Student focus drives solid Maclean’s results

The Maclean’s/Globe double whammy of rankings positions Western among Canada’s best schools

By Paul Mayne

Western remains one of Canada’s strongest universities, according to the Maclean’s 2005 University Rankings released earlier this week.

Major university strengths include the proportion of students who graduate, classes taught by tenured faculty and library acquisitions – all of which are areas in which Western finished first in the highly anticipated survey.

For the fourth consecutive year, Western is third overall in the medical-doctoral ranking, which measures the undergraduate experience at universities with a broad range of PhD programs and research, as well as medical schools.

There were 47 Canadian universities that were part of the Maclean’s ranking, with 15 in Western’s category. McGill and Toronto tied for first.

A Globe and Mail survey of more than 26,000 students was released last week, with Western in first place among all large universities.

A survey official, the Strategic Counsel’s Tim Woolstencroft, says Western ranks first in student satisfaction across all categories because it provides the benefits of a large school within the attractive atmosphere of a small university. (See Page 3: ‘Decision Day’ for many second-year students)

“It was pleasing to see that we continue to do very well in those categories that focus on students and student experience,” says Western President Paul Davenport. The university was second in student retention (96.5 per cent) and third in average entering grade (87.9 per cent).

“This reinforces the University Report Card (Globe and Mail) which shows the outstanding work our faculty and staff are doing in creating a superb student experience.”

Davenport adds the “best student experience” that comes across in the Maclean’s ranking, along with the Globe’s findings from surveying student opinions, links directly into student recruitment.

Western, and the other universities in its category, were evaluated on 24 performance measures. Ann Dowsett Johnston, editor-at-large for the Maclean’s university special edition, says Western is a strong across-the-board performer.

“Because we look at 24 indicators you have to be consistently good in a number of areas and

Continued on page 11
United Way helps ‘spread the word’ about epilepsy

By Paul Mayne

Alex Shteiman’s life changed forever at age 17. He hasn’t let it affect him though. He knows there’s a stigma attached and he’s out to eliminate that.

Shteiman has epilepsy. A fourth-year History major at Western, Shteiman’s first seizure in 2000 was short in duration and something he never expected. There is no history of epilepsy in his family and he was already in his late teens, well beyond the usual time for a first seizure to appear.

A seizure occurs when normal electrical activity in the brain is disrupted. They present themselves in one of two ways – convulsive and non-convulsive. Anyone can have a seizure and, in fact, many people will have at least one at some point in their lives.

Since a person is not considered to have epilepsy or a seizure disorder until they have had two or more seizures, Shteiman took it as a freak occurrence. But with two more grand mal seizures in his first year at Western, the Toronto native was diagnosed with epilepsy.

“Like everyone else you’re selfish at first with the ‘why me’ questions, but that’s a common response,” says the 22-year-old.

Following a grand mal seizure, a type of seizure characterized by loss of consciousness, falling down, and rhythmic convulsions, Shteiman says it takes at least 24 hours to recover fully and feel well enough.

“I really takes a lot out of you,” he says, noting his grades did slip initially in first year.

Shteiman however, didn’t want special treatment because of his disorder. In fact, he wrote an exam the next day after a seizure. He is also taken to spreading the word about what epilepsy is all about following what he refers to as a “wake up call”.

It was last year, over the May long-weekend, upon returning home alone from a camping trip with friends, that Shteiman suffered his fourth grand mal seizure after stopping to fill up his car with gas before the long trip home.

“I went in, paid for the gas and had the seizure on the way back to the car,” he recalls. “A couple minutes later and I would have been behind the wheel. It was a big wake-up call at this time of my life.”

Shteiman has not had a seizure since then.

He now attempts to dispel the myths and break down the walls of ignorance by speaking to groups.

Through the Epilepsy Support Centre in London, a United Way-funded organization, Shteiman helps out in areas such as peer-to-peer counseling and educating the general public because he says there is still misunderstanding about the disorder.

The Epilepsy Support Centre is specifically concerned with the non-medical welfare of people with epilepsy enabling them to fully participate in all aspects of community life.

“I initially didn’t think there was a stigma, but I’ve come to find out that there is,” says Shteiman, noting some even think epilepsy is a mental disorder.

Having epilepsy does not impair intellectual ability – Shteiman will graduate next year. He plans to teach overseas for a year before returning to Law school.

With the help of medication and, to a lesser extent, the increased knowledge of the general public surrounding epilepsy, Shteiman is confident.

“Hopefully I can be an example to those who don’t understand and change their perspective.”

ABOUT EPILEPSY

A seizure occurs when normal electrical activity in the brain is disrupted. The brain’s nerve cells either fire when they shouldn’t or don’t fire when they should. The result is a sudden, brief, and uncon- trolled burst of abnormal electrical activity, affecting parts of the brain in a way that the brain works as a whole. Seizures are the physical effects of this unstable electrical energy in the brain.

Affecting about 1 in 100 persons, there are more than twice as many people with epilepsy in Canada than the number of people with cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and cystic fibrosis combined.

WHAT TO DO FOR A CONVULSIVE SEIZURE

1. Stay calm. Do not restrain the person having a seizure. Let the seizure take its course.
2. Loud noise, bright light or strong odours can trigger an attack. Dim the lights, close the curtains, turn off radios and telephones.
3. Do not try to interfere unless the person is being injured. Support the body in a safe position. Do not try to put smth. in the mouth.
4. Do not injure yourself or the person.
5. Help the person to the floor as soon as possible to allow saliva or other fluids to drain away. Do not be frightened if a person having a seizure appears to stop breathing momentarily.
6. On rare occasions, if a seizure goes on longer than five minutes, or repeats without full recovery, call emergency services.
7. Afterward, talk gently to the person, be comforting and reassuring and stay with them until they become re-oriented.
**Junk store find Remembers treasure**

By Paul Mayne

A banged-up suitcase and some well-worn pieces of silver hardly catch the eye.

But this particular suitcase is different. It holds the account of a sacrifice made more than 60 years ago.

McCreery recognized the kit as a military field communion set. "I bought it purely on a whim, more out of curiosity," he says.

When he got back to his car and emptied the contents he found a small wooden box for communion wafers.

"It has the name Walter L. Brown on the bottom with Canadian Army Chaplain Service written on the ten below," says McCreery, who jogged his memory back to his work on a plaque at Huron two years earlier.

McCreery had researched and raised funds for the plaque in the Memorial Tower while a student at Huron. He continues to research the lives of soldiers and war veterans who fought and died in both World Wars.

"So at that point I made the connection and could hardly believe it."
The outbreak of war in 1914 affected the university in many ways. The Faculty of Medicine under the direction of Dr Edwin Seaborne operated two hospitals in England before transferring to Calais, France, in 1917. During its two-year operation, although officially known as No10 Stationary Hospital, it was often referred to as “The Western University Unit”. This was the first time the university as a corporate entity, had received international recognition.

VIEWPOINT

Reconnecting with the Great War

BY JONATHAN VANCE

As a child, I was fascinated by my grandfather’s hands. They were long and bony, and covered with skin that looked so thin and papery that I was afraid it might slide off.

I had some vague idea of what those hands had done decades earlier — carried 18-pound artillery shells, steadied the reins of a ripening old horse, manhandled an artillery piece into position, dug gun pits into the mud of Flanders — but my fascination lay mostly in the fact that I loved his handwriting. He had gone to school in England in an age when penmanship still mattered, and he always signed his name in a tight little script that seemed impossibly neat.

He always took great care with his appearance — he hated his grandchildren to see him without his false teeth — and his fastidiousness came through in his handwriting. He always signed his name in a tight little script that seemed impossibly neat. He always took great care with his appearance — he hated his grandchildren to see him without his false teeth — and his fastidiousness came through in his handwriting.

As I got older, my curiosity about his war grew — so much so that I spent part of a summer cycling around the battlefields so that I spent part of a summer cycling around the battlefields so that I spent part of a summer cycling around the battlefields. That summer, the war had left its mark on my grandfather. When he died at the ripe old age of 92, I was devastated. I felt I had lost the one tangible connection with an historical event that, because of him, had become my passion. The First World War seemed to me, quite suddenly, so distant.

I think it seems that way to most people. The Second World War lives on in movie theatres, to films like Saving Private Ryan and The Thin Red Line. Computer gamers can land on Omaha Beach or battle in the streets of Stalingrad, all in the comfort of their own homes. The war has what marketing experts would call a “recognition factor” — after all, the Allies went to war in GM trucks, and Japanese pilots flew aircraft manufactured by Mitsubishi. Commercials use the war’s images as indicators of good corporate citizenship. We have thousands of hours of film footage and millions of photographs — some even in colour. The Second World War, in short, seems to be very much part of the world that we inhabit.

The Great War, on the other hand, appears to bear out L.P. Hartley’s famous phrase that the past is a foreign country. It is a world of things that have no recognizability today — SPADs and Sopwiths, the French 75, dreadnoughts and cavalry charges, “Mademoiselle from Armentières, inky-dinky parlez-vous!” Aside from a couple of Heritage Minutes and the odd feature film that leaves the theatre within days of arriving, the war has no place in our popular consciousness.

Some people find that the contrast between the wars comes out most strongly in films from 1914-1918. They are grainy and jerky, the people moving too quickly or too slowly thanks to the primitive equipment then in use. Young men either grin uneasily or mug shamelessly at the photographer; for many of them, it was probably the first time they had ever seen a moving-picture camera. But they seem so foreign. Surely these people can’t be part of our world, we think — they must be from a past so distant that it no longer belongs to us.

But how do we re-establish a connection with that age, and with those people who move like they’re in a Charlie Chaplin film? How do we convey the understanding, especially to young people, that the past really isn’t a foreign country — it’s our country, and we have a right and an obligation to claim it? One solution, fortunately, is only a few clicks away.

In 1996, Library and Archives Canada began a project to digitize and post on its website the attestation forms filled out by men and women when they enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. It started modestly at first, but luckily for me one of the first groups of records to be finished included surnames beginning with the letter S. And so one day, I carefully typed my grandfather’s name into the search field: William Thomas Stairs.

I knew that I would see a standard government form, completed in the hundreds of thousands between 1914 and 1919, but I wasn’t expecting the effect it would have on me. There was his name, date and place of birth, next of kin, and, at the bottom, the signature that I had loved as a child. But it was no longer small and cramped, as I had known it; it was bold and assured, the signature of a strong and confident working man about to set out on the great- est, and most terrible, adventure of his life. Up to that time, I had only known my grandfather as a senior citizen; now, I felt like I knew him in the prime of his life.

Since then, I’ve spent countless hours looking at virtual attestation papers — so much so that my kids tend to call out plaintively: “Mom, Dad’s on the CEF website again!” But in my defence, it’s not just idle web-surfing. This is one way to bridge the years to an event that seems so distant to us; these digitized images have a way of personalizing a war to which many Canadians feel no personal connection.

So I use my professorial authority at the University of Western Ontario to force my students to spend some time with these records and, more often than not, they’re glad they did. They have found relatives that they didn’t know had enlisted. They encounter all of the curiosities of the industrial workforce of pre-1914 Canada — I think I know what a wire-drawer did, but what on earth was a core-maker? They find no end of fascinating questions — what could have induced Syrian-born Charles Kalif, a storekeeper in Sydney, to enlist in a Nova Scotia Highland battalion? Why did the CEF decide to conscript Ernest Gould, despite the fact that he was lame in one hip and had an atrophied muscle in the other thigh? They learn that Edwardian Canadians were much shorter than Canadians in 2005, and that if you weren’t a Protestant or a Catholic when you enlisted, you could only be an “Other.” One student, a recent immigrant to Canada, even found a soldier who, 90 years earlier, had lived in the very house that she now lived in.

Soon, the First World War will be a full century behind us. The veterans will be gone, and even those who were children during the war will be few and far between. But the event need not slip from our collective consciousness, because even something as simple as a digitized image on a computer screen has the power to connect us to that earlier time. Whenever I click on his attestation paper, I get a vivid mental picture of my grandfather, not old and stooped as I remember him, but straight and strong, confidently signing his name, collecting his khaki uniform and marching off to war.
COMMENTARY

Fieldwork under fire

By Orin Starn

Western

W E S T E R N  N E W S  N O V E M B E R  1 0,  2 0 0 5

Fieldwork under fire

Orin Starn is a professor of cultural anthropology at Duke University. He is the author of Ith's Brain: In Search of America's Last "Wild" Indian, published last year by W.W. Norton. This article was published in The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Where, exactly, is Armenia? I have to admit that I couldn’t have pointed it out on a map for you until a few months ago.

That changed in a hurry last summer. Almost overnight, it seemed, the grey of a Sydney morning gave way to a golden yellow as an Austrian Airlines flight flew into Armenia’s capital, Yerevan. A student of mine, Yektan Turkyliev, was about to be put on trial there.

The secret police had arrested Yektan two months before just as he was leaving Armenia, having finished his anthropology dissertation research on the early 20th-century history of the region. A kind, passionate, and brilliant young scholar, Yektan had been held in a miserable basement dungeon. He shared a cell – and the jars of Nutella a friend brought now and then – with two Armenian prisoners locked up for petty crimes.

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– and the jars of Nutella a friend brought now and then – with two Armenian prisoners locked up for petty crimes. Many nights Yektan and his cellmates could hear the screams of other men being tortured upstairs.

Yektan’s crime? Trying to smuggle old books out of Armenia, according to the government. The real reason was a poisonous brew of politics, corruption, and paranoia. Yektan is Turkish, albeit of Kurdish descent. Even today, many Armenians hate Turks for 1915, when more than a million Armenians were rounded up for “revenue” reasons from the very start.

The secret police had arrested Yektan, had bought about 100 used books from secondhand bookstores, all related to his research about Armenian culture, politics, and history. The secret police had probably been following Yektan, and just after boarding his flight home, he was dragged off the plane and taken to KGB headquarters. An obscure law restricting the export from Armenia of any books older than 50 years provided the pretext for keeping Yektan prisoner.

Yektan had been held in a prison cell almost around the clock. They had captured a major book smuggler, or, more likely, a Turkish secret police. Then came rafts of letters demanding Yektan’s release from the likes of Richard H. Brodhead, president of Duke; Craig Calhoun, president of the Social Sciences Research Council; Rep David E. Price, Democrat of North Carolina; and Bob Dole, the former Kansas senator and a longtime friend of Armenia. At that point, Yektan recalls, the secret police began to interrogate him about a third possibility – namely, that he was an American spy. How else to explain such concern from halfway around the world? “Mean and stupid,” one Armenian I met in Yerevan snickered privately about the KGB.

The tale of Yektan’s arrest might appear like some bizarre outlier, a freak episode of the Keystone Kops and Gulag Archipelago rolled into one. I think, however, that the story points to larger changes in the field of anthropology. In the hoary old days of the pith helmet, native porters, and steamer-trunk exponents of Samoa and New Guinea, anthropologists back then seldom got into trouble. No one besides a few missionary scholars back in Oxford and New Haven cared about the exact explanation for why some New Guinea hill tribes like to chew betel nut at male-initiation ceremonies and others did not.

Everything has changed over the last few decades. The turbulence of the Vietnam War years brought loud calls for, as the title of one influential anthropology had it, “reinventing anthropology” in a more activist, politically engaged image. Then, too, the changing trade winds of feminism, Marxist, and postmodern jargon decoder rings.

A degree of risk accompanies the new, more politically minded anthropology.

and later postmodern and post-colonial theory began to propel questions about social protest and nationalism, violence and memory, and political science to the center of the field.

You can see the results now. At Duke alone we have students doing dissertations about Mexico’s Zapataists rebel and anti-globalization activism; everyday life and women’s rights in Castro’s Cuba; and Palestinian refugees in Syria and Lebanon, among many other charged topics. It’s a long way from the age of anthropologists with lordly names like E.E. Evans-Pritchard and A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, who could have been doing a model of democracy and political righteousness. Our many shortcomings include a tiresome addiction to ugly, pretentious, jargon-laden prose that makes far too much of what we write unintelligible to anyone who doesn’t have one of those secret postmodern jargon decoder rings.

But what, then of Yektan? I watched him being led into the courtroom in handcuffs surrounded by five policemen as if he were some dangerous murderer. All the booksellers from whom Yektan had bought books testified that they had never told him about any law limiting their export, or in some cases not even known about it themselves. The smug, overfed, theatrical prosecutor appeared to have watched too many old Perry Mason re-runs. He punctuated his incoherent closing statement with plenty of pregnant pauses, accusatory stares, and the suggestion that Yektan was not really a student at all. Then he drove off into the sweltering August afternoon, the courthouse doors, was with peasant protest in the global economy, the limits and possibilities of social movements, and a long list of otherYektan’s crime? Trying to smuggle old books out of Armenia, according to the government. The real reason was a poisonous brew of politics, corruption, and paranoia. Yektan is Turkish, albeit of Kurdish descent. Even today, many Armenians hate Turks for 1915, when more than a million Armenians were rounded up for “revenue” reasons from the very start.

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As campus tour guide, my first stop would be …

Asisted reproduction ills explored

Despite the conception of more than two million children through Assisted Reproductive Technologies since 1978, insufficient research has been done on associated problems such as premature birth, intrauterine growth retardation and low birth rate.

Western professors Melissa Mann (Biochemistry) and Andy Babwah (Physiology & Pharmacology) have received $200,000 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) to look at procedures and identify periods of susceptibility that may lead to abnormalities.

“The pair also scientists at Children’s Health Research Institute and Lawson Health Research Institute, are among eight projects receiving CFI funding of more than $1.3 million. Mann believes many abnormalities occur as a result of epigenetic alterations. Epigenetics refers to modifications that do not change DNA structure but are applied onto the genome - the entire complement of genetic material in a chromosome set.

“The CFI’s New Opportunities Fund is one of our key tools for recruiting talented, young researchers like Dr. Mann to London,” says Ted Hewitt, Western’s Vice-President (Research and International Relations). Other projects awarded at Western and Lawson Health Research Institute include:

- Xueling Sun, $190,506, Carbon Nano-Structured Material Fabrication Lab;
- Timothy Newson, $203,112, Creating Complex Soil Loading States to Simulate Realistic Geotechnical Processes;
- Wing-Yiu Choy, $182,245, Infrastructure for the Study of Naturally Disordered Proteins and Diseases;
- Nathan Jones, $163,375, Lab for Asymmetric Catalysis Research;
- Margaret Campbell-Brown, $223,136, Meteorology Environment Optical Research Observing Stations;
- Hao Wang, $61,955, Novel Transplantation Models to Study Mechanisms of Grant Protection; and
- Anestis Dounavis, $131,133, Simulation/Modeling Lab for High-Speed Electronic Circuits and MEMS

The Book Store at Western invites you to Autumn Writes

Thursday, November 17 at 7:30 pm, Alumni College Auditorium, Faculty of Education Building
Cash donations to Investing in Children or food donations to the London Food Bank will be collected at the event.

www.bookstore.uwo.ca/autumn_writes
Guiding an $18M student business

BY GIOVANNI PAOLA

The strong scent of fresh paint fills her office – the new colour is the first sign of a recent promotion. Pink suede to be exact. She’s been spending 12-hour days adjusting to her new job.

Karen Jackson is the new general manager of University Students’ Council. She’s the first who does not come from a military background, the first woman, and the youngest to ever hold the chair. Do you want it for the next five years?”

“Absolutely,” responded Jackson.

Jackson sits down after a long day of hiring a new controller, the position she held for six years. She explains how she didn’t think she got the new job.

Jackson remembers having a drink after the interview and waiting by the phone all night. Finally, she went to bed thinking the other guy got the job. That was until she was called into the boardroom the next morning and was asked to sit in the general manager’s chair.

Jackson recalls the president asking, “How do you like that chair? Do you want it for the next five years?”

“Absolutely,” responded Jackson.

The USC is one of the largest student organizations in the country. With an $18-million budget it provides a vast array of student services, including a bus pass, health plan and used-book store.

It also manages a large number of clubs and events throughout the year, and oversees several operations aimed at increasing quality of life for students. This includes two campus bars and restaurants, a movie theatre, a variety store, credit union and much more.

Jackson said her role is to manage the operations, and to mentor the board of directors - made up entirely of students – so they can achieve their goals. But the number one priority is pleasing the customers – students.

“Our challenge is that our customer changes quickly,” she said. “We have to keep up and respond faster.”

When she gets home from work, Jackson spends her time reading books and watching action adventure movies – her favourite is Indiana Jones.

“I don’t like the girly stuff,” she said. “Give me some Terminator.”

But Jackson said it’s in the business world where the real action happens. Her interest in the field stems from her 68-year-old father Carl who graduated with a master’s in business administration from Western. He was also a Canadian Tire dealer in Owen Sound, Ont., the family home.

It wasn’t until she went to university that she realized business was the perfect fit.

“I have my business school application, but I’m not sure if I want to apply,” she remembers telling her boyfriend at the time.

“He responded, ’I thought it’s what you always wanted.’”

Jackson said she was always stick with her. She graduated in 1988 with a BA in business administration.

“ ’He was right.’”

Her parents, especially her father, always stressed education. Jackson explains a time in Grade 8 when her dad planned on sending her to university.

“There were rules in the house growing up,” said Jackson. “They were rules in the house growing up,” said Jackson. “They were rules in the house growing up,” said Jackson. “They were rules in the house growing up,” said Jackson. “They were rules in the house growing up,” said Jackson.

“I don’t like the girly stuff,” she said. “Give me some Terminator.”

Jackson explained that once her mother was engaged with her mother’s wedding, her sister Karla was engaged with her mother’s wedding.

“My sister is thinking of getting married on the beach so my mother can be at the wedding.”

A diamond bracelet that once belonged to her mother characterizes their relationship. Jackson explains that once her mother died, the sisters split the diamonds on the bracelet. Soon after, they agreed to have rings made with the diamonds.

“All four of us share that bond,” said Jackson. “I do find comfort in having her things.”

Sister Karla explains Karen was very close to her mother, seeing her not only as a mom, but also as a friend.

“She gave us good values and beliefs,” said Karla. “She wanted to make sure we did everything we wanted to.”

The writer is a Graduate student in Journalism.
Fanshawe builds it; Western destroys it

BY PAUL MAYNE

It may seem counter-productive to build a home knowing it is destined for destruction. But that’s not stopping students from Fanshawe College’s Faculty of Building Technology.

In a unique building partnership with Western’s innovative Three Little Pigs project, located at London’s International Airport, Fanshawe faculty and students are building a home that will be subjected to a controlled environment to the worst Mother Nature can throw at it.

Building Technology instructor Martin Askes says the effort will be a win-win for everyone.

“Right now this is just about hammering nails and putting up walls,” says Askes.

“But in the long-term, our students are going to be interested in the data results from the wind testing. Building the structure is one thing, but seeing how your structure stands up, why certain parts withstood and why some didn’t, is beneficial not just for Western, but for our students as well.”

More than 90 Fanshawe students will build the two-storey, 1,900-square-foot brick home over the next six months. Just two weeks into construction, Askes says he hopes to begin work on the second floor next week. The full-scale home will include four bedrooms, windows, patio doors, furnace, central stair case and other amenities.

Western’s $7-million project, the first-of-its-kind in the world, aims to engineer better houses by testing a variety of homes and light-frame buildings to the point of their destruction using realistic, extreme environmental loads, such as wind, snow and rain. This is done within the confines of a specialized shell already completed.

Researchers also will study problems such as mould development, moisture penetration of walls and construction error through almost 100 ‘pressure boxes’ that will be attached to the home’s exterior to simulate the desired conditions.

Home completion is scheduled for the spring and the initial testing is set to begin in the fall.

Greg Kopp, co-principal investigator of the project and Associate Research Director at Western’s Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel, anticipates the new facility will lead to safer, healthier, more cost-effective homes. The research should also assist in development of cost-effective retrofits to existing homes, reducing human error during construction.

“We’re hoping our work here will have an impact on future building codes and public policy with regards to the safe construction of homes,” says Kopp.

Students from Fanshawe College’s Faculty of Building Technology review blueprints for a two-storey house they are constructing for Western’s Three Little Pigs project. They hope to complete the 1,900-square-foot brick home by spring.
Western Reads best-book battle begins

By Karmen Dowling

The challenge is on.

The third edition of Western Reads begins this month, with the first book club event at Fellini Koolini’s on November 23.

With five new books, 10 celebrity readers and Westerners and Londoners voicing their opinions on which book should “win,” Western Reads is a popular event hosted by Western’s Alumni Relations and The Book Store. The books included in Western Reads best-book battle begins
book from five acclaimed Canadians are

1. Rush Home Road, by Lori Lansens
2. The In-Between World of Vikram Lall, by Joni Baechler
3. The Navigator of Last Hope, by James Reaney
4. Between World and The In-Between World of Vikram Lall
5. The Navigator of Last Hope

That’s not a menu in the hands of King’s Chief Librarian Claire Callaghan and London restaurateur Mike Smith. The celebrity readers lead off the new-format Western Reads book club season Nov. 23 at Smith’s Fellini Koolini’s with a discussion of Rush Home Road, a Lori Lansens’ novel.

By visiting www.westernreads.ca readers from Western, London and around the world, can participate through the website by viewing the book selection, reading the reviews and joining the discussion list. Voting takes place by ballot at the debate in March, in the bookstore, at the London Public Library or online.

The first book being discussed is Rush Home Road by Lori Lansens. It is a dramatic debut novel by an adept storyteller and is being compared to John Steinbeck and Alice Munro. A lonely 70-year-old woman takes on an abandoned girl in this heart-wrenching tale of love and loss set in the black communities of southwestern Ontario. While exploring the rich history of the Underground Railroad, it also speaks broadly of motherhood, understanding, the importance of goodness and the power of love.

Celebrity panelists Claire Callaghan, Chief Librarian at King’s University College and local restaurant owner, Michael Smith feel this book is the clear winner.

“It is extra fascinating being in this region,” says Smith, of the story set just outside of Chatham. “It was a real page-turner. If I read a boring book, I fall asleep after a couple of pages – this one I was wide awake.”

Callaghan says the author developed the two key characters, Addy and Sharla, in her head for 12 years before writing the book and it was obvious by how well-defined they were. She adds Lansens is gifted with words and skilled with sentences and was able to put life into the characters that made them seem so real.

“Addy demonstrates this profound decency throughout life,” say Callaghan in describing why the book was so meaningful to her. “She is teaching lessons the whole time. She is a good example of a woman one could aspire to be who has educated herself with a lot of pride and it didn’t take me long to feel like I knew her.”

Callaghan and Smith will host the Rush Home Road book club event on November 23 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. on the upper floor of Fellini Koolini’s. Everyone is welcome.

The other events will take place in different locations around London, with times and locations still to be determined. Check out the web site for further details. The five titles are available for purchase at the Book Store and available to borrow at the London Public Library.

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For this or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Heather Cabral at 519-680-2404 ext. 226 or hcabral@alzheimerlondon.ca

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BUILDER OF THE YEAR
Sound faculty-student relations key to success

By KARmen DOWLING and PAUL MAYNE

Western’s future depends on a healthy, challenging relationship between faculty and students and an ongoing rapport with administration, says Chris Bentley, Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities of Ontario.

“It needs to be as strong as it can,” said Bentley, speaking at the 50th anniversary symposium of Western’s Faculty Association. “The faculty and students need to challenge that relationship – it makes for a stronger academic relationship and the results of that is a better education.”

The symposium offered panel discussions on the past and present of UWOPFA, the future of faculty of associations in Canada and the future of universities in Canada.

“All three sessions were incredibly useful,” said UWOPFA President Jane Toswell. “Each presentation brought a slightly different lens on the future.”

The anniversary is taking place at a time when the demographic picture of the faculty group is undergoing change, an evolution that will also change UWOPFA, says Toswell.

“These younger faculty have different requirements and clear expectations of what they want,” said Toswell, noting that many have been involved in union activities since graduate school while unions are still a newer concept for many older Western faculty members.

Western President Paul Davenport wrapped up the symposium with a discussion on the future of topics: education, research, technology and accountability.

“The demand from students, for what we do, is going to continue to grow; they are eager, hungry, for what we’ve devoted our careers to,” said Davenport.

He said universities need a balanced approach to research, not neglecting the Social Sciences and Humanities. As well, he said technology won’t challenge what faculty members and universities do.

“Students come to university because they want the face-to-face contact with professors and students,” he said. “The value of clear speaking and effective values will still be important for years to come.”

After the symposium, the audience of about 35 adjourned to the Grad Club for a social event.

Stephenson joins science panel

Richard Ivey School of Business Dean Carol Stephenson is among five persons appointed to the Prime Minister’s Advisory Council on Science and Technology. A graduate of the University of Toronto, Stephenson joins Sue-zone Chow, Gerry Protti, Indira V. Sumarasekera and Emono J.E. Szathmary for three-year terms on the council.

Stephenson also serves on the Government of Canada’s External Advisory Group on Modernizing Human Resource Management in the Public Service and the Board of the Communications Research Centre.

“T h e s e respected members of the scientific, academic and business worlds are eminently qualified to advise on this vital part of Canada’s future economic growth,” says Minister of Industry David Emerson.

The council was created in 1996 to provide expert advice on national research and innovation goals and policies, and their application to Canadian economic, social and cultural well-being. The group identifies emerging issues and develops recommendations to help Canada in a global context.
Somebody phishing? Don’t get caught

By Karmen Dowling

Would you hand over personal information to someone you didn’t know who just showed up at your door? Hopefully not.

The message from Western’s Information and Technology Services is not to give out that information over the computer either.

Western Security Information Specialist in ITS, Ellen Smout, says phishing is an attempt to scam individuals into surrendering sensitive personal information through seemingly official emails from a legitimate business.

“They are throwing out the line and seeing who they can hook,” says Smout. “The majority of it we can’t even mark as spam, because these people modify each e-mail slightly so spammers can’t keep up with it. So our goal is to tell people they have to be responsible. Awareness is the key to getting rid of this stuff, if you’re aware you’re not going to fall for it.”

Smout notes you should always be suspicious of any request for personal information. The more urgent it sounds, the less likely it is real.

Protecting personal information is one of the sub-themes in the Computer Wellness campaign. The high potential for identifying theft and financial loss in phishing scams makes it one of the major threats on the Internet.

Find the do’s and don’ts of phishing safety at the computer wellness website at http://wellness.uwo.ca.

The second phase of the campaign begins later this month. Smout says the theme is being kept under wraps until the official launch.

Beat the winter blues ...

Room for improvement

Continued from page 1

I would say clearly that Western, in areas like attracting the brightest students and keeping those students, and the ability to keep classrooms small, relatively speaking, has excelled,” says Dowsett Johnston. “It’s all about the ability to consistently perform well and how you treat the undergrad. Given what we look at Western does that quite well.”

Western was a strong performer in areas such as, scholarships and bursaries – percentage of budget (1st), alumni support (2nd) and class size for third and fourth year students (2nd).

Still, Dowsett Johnston says McGill and Toronto are quite a distance ahead in the first two positions and any movement upwards in rankings would take a great effort.

“I think this is unlikely,” she says. “Those two are quite far ahead and so I think to maintain the position (Western’s) in is enough to aspire to at this point.”

Davenport said the university recognizes there are areas that need improvement, such as increasing the number of out-of-province and international students.

“Western put a great effort into recruiting students inside Ontario during the double-cohort years. We now need to get back and do a better job recruiting students from out of province and out of country.”

“We know that this is a very competitive environment and our fellow universities are looking at what we do and finding out ways to do things better than we do,” he says.
**Olympic athlete and builder donates priceless records**

**By Paul Mayne**

When it comes to a “who’s who” for behind-the-scenes knowledge of the modern Olympic movement, look no farther than James Worrall.

And a great deal of that knowledge has now been passed on to the International Centre for Olympic Studies (ICOS) at Western.

Worrall has donated the personal papers and records from his lifetime as a Canadian Olympic athlete and administrator, member of the Canadian Olympic Association (1964-68) and member of the International Olympic Committee (1967-89).

Worrall, 91, was on hand Nov. 4 for the opening of ICOS’s new South Valley Building (Room 317) and dedication of his donation to the centre. Cana-
dian team flag bearer at the historic 1936 Berlin Olympics opening ceremonies, Worrall ran in the 110m and 400m hurdles.

“I’ve lived through a few problems with international Olympic affairs,” said Worrall, for example the ’68 Olympics in Mexico and the ’72 Olympics in Munich. “But I’ve not lost faith in the Olympic Movement. I feel it must continue to exist and improve.”

Worrall has been closely associated with the development of amateur sport in Canada for more than six decades, as an athlete, official and administrator. He was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada in 1976, inducted into Canada’s Sports Hall of Fame in 1987 and was inducted as a builder in the Olympic Hall of Fame in 1991.

He said he has been a “pack-rat” with his Olympic papers, adding it’s going to take “a few truck loads” to get it all to Western.

“I knew that I had to pass it on to an organization that can utilize and study it,” says Worrall, who represented Canada in some capacity at every Summer and Winter Olympic Games from 1936 to 1996. “They will hopefully be able to forecast things (Olympic Movement) with a collection of this sort.”

“We’re extremely grateful to him for his generous offer and his faith in us,” says ICOS founding director Bob Barney, adding it will take a number of years to catalogue every piece of the collection.

For more information about ICOS, please visit: [www.uwo.ca/olympic](http://www.uwo.ca/olympic)
Bill Clinton’s visit to London, the return of the National Hockey League, and the growing number of natural disasters, were among topics found in the headlines recently. Some of Western’s professors offered their expertise on these issues.

Policy chair of the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction at Western, Gordon McBean was quoted in several publications around the world on his recent report for the Council on Natural Disaster Prevention. McBean led a study that established the need for better preparation for dealing with and preventing the consequences of major catastrophes such as Hurricane Katrina. “We can’t actually stop hurricanes or tsunamis or other extremes of nature. But we can avoid a lot of unnecessary human and economic losses,” said McBean, referring to examples such as Winnipeg’s flood ditch which has been successful in averting much potential damage. Some publications in which McBean was featured include the National Post, Maclean’s Magazine and Canadian Press.

After a year of hockey lockout, the NHL is back and drawing the largest audiences to date. Richard Ivey School of Business professor Glen Rowe commented that the salary cap has been put in place to create more uniformity, which should result in greater enthusiasm, and create more revenue. Rowe was interviewed by the A-Channel and local radio stations.

Bill Clinton visited London earlier this month speaking to a sold out audience at the John Labatt Centre. Professor of U.S. history and foreign policy Donald Abelson commented on Clinton’s popularity to CBC’s The National and Canadian Press. He spoke about North Americans’ persistent interest in Clinton despite the portrayal of his personal short-comings. Abelson is a co-director of Western’s Centre for American Studies.

Similarly, history professor and expert of American politics and foreign policy, Andrew Johnston, gave his thoughts on Clinton’s enduring rapport with the public. He said, “There’s no denying Bill Clinton was a major presence in politics. Despite all of the scandals that plagued him, when Clinton left Washington, he had a very high approval rating. People were captivated by his charisma.” Johnston is also co-director of the Centre for American Studies, and conducted interviews with the A-Channel, London Free Press and others.

McBean was featured in various radio stations. The London Free Channel and local radio stations. The Veritas Forum, a three-day campus religion and science forum, wraps up today with some intriguing discussions about the extent to which God is eco-friendly. Steve Bouma-Prediger, religion professor at Hope College in Michigan, tackles: Is God Green: Does God Care About Marmots, Mountains and Meadows?” at noon in UCC Centrespot. He will attend a roundtable seminar at 2:30 p.m. in Rm. 117, North Campus Building and offers a 7 p.m. plenary lecture “The Ecological Crisis and the Defilement of Home” at Huron Room, Huron University College.

Is God Green?

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Pour obtenir de plus amples renseignements, veuillez communiquer avec nous dès aujourd’hui.
Retired staff member with 17 years of service in the department of Telecommunications, Eleanor Deisley, passed away on October 11. She was 71. Eleanor Deisley (nee Hanson) is survived by husband William (Bill) Deisley; six children, Ellen, Terry, Cindy Deisley (Tim), David (Heather) all of London, Bill (Janet) of Ingersoll, and Jim (Denise) of Mount Brydges; nine grandchildren, Penny, Darryl, Christia, Jason, Carson, Timothy, Melissa, Matthew, Tyler and Emily, and one great-grandchild Noah. Her sisters include Mary (Fred) of Oakville, and Beatrice Banks (Jack) of Norwich. A memorial donation may be made to the St. Stephens Memorial Anglican Church Building Fund.

At the age of 71, retired professor from the Department of Psychiatry, Dr. Larry Doyle, died on September 30. He had 15 years of service at Western, until his retirement in July 1999.

Mid-Year Examination Dates, December 2005

December 7: Classes end
December 8: Study Day
December 9 - 21: Mid-year examination period

Mid-Year Examination Timetable, December 2005

The preliminary mid-year examination schedule is now posted on the Registrar’s web site. The Final Schedule will be posted November 17 on the Registrar’s web site. Students booking flights for the holidays are advised to book a flight date of December 22, 2005 or later.

A student who, for religious reasons, is unable to write exams on a Sabbath or Holy Day, must give notice of this fact in writing to his/her Dean as early as possible, but no later than November 15.

Due dates for tuition fees

The second instalment of tuition fees for undergraduate and professional students is due January 9, 2006. Late-term fees for graduate students (except MIRA’s) are due January 4, 2006 and for MIRA’s the due date is January 16, 2006.

Add/Drop Deadlines

November 30: Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course (on campus and evening and Distance Studies) without academic penalty. Please note deadlines that fall on a holiday or weekend will be extended to the next business day.

Western Students Urged to “Go Global”

Each year, more than 100 Western students have the opportunity to study abroad through exchange programs. Now is the time to start preparing to spend next year abroad! The first step to participate in an exchange is to attend an information session about the programs.

Students must attend one of eight information sessions to obtain more information about Western’s exchange programs in order to have many of their questions answered. Sessions last about one hour. In addition, students will be able to meet Western students who were on exchange last year and have some of their questions answered. Students must attend an information session before they can apply for one of the programs.

Sessions will be held throughout October and November at various campus locations. Students should visit the exchange website at www.registrar.uwo.ca/exchange in order to view the dates, times and locations of the sessions.

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Information Services Room 190

Regular Hours Room 190

Monday, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays – 9 am to 4 pm

Wednesdays – 10 am to 6 pm

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Regular hours – 9 am to 4 pm

For more information about these and other items, please visit the Registrar’s website at www.registrar.uwo.ca
COMING EVENTS

November 10
McIntosh Gallery Exhibition - Rafal Goldchain
- Familial, Ground, also Sounding Identity. New Music in New Places - until December 11th

Dept of Microbiology & Immunology - Brian Shuttle, Dept of Biochemistry, Western. The General Secretory System of E. coli. Nature of the SecK/Preprotein Interaction. Dental Sciences, Rm 3008, 11:30 a.m.

Lunch Session, Ivey Biotech MBA Event. Come join an informal lunch session every Thursday for those interested in biotechnology and business. Share knowledge from the science and business communities at Western. Special guest speakers will be arranged on occasion. Ivey Building, 2007, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Department of English presents A Special Presentation. Come and hear Laura Leibowitz speak on the new partnerships Canada and France are building to address new common challenges. Michael's Garden, Somerville House, Rm. 3202, 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Postdoctoral Association at Western (PAW) - All Postdocs at Western and affiliated research institutions are invited to attend the 1st Annual General Meeting “Our first year: How far we’ve come... and looking forward.” Special guest speaker: Dr. Ted Hewitt, Vice-President, Research & International Relations. SSC Rm 2024, 4:30 – 6 p.m. Refreshments provided. More info: pfrego@uwo.ca

Men’s Hockey versus Guelph @ Western – 8 p.m.

November 11
The INFUSION Fashion Show - This innovative and exciting show will incorporate student, local and international designers. Also a dance competition called Rhythm of life. Brought to you by four of Western’s supreme dance teams. Charitable donations going to the London Regional Cancer Program for front-line care of cancer patients and to our University Scholarships. Alumni Hall, 7 p.m. www.infusioncanada.org

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Logan College of Chiropractic
1-800-533-9210
www.logan.edu
loganadm@logan.edu
**COMING EVENTS**

**Remembrance Day Service** - UCC Atrium. 10:30 am

**Remembrance Day Service** - Huron University College. Remembrance Day ceremonies being with the return of the field communion kit of Capt. The Rev Walter Brown, an alumnus of Huron who was the only allied chaplain executed by the enemy during WWII. Contact Father Bill Ciff, Chaplain at 430-7224, ext. 294 or email wc@huron.uwo.ca Chapel at Huron, 8:40 am

**Anatomy & Cell Biology Seminar** - Graeme Hunter, Western. “The Anatomy of Crystals, or How to Win a Nobel Prize at 25”, DSB, Rm. 1002

**Epidemiology & Biostatistics Seminar** - David DeWit, Western. “Modeling predictors of growth in advanced mental health problems and substance use” MSB, Rm 148. 1:30 – 2:30 pm

**Geography Speaker Series** - Chuck Priddle “Measuring Adaptive Capacity in the Context of Revolutionary Change to Institutional Arrangement: Lessons from the Conservation Authorities” PhD Colloquium. SSC Rm. 2322 – 2pm

**Philosophy Colloquium Series** - Alison Simmons, Harvard University. “Intentionality and Consciousness in the Maltese "Mind"” Talbot College, Rm. 340. 4:30 pm

**Visual Arts Dept. artLAB – Diction – Area: The Artist Rafael Goldchain stands with two of 21 digitally altered likenesses of himself that capture images from his ancestry. Familiar Ground runs at McIntosh Gallery until Dec. 11.

**Men’s Squash** – vs Brock, vs McMaster, vs Waterloo @ Western (Goodlife downtown) 11:30 am

**Men’s Volleyball** – versus Toronto @ Western, 4 pm

**Women’s Volleyball** – versus Ryerson @ Western, 4 pm

**Men’s Hockey** – versus Laurier @ Western (ALS) 7 pm

**November 13**

**Women’s Volleyball** – versus Ryerson @ Western, 2 pm

**Men’s Volleyball** – versus Ryerson @ Western, 4 pm

**November 14**

IRAG: The Painful Birth of a New Federation - Professor O’Leary, University of Pennsylvania and constitutional advisor to the Kurdish Regional Government. Social Science Centre Rm. 3022, 4:30 pm

**November 15**


**November 16**

Speaking Skills Practiced Weekly - Campus Communications/Toastmasters meets every Wed, 12 noon, Rm 330, SLB. Visitors welcome. For more information, Chandev Abhayaratne, cabhayar@uwo.ca or 661-2111, ext 85968

**Western Retirement Plan** - Retirement Income Strategies, SSC, Rm. 2024. 12:30 - 1:30 pm

**Department of Modern Languages and Literatures’ Transatlantic Seminar** - Ricardo Stern “LA TERTULIA” (Spanish Conversation): an opportunity to enhance Spanish skills by meeting people from different Spanish-speaking countries, UC 117, 3 - 4 pm

**Senior Alumni Talks** - Nuclear Waste Disposal - Where does it go? David Shoesmith, Dept of Chemistry, Western. McKellar Rm. UCC, 9:30 – 11 am

**Please send submissions to comingevents@uwo.ca**

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