans-Michael Moeller (the University of Hagen, Germany). She took her Habilitation (the University of Hagen, Germany) in 1999 at the Free University of Berlin, on the topic of Computer Algebra Methods for Equivariant Dynamical Systems. Her Habilitation thesis was published in 2000 by Springer-Verlag as vol. 1728 in the Lecture Notes in Mathematics Series.


She held positions at the University of Hamburg, at the Konrad Zuse Center in Berlin, was a Privatdozentin (assistant professor) at the Free University of Berlin, and was the recipient of the prestigious Heisenberg stipend from April 2001 until April 2004.

She became a member of the Department of Computer Science at Western on July 1, 2004, and was cross-appointed to the Department of Applied Mathematics. She had previously been awarded an Ontario Research Chair in Computer Algebra in 2001, and a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Computer Algebra in the Department of Computer Science was awarded her in December 2004.

“Karin’s work was of the highest quality, in breadth of application and profundity of thought,” says Rob Corless, Chair of the Department of Applied Mathematics.

“Her careful organization and efficiency helped her to make the most of her very considerable talents. In addition, she had a warm and caring nature, always looking out for the best interests of her students. She had graduated six Masters (Diploma) students in Germany prior to coming to Western, and had begun to supervise one student here.”

When she held the Ontario Research Chair in 2001-02, she took many opportunities to explore Southern Ontario, and enjoyed driving through the farmlands surrounding London (she was proud to state that she was a “farmer’s daughter”), and retained a great love of cultivated landscapes.

“She friends remember that she often stopped to take pictures of pleasant views, especially if cows were prominent in the scenery,” says Corless. “She was a keen gardener, and during her two semesters here took care of the garden of the home she had rented, to the great pleasure and astonishment of her (sabbaticant) landlords.” After she relinquished this Chair, she returned to Germany and from there visited other research institutions, on the Heisenberg stipend, before finally accepting an offer as assistant professor here at Western.

Shortly after her return to Canada in June 2004 to take up her position and to apply for a Tier II Canada Research Chair, which she was awarded in December 2004, she was diagnosed with pancreatic and liver cancer. She returned to Germany for treatment, but passed away peacefully Dec. 31.

A funeral service was held for her Friday, January 7 in Germany and here at Western, the University flag was at half-mast on that same day. At the Funeral, Prof. Dr. Bodo Werner conveyed to her family and friends the respects of her colleagues and friends here at Western.

IN MEMORIAM
**Bike lockers campus possibility**

By Paul Mayne

With close to 150 bicycle thefts on campus this past year, Campus Community Police Service Director Elgin Austen is looking at the possibility of secure bicycle storage at Western. Popular in the United States and in use at McMaster University, the lockers would give students, staff and faculty an extra sense of security regarding their bicycles.

“We are always looking at better ways to increase safety on campus and this is one option,” says Austen, adding should feedback towards this idea be positive, he’d like to see the first set of lockers on campus in the spring. The lockers would be leased to students, staff and faculty for about $10 per month. The high-density locker material resists scratches, vandalism, and all forms of sun and weather. It will not dent, corrode, rust, or delaminate.

Austen adds the company they would deal with has never had a theft in the 20 years they’ve been in operation. “The plan will not only encourage the safe storage of bicycles, but will encourage the environmentally friendly use of bikes in place of cars,” says Austen, adding more individuals may ride bicycles to campus if they can be assured of their safety.

Campus Police are seeking feedback from the Western community for the level of interest in becoming involved in such a program. You can do so by calling 661-3300 or email mmics@uwo.ca.

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**Part-time Employment**

The LONDON SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM is currently seeking staff for their recreational based before and after school programs.

Are you...?

- looking for part-time employment that will fit within your school schedule
- currently enrolled in, or completed your degree in education, sociology, psychology or child/family related courses
- experienced working with groups of school aged children
- available Monday to Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and/or 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

If you have answered yes to these questions, then we have the ideal job for you!

Submit resume and cover letter to:

Attention: Tanya Masse
Human Resources Assistant
London Children’s Connection
346 Wonderland Road S.
London, ON N6K 1L3

Fax: (519)471-3576
Email: lsap_hr@lcc.on.ca

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**COMING EVENTS**

**January 13**

- **Physics Colloquium** – Russell B. Thompson, University of Waterloo. “Soft Matter Self-Assembly in Nanotechnology”. Physics & Astronomy Rem 112, 1 pm
- **Geography Dept. Speaker Series** – Patrick Donnelly, “Watersheds planning in London”. SGC, Rem 2322, 2 pm
- **Dept. of Mathematics** – Rani Vakil, Stanford University. “A geometric Littlewood-Richardson rule”. Western College, Rem 106, 2 pm
- **Mclntosh Gallery** – Reclamations / Yehouda Chaki. Elsie Bagray-Clay. Running through to February 20. Opening 7:30 pm
- **Visitors in the Arts Speaker’s Series** – Ron Benner, Installation Artist. London, VAG, Rem 100, 8 pm
- **January 14**
  - **Anatomy & Cell Biology Seminar** – Dr. Frank Beier, Dept. of Physiology & Pharmacology. Western. “ROCK & Rho in Cartilage”. DS8, Rem 102, 12 noon
  - **Dept. of Epidemiology & Biostatistics Seminar** – “Effect of Patient Characteristics…” 
  - **Dept. of Mathematics Colloquium** – Matthew Sucksmith, University of Pennsylvania. “The chiral de Rham complex, orbifolds, elliptic genera, and automorphic forms”. Western College, Rem 108, 3 pm
- **Reclamations – Walking Tour** – by Yehouda Chaki. Mclntosh Gallery, 12:15 pm

**January 15**

- **Men’s & Women’s Volleyball vs Windsor** – Western, Women’s 1 pm / Men’s 3 pm

**January 16**

- **Men’s & Women’s Curling – Western Sectionals, Ilderton Curling Club, 9 am
- **January 17**
  - **Physiology and Pharmacology Seminar** – David Hill, Lawson Health Research Institute, “Islet cell replacement in vitro and in vivo”. DS8, Rem 1052, 4 pm

**January 18**

- **London Senior Alumni Program** – The Board of Governors – Can it make a difference? Donald McDougall, Chair of Board of Governors, Western. Mclntosh Room, UCC. 9:30 - 11 am
- **Visitors in the Arts Speaker’s Series** – Ron Benner, Installation Artist. London, VAG, Rem 100, 8 pm
- **January 19**
  - **Cafe Scientifique – End of Life Decision Making: Palliative care or euthanasia? John Swift, MD, LHEC. Siltan Room, Mascons Library. Free admission. 7 - 8:45 pm
  - **Cultural Festival at King’s University College** – Student groups, faculty and community groups will showcase music and dance performances from around the world. Labatt Hall, Rem. 105. 6 - 9:30 pm
- **Men’s & Women’s Volleyball – vs Waterloo** – Western. Women’s 6 pm, Men’s 8 pm

Please send submissions for Coming Events to comingevents@uwo.ca.
The University has a central web site displaying complete advertisements for all vacant academic positions. The following academic positions are among those being advertised currently on the web site at www.uwo.ca/hr/ ad. Please review the web site for details, including application requirements, or contact the faculty, school or department directly.

**FULL-TIME ACADEMIC VACANCIES**

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING**, Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering - applications are invited for a probationary (tenure-track) faculty appointment in Nanotechnology and Nano-materials to be held jointly between the two departments at the level of Assistant Professor, with anticipated start date of July 1, 2005, although an earlier appointment may be considered at the rank of Associate Professor, Closing date: February 28, 2005.

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING**, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering - applications are invited for a probationary (tenure-track) Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Wind/Structural/Building Science Engineering Light-Frame Construction in Natural Disasters with anticipated start date of October 1, 2005. If experience and qualifications warrant, a tenured appointment may be considered at the rank of Associate Professor. Closing date: February 28, 2005.

**FACULTY OF ENGINEERING and FACULTY OF SCIENCE** - applications are invited for a probationary (tenure-track) Tier 2 Canada Research Chair at the rank of Assistant Professor (probationary) or Associate Professor (probationary or tenured) in Functional Genomics and Evolution at the Department of Biology. Closing date: March 31, 2005. *FACULTY OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY* - Department of Medical Biophysics - applications and nominations are invited for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Computational Biophysics at the Assistant or Associate Professor level (either tenure-track or tenured). Position will remain open until filled, subject to CRC guidelines. **FACULTY OF SCIENCE**, Department of Applied Mathematics and Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences - applications are invited for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair at the rank of Assistant Professor (probationary) or Associate Professor (probationary or tenured) in Financial Mathematics to be held jointly between the two Departments, effective July 1, 2005 or thereafter. Closing date: March 15, 2005.

**FACULTY OF ENGINNEERING**, Department of Applied Mathematics and Department of Statistical and Actuarial Sciences - applications are invited for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Functional Genomics and Evolution at the rank of Assistant Professor (probationary) or Associate Professor (probationary or tenured) in Financial Mathematics to be held jointly between the two Departments, effective July 1, 2005 or thereafter. Closing date: March 31, 2005.

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE**, Department of Sociology - applications are invited for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Sociological and Demographical Sciences at the rank of Assistant Professor (probationary) or Associate Professor (probationary or tenured) in Social Sciences, Closing date: April 30, 2005. *FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE*, Department of Geography - applications are invited for a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Geotechnical Engineering at the Assistant Professor or Associate Professor level with anticipated start date of October 1, 2005. If experience and qualifications warrant, a tenured appointment may be considered at the rank of Associate Professor. Closing date: February 28, 2005.

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