Into Africa with Western Heads East

Traversing red clay roads scarred by rain in rural Kenya, we make our way through a region that will soon be abandoned by the locals in search of dry land. When the rains come, hundreds are driven from their mud homes by swollen rivers. Alongside us, throngs of people walk or cycle, carrying with them their wares, belongings or other individuals – one bicycle transports five people on its thin steel frame.

I am here with a team affiliated with the Western Heads East (WHE) project that includes microbiologist Gregor Reid and his daughter Jennifer, Geography professor Isaac Luginaah and PhD candidate Maryanne Kamau.

In anticipation of the project's expansion in early 2008 to Kasipul, Kenya, our goal is to set up a baseline study related to the benefits of probiotic yogurt, particularly in addressing malnutrition and HIV/AIDS.

Background
Douglas Keddy, Research Communications Coordinator with Research Western, recently returned from a trip to Kenya and Tanzania to gather information about the Western Heads East project. Keddy created a blog while away that can be viewed at www.atwestern.typepad.com/dkeddy.
To learn more, visit: www.westernheadseast.ca

Centre pilots new stroke fitness program

The University of Western Ontario's Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging (CCAA) has kicked off a pilot program that could vastly improve the lives of Canadians recovering from the effects of a stroke.
FaME (Fitness and Mobility Exercise) is a group exercise program for people who have suffered strokes. Unlike hospital-based programs that are rehabilitative in nature, FaME is designed to maintain and improve cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength, balance and flexibility after the stroke sufferer has returned home.
Clara Fitzgerald, CCAA Program Director, says the goal is to use the fitness activity to support stroke survivors, allowing them to remain engaged in their community.
“Our program is designed to reach people who have finished rehab and ensure the functional...
Looking back on 35 years

One of the few university weeklies in Canada, Western News has evolved over the 35 years since the first issue hit the stands on Nov. 16, 1972 as a replacement for two publications – The U.W.O. News and Western Times.

Over the years the paper has earned numerous awards including, in 2006, a Grand Gold Medal from the Council for Advancement for the Support of Education for coverage of Western's decision to award an honorary degree to Dr. Henry Morgentaler.

Judges said the newspaper “should be a model for all internal communications that seek to create credible, believable periodicals for their campus constituents” adding the editors “had respect for their readers and provided content that not only informed but also challenged them.”

Today, Western News reporters publish not only in the Thursday newspaper but also on the Daily News Service on the homepage. Revenue from advertising has grown to cover the costs of design, printing and distributing 10,000 copies a week, 34 times a year.

As Western News marks 35 years of covering campus and post-secondary issues, reporter Paul Mayne sat down with founding editor Alan Johnston to discuss all that history.

Western News: So, Western News turns 35 this year. Tell us a bit about getting the publication off the ground in 1972.

Alan Johnston: It was an exciting time for everyone associated with the independent campus newspaper. The basic mandate was to report in an accurate, objective manner on newsworthy university people and events involving the administration, faculty, staff and students, with special focus on research and teaching, and encourage an exchange of ideas and opinions through letters to the editor and guest commentaries. I don’t think the basic mandate has changed much over the years, nor has the willingness of the senior administration to encourage open communications, with its risks as well as benefits.

WN: The operating of Western News today is supplemented through advertising but you were pretty much on your own. What was it like putting these papers together week after week?

AJ: It wasn’t easy, but it was always interesting and exiting. In the early years, we were doing something like 45 papers a year at peak, and not all that many of them were four pages. Free classified ads helped attract readers but added pages. We set our annual measurable editorial goals and objectives, and thanks to talented and energetic staff, met them while staying on budget.

One of the highlights of my years as editor was a day back in the 1980s when a young business student by the name of Chris Amyot walked into the office and asked about selling advertising. Not long after that, editors from coast to coast were calling to find out how they also could put together successful advertising programs that funded publication production. Chris is actually still selling for Western News.

WN: How was Western News accepted in the early years?

AJ: The paper was well accepted for the most part. While it included more faculty and staff-related material, we did not ignore students. There were critics, of course, but what publication doesn’t have them? It’s impossible to cover all the bases in any one issue, but we worked away to present a weekly journalistic look at people and developments on a growing Canadian university campus.

What’s more, it was done without any vetting of stories by senior administration.

WN: The climate of post-secondary education changes. How did Western News adapt in the 70s, 80s and into the 90s?

AJ: Western News added staff and turned up the heat in terms of news coverage, photography, features on teaching and research, and greater involvement of journalism students in focusing on post-secondary issues from a Western perspective. Those were tremendously exciting decades of growth at Western and I think Western News helped document and explain the various steps in that growth.

The hardest thing was never the workload or weekly deadlines. It was what seemed like endless years of budget cuts when it took much creative fiscal planning and many advertising dollars to fulfill the newspaper’s mandate and do it with a minimum of staff cuts.

WN: You spent 28 years as editor. Has the paper changed much since 1972?

AJ: Western News has changed dramatically since its birth in 1972, and continues to evolve as a highly-respected and award-winning publication. Committed leadership and staff are showing the dynamic Western environment in increasingly effective ways – and with colour every week. In 1998, I was pleased to serve as Co-Editor of the first Daily News Service offered via the Internet on Western’s home page. Its development and introduction of Western News Online were part of an ever-improving way in which Western, each day, put its best face forward. Technology clearly continues to have a major impact on external as well and internal communications.

WN: What were the hottest stories you dealt with?

AJ: Given the eye-gaped readership at Western, I tended to regard just about every story as “hot” – potentially at least – because one misstep could send a whole lot of heat my way. It happened on occasions.

But, to be specific, the hottest story by far was the controversy generated by Psychology professor Philippe Rushton’s research paper on “Evolutionary Biology and Heritable Traits” presented on Jan. 19, 1989 at a conference in San Francisco. The word storm lasted weeks and consumed many pages of Western News including stories, letters to the editor and dialogue columns by Western News’ professors and even Rushton. There were interviews and special meetings. At one point, typed manuscripts were being delivered to my door on weekends. When the dust settled, Western News received a Canadian Council for the Advancement of Excellence for Issues Writing. Then there was the “hot” issue – literally - the day a fire broke out at Webo Publications in Hyde Park, where Western News pages were prepared for the presses. It happened on a Wednesday, of course - deadline day – but with the help of friends and equipment at The Gazette, Unigraphics, and Webo, who trucked the paper to a Woodstock printer and later connected with my delivery contractor, the paper was available at the usual distribution points on Thursday morning.

WN: Are there other things that stand out when you think about Western News?

AJ: There are many, including the constructive influence of five presidents and numerous other senior administrators, in particular the late President D.C. Williams and his team, who approved the creation of Western News.

Western News Founding Editor Alan Johnston continues to keep a close eye on the progress of the newspaper he helped form back in 1972.
Students protest Blood Services policy

By Paul Mayne

Donating blood as a sexually active gay man is impossible. This policy of Canadian Blood Services has ignited a debate on campus between those who view the policy as discriminatory and those who say the measure is important for protecting the Canadian blood supply.

The issue was made public Tuesday as members of Standing Against Queer Discrimination (SAQD), operated through Pride Western, held a ‘die-in’ to protest what they say is institutionalized discrimination.

As students lay in front of the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) office in the University Community Centre, complete with fake tombstones, they asked for support from students and administration to ban CBS from campus until it addresses its policy.

CBS does not accept any donation from a man who has had sex with another man since 1977. SAQD representatives say the policy should address risky sexual behaviours instead of targeting a specific group.

“I walk by this place every day and I’m reminded of how I’m hated because of who I sleep with,” says protestor Craig Ashbourne. “I walk by this place and I’m reminded about being jumped, kicked in the head and being called a fag. There’s a sign up about how much they need blood and I have to know that I’m not welcome to give any.”

Representatives from CBS were on campus last week to listen to students and explain the policy. CBS says the current policy will remain in place until further research indicates changes can be safely made.

Susana Grindrod, AVP for Housing & Ancillary Services, speaking on behalf of Western’s administration, said the university has no plans at the moment to ask CBS to leave campus or to challenge its policy.

“When you think about the blood, it is very life saving,” says Grindrod. “I think our health services and our university feels that having the blood services here, and have students, faculty and staff be able to give blood, is a service to all people that’s an important one.”

Cases of HIV/AIDS have traditionally been higher in the gay community although SAQD representatives said recent statistics have shown an almost even split between gay men and heterosexuals. According to SAQD, in some areas, such as London, a majority of new infections is a result of homosexual contact.

“This policy was drafted at a time when tests for HIV were unreliable and the epidemic was primarily confined to gay males,” says SAQD Coordinator Joshua Ferguson.

Huge research growth, Western ranks tenth

By Bob Klana

The level of sponsored research at The University of Western Ontario has grown 25.6 per cent according to a recent ranking of Canada’s Top 50 Research Universities by Research Infosource.

The 2006 increase to $225.9 million, termed “substantial” by Research Infosource, is about $46 million higher than the previous year’s $179.9 million.

Western’s overall percentage increase in research spending was substantially greater than the average for Canadian universities, and exceeded every other university in the Top 10.

Western’s overall ranking remains at number 10 for the third straight year. (For other articles about university rankings, see Page 10).

“The message is that we’re in the top 10 and working hard to stay there,” says Vice-President (Research and International Relations) Ted Hewitt.

“We clearly are a top research university,” he says. “We’ve had a number of research successes and our ability to secure research resources accounts for the 25-per-cent increase over last year.”

Hewitt notes the criteria for rankings such as that by Research Infosource vary and that a recent ranking by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) ranked Western as fifth in research competition in the country.

“We are going to release our annual Research Western Report at Senate on Friday,” he says.

“There will be more detail and current numbers. “It will help communicate how we’re doing and put some of these rankings in better context.”

According to Research Infosource, Canada’s Top 50 research universities reported $5.53 billion in sponsored research income, a 6.4-per-cent increase over 2006, doubling last year’s growth of 3.2 per cent.

Sponsored research income includes both government and non-government sources. A majority of sponsored research income at Canadian universities continues to come from government sources, accounting for 69 per cent in 2006. Corporate sources made up 13 per cent, while non-corporate sources (individuals, foundations, etc.) contributed 14 per cent of the total. Investments, endowments and other income made up the remainder.

Students what they think our reputation is.

“They’re saying that they’re feeling in the survey is one of the most important things for students to know about. Because they’re here, they’re in the moment.”

Current Western students are an integral part of Fall Preview Day, Grindrod says, noting campus tours on the day are conducted by students while other students will be on hand to talk to prospective students about what’s important to them at Western.

As in past years, the day will include mini-lectures, demonstrations, student panels and tours of the facilities. What’s special, Grindrod says, is the friendliness of the faculty, staff and students who interact with the prospective Western candidates.

“It’s second to none,” she says. “We keep hearing it year after year in our surveys from the students and their parents.

“They rave about how warm and friendly the campus is. We’re glad but not really surprised because that’s just the way it is around here.”

Western’s Fall Preview Day is the last such university open house in the province this autumn, Grindrod says, adding that Ontario university applicants have until January 9 to submit applications.

“So hopefully the students coming here this weekend will have a good experience and have left the best for last.”
Got a question?  
Ask Western

By Bob Klanac

It's the little idea that just keeps getting bigger.

Ask Western, the internet tool to help users learn about all of Western's services, has been so successful since its launch early this year and keeps growing in use.

"It's grown in the eight months since it started," says Judy Stewart, Team Leader of the ITS Customer Support Centre. "It's turned out well."

The first Ask Western was the brainchild of Gitta Kulzycki, Vice-President (Resources and Operations). Kulzycki wanted to choose a simple way for people to easily access information on the various departments under her purview.

The ITS team was given the job of developing the Ask Western internet function and it was launched in February, 2007 with searches targeted for undergraduate students, graduate studies and faculty and staff. The web tool quickly caught on and several other Ask search tools were developed for individual departments.

Those include Ask ITS, Ask Western Libraries and an Ask On The Move specifically to do with the pending move of a number of Western operations to the new Services Building, due for completion September, 2008.

"People from the departments moving into the building can get information on how the move will proceed and even the public at large can ask questions about who's moving into the building," says Stewart.

There are also plans for an Ask Western tool specifically for Western Alumni, scheduled for launch in January, 2008.

"We've been using the most often the button is used, the better the response for the user. Questions not answered are reviewed and answers found."

"Often when people are having problems getting the right response, it's because they haven't used a complete sentence," she says.

The ask-and-learn improvements strategy has resulted in some unusual questions says Stewart.

"We've had a question about the lead levels in our water, one asking if we teach law, when was the university incorporated, what time does autumn vacation start on October 18, and one asking if a student of the aviation program can take geography instead of business."

Nothing succeeds like success and Ask Western is proof of that maxim. Staff from university departments, having seen the web tool in use on the campus website are calling Stewart to explore pulling the Ask button onto their websites.

"Some departments have had some initial discussions," says Stewart. "As they see it working, other, smaller departments are looking to use it."

The Ask Western button is located on the Western Homepage at www.uwo.ca.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANTI-MILITARY CAMPAIGNERS DISCOURAGE ACADEMIC FREEDOM

President Paul Davenport deserves praise for defending academic freedom, including the freedom of researchers to work on projects related to the military (as reported in Western News, Nov. 1).

If the President's view represents university policy, however, it is difficult to see any purpose in efforts by the Vice-President (Research and International Relations) to raise "awareness" of this issue in other universities. Such a concession to the anti-military campaigners makes sense only if it is aimed at laying foundations for some sort of collective action to restrict the research in question -- a truly alarming prospect.

I see from the report in Western News that the group opposing research of military value has been attacking in particular a project that "involves testing lightweight composite materials to offer greater protection from land mines and rocket-propelled grenades."

Does the group want Canadian and allied soldiers to have less protection than science can provide, and therefore to suffer unnecessarily a higher rate of deaths and injuries? Apparently so, and the only conceivable reason for pursuing an objective so obviously evil is to bring about the abandonment of vulnerable countries to repressive forces like the Taliban, al Qaeda and similar religious fanatics.

Universities have an especially large stake in the defence of intellectual liberty -- a cause to which the current enemies of Canada and her NATO allies are fundamentally hostile. Research that may contribute to frustrating the ambitions of these murderous would-be oppressors is defensible not only on grounds of academic freedom but also as an important part of a university's service both to its own ideals and to society -- a society that our armed forces also serve.

Kenneth H.W. Hilborn  
Professor Emeritus of History

The graduating class in Medicine organized the first official planting of a Plane tree on campus in 1973. The tree was purported to have been grown from seeds taken from a tree on the island of Cos under which Hippocrates lectured to students and several trees were eventually planted along the roadway in front of the Medical School Building. When the trees were officially catalogued as part of the Sherwood Fox Arboretum it was determined they were a hybrid form, known as a London Plane Tree, commonly used for urban planting in North America and Europe.

Hippocrates’ tree, on the other hand, was an Oriental Plane Tree, native to areas around the Mediterranean.

Contributed by Alan Noon (anoon@uwo.ca)  
Photo by Alan Noon

THE WAY WE WERE: 1973
**‘Engaged in life to their fullest potential’**

Continued from Page 1

gains a stroke survivor has achieved during rehab continue to be maintained to support them with their overall highest level of functional mobility,” she says.

“The program includes task-specific activities and exercises that promote fitness and mobility and help prevent further strokes, heart attacks or falls that can cause significant functional declines.”

FaME was developed by Vancouver researcher Janice Eng with Andrew Dawson, Daniel Marigold and Marco Pang. It has already been tested in three trials with people with chronic stroke. Participants have shown improvements in balance function, balance confidence, walking speed, leg muscle strength and quality of life.

The goal of the 12-week pilot program is to create a process where stroke survivors can be streamlined into a community model exercise program and to ensure that this can be implemented in various communities throughout Ontario. CCAA hopes to introduce the program in communities across Canada.

“Registration for our first pilot program filled up very quickly,” says Fitzgerald. “As word spreads among physicians, physiotherapists and other health care providers, we anticipate the demand will grow.

“Our goal is to ensure that stroke survivors have community programs in place that will help them to maintain or improve with their functioning so that they can remain engaged in life to their fullest potential.”

Learn more about the Canadian Centre on Activity and Aging at: www.uwo.ca/actaged/links.htm.

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**What would you tell someone considering Western?**

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**Justin Smith**

**Sec Sci I**

The people are great. I live over in Elgin (residence) so it’s a really nice atmosphere, nice and private but still very social if you want. The work’s been a little more stressful than high school. You’re going to have to be more well-rounded university because it provides you with a whole bunch of different opportunities rather than just academic activities like lots of involvement in school, club opportunities, travel opportunities, lots of extra curricular activities to get involved with that gives you a more well-rounded university experience.

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**Nathan Allen**

**MIT III**

The first thing I noticed was the campus here has a lot of trees. It’s a very beautiful campus environmentally. You go to other campuses and it feels very urban. There is the urban setting being in London which is a big city but you’re kind of away from it. Still, it feels like a small city in a way. School-wise it’s more difficult than high school. You’re going to have to be prepared to work. Stress-wise, there’s always ways to escape, be it that there’s functions on campus all the time at the Spoke, at the Wave, and there’s all sorts of all-ages activities groups, intramurals. There’s always lots of jobs on campus that you can get that are willing to work around your schoolwork I’ve had a great time here.

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**Christine Last**

**Chemistry IV**

I would tell them that Western is a great school because it provides you with a whole bunch of different opportunities rather than just academic activities like lots of involvement in school, club opportunities, travel opportunities, lots of extra curricular activities to get involved with that gives you a more well-rounded university experience.

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**Uma Chandran**

**MIT IV**

It’s a great school. The people are great. It’s a great place to learn. I really like the programs here. There’s a lot extra-curricular stuff that you can do. It’s a safe campus mostly. There’s a good campus atmosphere. I think one of the biggest things is the programs. Western has a reputation of being a party school but at the same time it has a really good academic reputation which I think people who are interested in should know about. Sometimes they might not know about that and I think its important especially if parents are wondering too.

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**Ayana McDowell**

**Kinesiology II**

It’s probably a big step but it’s not as scary as they probably think it’s right now. I know I got in Sauganash (residence) last year and I was not thrilled when I got the notice in the mail but it turned out to be one of the best residences and I loved it. I love my program. I like Western.
At 92, William Judd not quite ready to retire

By Paul Mayne

Sure William Judd retired 26 years ago. Sure he has his name on more than 600 publications. Sure he is recognized as one of the most knowledgeable zoologists.

So why, at 92 years of age, is The University of Western Ontario professor emeritus still seen regularly strolling the hallways of the Biology and Geology Building? Wouldn’t he be more comfortable quietly enjoying his retirement years?

“The hell with it,” quips Judd from his small third-floor desk. “This keeps me out of mischief.”

It was 70 years ago when Judd first set foot on Western’s then modest campus. Judd remembers just three buildings making up the entire university, with “the rest all just moose pasture.”

He earned his MA in Applied Biology before heading off to the University of Toronto to work on his PhD. But prior to finishing at Toronto his schooling was interrupted by the Second World War. Judd spend three years serving in the Royal Canadian Air Force with the Meteorological Service in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

“Our main duty was to forecast the weather for the bombers as they headed out,” says Judd. “We’d determine everything from wind speed to if any storms were on the horizon and, if so, where they could find a break in the clouds to land safely and wait it out.”

When the war ended, Judd returned to Toronto to complete his PhD before landing his first teaching post at McMaster University, where he spent four years.

It was 1950 when Judd returned to the Western campus. And for the next 31 years, until his retirement in 1981, it was home.

“There was no doubt that this was the right choice for me,” says Judd. “I was allowed to do a great deal of research.”

While officially retired, Judd likes to keep active mentally by continuing to publish, in particular about his ongoing efforts in conservation projects around the London area, such as the Sifton Bog, Westminster Ponds and Warbler Woods. His personal interests have been in preservation of the environment, natural history studies, and publication on natural history.

Along with having his book Naturalist’s Guide to Ontario on the University of Toronto Press’ 100 most influential books list, Judd has been recognized with numerous honours including the certificate of appreciation from the City of London, Heritage Recognition from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, and a certificate of appreciation from the Entomological Society of Ontario.

Judd was honoured in 2004 when he was named to the Mayor’s Honor List by London Mayor Anne Marie DeCicco-Best.

As far as calling it quits, there are no immediate plans. Judd may have slowed physically with age, but his love of learning, writing and sharing his knowledge is as strong as it’s ever been.
UW campaign offers personal growth

By Paul Mayne

For Catherine McInerney, being a United Way-sponsored employee has been a wake-up call. While she has donated each year to the campaign, she admits she had only a very vague idea of who United Way was and what it did.

But on a daily basis during the campaign, McInerney has been struck by many events, big and small, with the cumulative effect leaving a lasting impression.

“One thing that has amazed me is the willingness of all of the people that I have encountered, from agency directors to clients, to admit there are serious problems all over London, and that help is needed to resolve them,” says McInerney, Library Assistant at the Allyn and Betty Taylor Library.

She sees her experience as a great opportunity for personal growth while giving something back to the community. “I come from a background where that kind of honesty is avoided and from a position of advantage where I am not faced with unpleasant situations every day.”

The county-wide campaign has now raised $3.8 million, or 52 per cent of its $7.2 million goal, while Western’s campaign sits at $312,575 or 63 per cent of its $500,000 goal.

As Western’s campaign hits the home stretch, McInerney along with fellow sponsored employee Charlotte Sikatori, say they have no regrets about their role in not only the campus-wide campaign, but also with fundraising across the London area.

As SWomen Rural Regional Program Director at the Schu- lich School of Medicine & Den- tistry, Sikatori says involvement with the campaign was an easy decision following her time as an employee campaign coordinator. “The opportunity to do something so different from my regular job, knowing I would contribute to changing lives was a no-brainer,” she says. “I knew the job would also include the opportunity to get to know the City of London from a completely different perspective than the one I usually see when I commute to and from work.”

Sikatori says through her visits to funded agencies, in particu- lar the Women’s Rural Resource Centre in Strathroy, she felt the stress and pain women and children experience because of abuse.

“We saw a room where children express themselves through art,” says Sikatori, recalling the diagram of a house showing, with dots, places where the child had experienced violence and where they could feel safe.

“The safe place was marked as under the child’s bed. It was upsetting to know that a child was not safe in its home unless hiding under the bed,” she adds. “Being a witness to this child’s situation will stay with me for a lifetime.”

While some of the experiences have been extremely diffi- cult to deal with as a sponsored employee, both say they wouldn’t trade-in the experience and rec- ommend the opportunity highly.

“If you are at the point in your career at Western where you need to stretch and grow, this is the ideal opportunity for you,” says McInerney.

“It is hard work for an intense three months, but you will meet many memorable people and learn so much about the community in which you live and work that you will be inspired forever.”

Learn more about Western’s campaign at: http://unitedway. uwo.ca.

ArtLab highlights staff, faculty work

Showcasing the recent work of 27 faculty and staff, the Depart- ment of Visual Arts presents [sic], a juxtaposition of two- and three-dimensional works of art in various media set alongside a selection of quotes and misquotes.

Running Nov. 15 – Dec. 7 at the ArtLab, this bi-annual exhibi- tion experiments with visual art practices and texts to explore the transmission of information and also to question notions of author- ity, authorship, and source.

The term [“sic”] denotes the ve- bration transcription of a pas- sage, indicating that any error or unconventionality has been retained from its original form.

The ArtLab is open Monday to Friday from 12 - 6 p.m. (Thursdays until 8 p.m.). For more information, visit www.uwo.ca/visarts.

Dozens affected by salmonella outbreak

The University of Western Ontario and the Middlesex Lon- don Health Unit are working in tandem to provide support for students, faculty and staff affected by a recent salmonella outbreak linked to a campus food outlet.

Assistance is being provided through health services and, in the case of students, academic counseling units to aid those affected by the apparent food contamination.

Susan Grindrod, Western’s Associate Vice President, Hous- ing & Ancillary Services, says the salmonella outbreak at the Pita Pit located at the University Community Centre (UCC) is regrettable and the university is looking to support the affected students and staff.

“We are well aware that November is a very busy time for our students and it is with great regret that a number of them must now also contend with the added pressures of a health issue,” said Grindrod.

“We are working closely with the health unit, as well as with our own health services and counsel- ing departments to ensure our staff and students are getting any and all assistance they require at this very difficult time.”

The UCC Pita Pit was closed during the initial investigation by the Middlesex-London Health Unit on Thursday, Nov. 8 and re- opened hours later after passing an inspection governed by Ontar- io’s Food Premises Regulation.

The health unit says that there have been 20 lab-confirmed cases of salmonella directly linked to the UCC Pita Pit, with another 29 epidemiologically linked, in that individuals reported salmonella symptoms in connection with a recent visit to the campus food outlet.

Salmonella is a bacterial infec- tion characterized by the sudden onset of headache, fever, abdomi- nal pain, diarrhea which can be bloody, nausea and sometimes vomiting. Diarrhea begins six to 72 hours after the consumption of contaminated food or beverage. The infection can also be trans- mitted from person-to-person. Symptoms usually last four to seven days.

The health unit is continuing its investigation to determine the source of the contamination.

If you have health concerns, please contact Student Health Services, University Community Centre, Room UC111, 519-661- 3030, ext. 83030. For academic queries, students are asked to contact their faculty or depart- mental Academic Counselor.
A journey into hope

Continued from Page 1

It quickly becomes evident, however, that WHE — which started in Mwanza, Tanzania three years ago as a Western staff and faculty response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa — has grown into a project that has affected many of Western's interns who have been selected to guide the program.

As our week winds through the Kanizani community of Oyugis, Kasipul and Kabondo, and into and around Mwanza over a two-week period in October, we work with internan students and volunteer medical professionals and residents.

This is a region where life expectancy is only 45 and the HIV/AIDS infection rate has fluctuated between 17-25 percent in recent years. It's an area where potable water is seven times more expensive to purchase than Coca-Cola.

WHE may have started as a project but it has quickly become personal, deeply affecting many of the Western interns who have been hired to guide the program.

Electric service is sporadic — even in hospitals, which don't have back-up generators — and many rural villages are entirely by candlelight. Yet, even with staggering levels of poverty, disease and malnutrition, the majority of people seem an overwhelmingly happy and caring people. It is impossible for it not to get personal.

In these off-grid WHE student interns volunteer at the Forever Angels Orphanage; and the students are preparing to expand the Western HaADS East (WHE) project.

One boy has been beaten so badly and left at the gate that he needed to be resuscitated at the hospital, others have had their growth stunted by severe malnutrition. Their disease joy at seeing us underneath just how much their needs are like any other child's: they long for love and attention. They long for something to look forward to, a project but it has quickly grown into a project that has affected many of Western's interns who have been selected to guide the program.

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Is ‘Fiti’ the path to new health?

By Douglas Keddy

S

o far in its efforts to introduce probiotics to Tanzania, the project’s focus has been that of a women’s group. Now for the first time, we are targeting the male population.

To be taken in conjunction with retroviral medications, 400 units of probiotic yogurt will be prepared daily for a rapidly changing world. The goal, he says, is to re-establish normal bacterial flora in the gut and the immune function, which has been disrupted due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa.

The project started in 2006 as an innovative community-based model that supports the health systems in Africa. The project was started in Tanzania with the help of the Ministry of Health, the Women’s Development Research Institute and the Western HaADS East project.

But, so far, the project has been very successful in Tanzania and other African countries. In 2006, the project won the Scotiabank-AUCC Award for best community health initiative.

In recent years, the program has expanded to Kasipul, Kenya in 2008. The kitchen will be led by former WHE intern Dallas Currow, who is currently completing her MBA, which will help as the ‘mamas’ strive for sustainability.

Additionally, a woman without enough energy – especially in children – poses a major threat to their health. There are 115,000 children in Tanzania who are HIV-positive; 400,000 children are living with HIV/AIDS.

The background

The project started in 2006 as an innovative community-based model that supports the health systems in Africa. The project was started in Tanzania with the help of the Ministry of Health, the Women’s Development Research Institute and the Western HaADS East project.

In recent years, the program has expanded to Kasipul, Kenya in 2008. The kitchen will be led by former WHE intern Dallas Currow, who is currently completing her MBA, which will help as the ‘mamas’ strive for sustainability.

In 2006, the project won the Scotiabank-AUCC Award for best community health initiative.

In Tanzania, we have seen increased energy — especially in children — post-introduction of probiotics. A similar program in Kenya has shown that children who receive probiotics have less energy-draining diarrhea,” says Reid.

The banks have begun affixing the ‘probiotic’ label to these products, something Reid says is often misleading. “A real probiotic must have been tested on humans and shown to have a specific benefit — many companies put out products they call ‘probiotic’ that aren’t because they haven’t been tested.”

As many companies have yet to turn their attentions to probiotic milk products, the project is very much needed.

In North America and Europe, many companies have begun affixing the ‘probiotic’ label to these products, some-
Western slips in revamped Maclean’s magazine rankings

By Paul Mayne

The university placed seventh among the 15 universities in the medical/doctoral category of the annual Maclean’s University Rankings.

Down from fifth place a year ago, Western was among six schools, along with Toronto, Laval and Montréal, to drop in the rankings.

This year, Maclean’s revised how it handles the survey with rankings now based entirely on publicly available data, including the National Survey on Student Engagement, the Canadian Undergraduate Survey Consortium, and Maclean’s own student survey.

Student and faculty numbers, along with data for operating budgets, spending on student services and others were obtained from Statistics Canada.

“The Maclean’s survey draws its data from a wide variety of sources, and with varying university input, making it more difficult to interpret,” says Fred Longstaffe, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), noting the Globe and Mail report card drew its conclusions from a survey of 43,000 students.

Despite this overall ranking, Western had success in several aspects of the rankings, finishing first in the sub-category of scholarships and bursaries and second when asking students if they could start again, would they go to the same university.

They also showed strength in categories such as library acquisitions (4th), student services (4th), student retention (3rd) and educational experience (2nd). In a listing of all 47 universities ranked by Maclean’s, Western finished 10th for best overall and 8th for highest quality.

“Western students have the benefits of the breadth and depth of academic expertise and opportunities only possible at a large research-intensive university, combined with a very full attention to their individual academic needs and aspirations within and beyond the classroom, that elsewhere are typically only addressed to this level in much smaller institutions,” says Longstaffe.

The University of Western Ontario has entered the top 200 among universities worldwide in a major UK university ranking guide.

Western was part of an overall strong performance by universities in Canada, which placed 11 schools among the top 200 compared to seven in 2006. Every Canadian school except University of Toronto showed a sharp increase in its ranking.

McGill University placed 12th (top placement for a non US/UK school), followed by British Columbia, 33rd; Toronto, 45th; Queen’s, 88th; Montreal, 93rd; Alberta, 97th; McMaster, 108th; Waterloo, 112th; Western 126th; Simon Fraser, 139th; and Calgary, 166th.

Western’s position increased from 215th in 2006. In its fourth year, the Times Higher Education Supplement-QS features Harvard at the top of the heap followed by Cambridge, Oxford and Yale. Survey designers said “the increasing internationalization of universities is one of the emerging themes of recent years, through strategic global partnerships, joint teaching and research initiatives and increased international student recruitment activities.

In this year’s ranking 143 of the top 200 universities reported an increase in their percentage of international faculty to total faculty, and 117 of the top 200 universities reported an increase in their percentage of international students to total students.

The study was conducted by QS Quacquarelli Symonds, and the rankings were compiled by and published in Times Higher Education Supplement, an independent annual education survey.

Best schools look past national borders

William Robertson

Retired Physical Plant employee William Robertson, 76, died Thursday, Nov. 8. Robertson retired in 1996 with 29 years of service. The London resident is survived by spouse Georgina Robertson. No funeral service was held.

Gertrude Trewartha

Gertrude Trewartha, 85, a former staff member who worked in the University Community Centre, died Thursday, Nov. 8. Trewartha retired in 1984 with 18 years of service. A funeral service took place Nov. 12 at A. Millard George Funeral Home in London. She is survived by spouse Kenneth C. Trewartha.
Environmental research captures federal interest

Citing “world-leading” research, Federal Environment Minister John Baird said the Canadian government should look to further its relationship with The University of Western Ontario in the months and years ahead.

Baird, accompanied by Elgin-Middlesex-London MP Joe Preston, toured the Biotron, the Western Fluidization Group lab and the Agri-therm Mobile Unit on November 8.

“There are a lot of really exciting initiatives on biofuels, climate change, adaptation, mitigation happening at Western,” said Baird.

“It’s really world-leading and it was exciting to learn more about it. We hope that we can do more partnerships with Western in the future.”

“It was great to have Minister Baird here in London for the visit to witness first hand the achievements this region has accomplished in environmental technology,” said Preston.

The Biotron, a collaborative effort with the University of Guelph and Agriculture Canada, is considered years ahead of its time by many in the international scientific community.

The $28.6-million facility is a multi-staged, interdisciplinary facility dedicated to research into the impact of climate change and extreme environments on plants and micro-organisms.

Based in Dorchester, Agri-therm Limited, in conjunction with the Western Engineering’s Fluidization Group, is dedicated to developing, manufacturing and marketing portable and stationary equipment for the production of bio-oils and products from biomass, specifically agricultural residues, wastes and transition crops.

The project has received funding from both Agriculture Canada and Agri-Food Canada.

Baird later addressed the Elgin-Middlesex-London Conservative Riding Association in St. Thomas at its Annual Fall Dinner.
BY PAUL MAYNE

The National Transportation Safety Board reports that 97 percent of general aviation accidents are caused by pilot error. In an attempt to bring these numbers down, general aviation pilots can now learn crucial safety skills online thanks to Western Commercial Aviation Management professor Suzanne Kearns, who has developed the Online Single-Pilot Resource Management (OSRM) training program.

“The OSRM training seeks to reduce the alarming number of pilot-error caused accidents in the aviation industry,” says Kearns, adding it “does not teach pilots how to fly a plane; it teaches important safety skills and strategies to maximize flying performance.”

The roughly 75-minute interactive and entertaining module, being used by Western students, teaches three key safety components. The first is an introduction to aviation safety statistics, followed by workload management and situation awareness.

“It’s a straightforward situation training program for pilots,” says Kearns, the only full-time professor in the Commercial Aviation Management program. “In each module, students will be guided by animated ‘coach’ characters and will learn from real world scenarios.”

While available for military and commercial pilots, Kearns felt a large proportion of pilots were missing the opportunity to learn this valuable training, which is on a cognitive apprenticeship model focused on the skills of mental workload and situation awareness, the cause of almost all aviation mishaps.

With the help of the Redwood E-Learning Company, which assisted Kearns in bringing the course online, the program has shown promise in a recent participation study at Toronto’s Seneca College. Those who took the OSRM training demonstrated significantly higher performance in the flight simulator than those in the control group who did not complete the training.

“The results of this investigation suggest that guided mental practice is a promising e-learning instructional strategy,” says Kearns, whose program is also her PhD dissertation.

The program will be made available to individual aviation enthusiasts and flight schools in the near future.
Harvesting energy from the wind

Ontarians are waking up to the potential of wind energy.

By Karen Otto

When it comes to energy, the winds of change are blowing and a Western researcher is doing his best to ensure Ontarians are energized by receiving as much of that wind as possible.

Horia Hangan, research director of the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel Laboratory, is researching wind turbines and wind farms to determine the optimal places for wind turbines, their noise impact, as well as examining turbine structural issues. These are all important aspects, he says, as wind energy is gaining in popularity.

“It’s spreading around,” he says while adding wind tunnel personnel already have experience and expertise with the siting of wind turbines. “We are a lab with a tradition of wind engineering.”

Traditionally when someone wants to build a wind farm on their property, they use an Environment Canada wind atlas and software to determine where best to put the turbines. While both of those tools work well for relatively flat topography they have limitations when it comes to plotting mountainous areas but Hangan has found a solution for that.

“You have to characterize the entire area, to map it,” he says. “We’re using the new method with laser as opposed to the old method. We’re the only ones I know of that do that.”

Hangan explains the new laser measurement techniques combined with wind tunnel topographic models takes horizontal slices at every height which gives the proper resolution and proper coverage to decide where to place the turbines over a larger area. And he isn’t just satisfied about discovering where best to situate a wind farm, but what happens after one is built. He has two proposals in the works with the first one titled Environmental Impacts of Wind Turbines.

The title is rather self-explanatory. “We’re trying to assess what is the noise impact of large and small turbines,” he says.

For the past few months his proposal for a $150,000 grant has been before the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council which, if approved, will fund graduate students to take measurements of the noise in the simulated environment of the wind tunnel and outside with real turbines. After the noise levels are registered and recorded they will be tested on both human and avian subjects at Western’s Centre of Audiology and Department of Biology.

The final stage, Hangan says, would be to write an assessment of the impact of the noise on people then to enact policies for wind farms such as how far away people should be from turbines.

But the associate professor isn’t finished there as he’s also pursuing what he terms “a large company” – anonymous, for now – in regards to opening a wind farm in Ontario where Western researchers can look at structural problems.

“Looking at what is the life span of the wind farm because this will affect insurance policies and basically the viability of the farms,” he explains.

Turbines are supposed to last 22 to 25 years but some only last five years, he says, and it’s imperative to examine wind impact on the tower, the blades and the foundations. Hangan says they hope to work with an Atlantic wind farm to determine structural responses to vastly different weather conditions of the east coast and inland Ontario.

The proposal for that project is underway and, ideally, it will be finished by the end of this year to submit for funding.

Working with the Boundary Layer Wind Tunnel makes Hangan aware of all the possibilities wind presents and he’s glad the everyday citizen is waking up to wind potential as well.

“I think it’s clear there’s two aspects of it – everybody realizes the gas resources are disappearing,” he says “and they’re also figuring out winds aren’t depleting in any way.”

The writer is a Western journalism graduate and London freelance writer.
November 15

Mcintosh Gallery • Child’s Play: Barb Hunt: anticorpses! / Jamie Owen: Target Market. Two artists’ commentary on the easy appropriation of war and weaponry into contemporary experience. Opening, 7:30 p.m. runs until December 9th. Call 519-661-3811 • email: cellidos@uwo.ca

USC Festival of the Arts • All day long: Music, Art Gallery, Dance performances, live art, jewellery sale (UCC Alumni) Film Festival (Sexploit 2 p.m). Adult Inflammation Clinic • Free adult immunization clinics in the UCH Health Services Resource Centre on the following days: Thursday, Nov. 15 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Friday Nov. 23 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 29 9 a.m.-3:45 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 1 9 a.m.-12:45 p.m. No appointment needed. A health card is required to obtain a flu shot. Children may not receive flu shots at this clinic.

Robarts Seminar Series • Christopher H.S. McIntosh, Cellufr & Physiological Sciences, The University of British Columbia. “Targeting the Incretin Hormones for Diabetes Therapies” Robarts Research Institute, 2nd Floor conference room. 4 p.m.

Bruce McCaffrey Memorial Graduate Seminar Series • Shauna Devine. “To Make something out of the dying of this war”. Scientific Medicine during the American Civil War, 1861–1865” SSC out of the dying of this war’: Scientific Medicine Series. 4 p.m.

The University of British Columbia. “Targeting the Incretin Hormones for Diabetes Therapies” Dr. Gildo Santos, Cellular & Physiological Sciences, has a dental practice offered on-campus!

Visit: uwo.ca/visarts

It’s flu clinic time again – today, Nov. 15. In this 2005 photograph, nurse Kristine Brown gives faculty member Robert Bailey his first ever shot. The next clinic will be Nov. 23. Bring your health card.

Artists 100, 12:30 – 3:10 p.m.

Earth Sciences Colloquia • Peter Stewart, Valley Geological Sciences. “Australian Resources Frula del Norte Epithermal Au-Au Deposit, SE Ecuador” & B & G, Rm. 116, 1:30 p.m.

Fall Epidemiology and Biostatistics Research Seminar Series • Suzanne Tuex. “Risk factors for dementia: Findings from the Nun Study” Medical Sciences Building, Rim 14B, 1:30 p.m. www.medsci.uwo.ca/seminar.php

Don Wright Faculty of Music • Fibonacci Trio from Montreal, Julie-Anne Derome, violin, Gabriel Pyrom, cello and Jacynthe Rivère, piano, are specialists in contemporary repertoire. von Kuster Hall, 2:30 p.m.

Department of Philosophy Colloquium • Don Baxter, California. “Hume, Distinctions of Reason, and Diffferential Resemblance” TLC 340, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

Women’s Basketball • Queen’s at Western, 6 p.m.

Men’s Basketball • Queen’s at Western, 8 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music • Gala of Great Theatre Music from Strauss Junior to Lehár, Gilbert & Sullivan to Rogers & Hammerstein, and John DuPrex. An evening of wonderful singing and lots of fun presented by UWOpera and Music Theatre Ensemble. Talbot Theatre, 8 p.m.

November 17

Fall Preview Day • Welcome to Western You will have a chance to meet with faculty, staff and students. Take the opportunity to chat with our ambassadors about their experiences on campus. Learn how Western fosters academic and social growth. See the extensive athletic, cultural, learning and residence facilities we offer students. Enjoy your day. Register now: dayofampus.ucw.uwo.ca/previewday/2008.html

Women’s Volleyball • Laurier at Western, 12 p.m.

Huron University College • Open House. This is an opportunity for prospective students to meet with faculty, staff and students and find out what Huron has to offer. The agenda will include a Faculty and Department Room, Admissions, Scholarship and International Opportunities information sessions, tours of residence and campus. Huron is also hosting a special lunch for Huron alumni who bring a prospective student to the college. Visit: hurons website at www.huronu.ca. 1 – 4 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball • Laurier at Western, 2 p.m.

Women’s Basketball • RMC at Western, 6 p.m.

Women’s/Men’s Swimming • Campbell Division championships at Western, 6 p.m.

Women’s/Men’s Basketball • RMC at Western, 8 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music • Gala of Great Theatre Music from Strauss Junior to Lehár, Gilbert & Sullivan to Rogers & Hammerstein, and John DuPrex. It will be an evening of wonderful singing and lots of fun presented by UWOpera and Music Theatre Ensemble. Talbot Theatre, 8 p.m.

November 18

Women’s/Men’s Swimming • Campbell Division championships at Western, 10 a.m.

Women’s Volleyball • Waterloo at Western, 12 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music • Gala of Great Theatre Music from Strauss Junior to Lehár, Gilbert & Sullivan to Rogers & Hammerstein, and John DuPrex. It will be an evening of wonderful singing and lots of fun presented by UWOpera and Music Theatre Ensemble. Talbot Theatre, 2 p.m.

Men’s Volleyball • Waterloo at Western, 3 p.m.

Men’s Hockey • Windsor at Western, 7 p.m.

November 19

Don Wright Faculty of Music • UWRO Symphonic Band, Talbot Theatre, 12:30 p.m.

Physiology and Pharmacology Seminar • Janet Sparrow, Department of Ophthalmic Science, Columbia University. “Shedding light on the Lipofuscin of Retina in Macular Degeneration” DSB 3008, 4 p.m.

Autumn Writes • The Book Store at Western presents Naomi Kien – author of the book The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism, your tears are a shining reality. Tickets on sale for $5 at The Book Store at Western and Books Plus. A special ticket offer includes admission to event and a signed book copy for $30. For more info contact Carolyn Young at 519-661-3500 ext. 5801 or cyoung@uwo.ca. Alumni College Auditorium, Faculty of Education Building, 7:30 p.m.

November 20

Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine and Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences - Michael M. Todd, University of Iowa. “Beyond IAHST: Added Observations on Subarachnoid Hemorrhage and Neurovascular Surgery” LHSC, UCH, Auditorium A, 9:15 a.m.


United Way Fundraiser - Research Services. Silent Auction. 12 to 1:30 p.m. in SLB 330. Please drop your donations off before November 19. Contact patiellone@uwo.ca or SLB 330 ext. 9716.

Rural Health Brown Bag Series - Rural Nursing. Beverly Legge, Chair, Rural Women’s Health Research; Faculty of Health Sciences; rural health and the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. “The immediate and future role of the Community Health Nurse” V214, 7 p.m.

The Chocolate Clinic is offering a no charge spiral screening 12 – 2 p.m. RM 49 UCC lower level. No charge. Staff, students and faculty.

November 21

Don Wright Faculty of Music • Whimsical Nymphs, Symphonic Band’s concert features the musical fantasies of six composer. Talbot Theatre, 12:30 p.m.

Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine and Division of Neurosurgery, Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences - Michael M. Todd, University of Iowa. “Current Status of Clinical Hypothermia” LHSC University Hospital, Auditorium B, 7:30 a.m.

Campus Communicators is a Toastmasters club. Develop and improve communications skills, in a supportive and learning environment - impromptu speaking, giving prepared presentations, evaluating presentations and speeches, making the most of visual aids and props. 5:30 - 7:30, noon Mark Phipps markphipps@gmail.com or Megan Poppow mpoppow@uwo.ca web site ccm.fanmails.com

The Climactric Clinic is offering a no charge spiral screening 12 – 2 p.m. RM 49 UCC lower level. No charge. Staff, students and faculty.

Modern Languages and Literatures presents “La Tertulia” – Spanish Conversation Group. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. UC UT.

Clinical Pharmacology Grand Rounds - Richard and the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry.Clinic, “The role of the pharmacist in the modern patient care team” V214, 8 a.m.

Send submissions to comingevents@uwo.ca

ACCESS WESTERN NEWS

Overheard

Faculty members, have you been interviewed recently by the media? Contact Media Relations at prescдумало@uwo.ca for possible inclusion in this monthly Western News column. Also, guidance provided on how to obtain media coverage for your research.

Public Space

Tell campus neighbours about developments in your area or department in 500 words or fewer. newseditor@ uwo.ca

Tribute

This occasion feature recognizes significant accomplishments by faculty, staff and students as determined by off-campus organizations. Submit a brief article of 200 words or fewer about the award and the winner. newseditor@ uwo.ca
Health issues for students

If educating students about health issues is a priority for you, then it’s likely a stint on Student Health Services’ Health Education Team would be an ideal volunteer experience. The team is a group of about 70 volunteers who facilitate health education across campus under the supervision of the Health Education Volunteer Coordinator. Volunteers staff the Student Health Services Health Resource Centre in the University Community Centre each week, as well as joining at one of the subsidiary volunteer teams. The Health Education Team is a key to health education and promotion programming on campus.

Contact: Health Education Volunteer Coordinator at 661-2111 ext: 85927.
A Western violin student studied at the Vienna Philharmonic

By Lucy-Ana Gaston

The Wiener Philharmoniker is recognized as being unsurpassed by any other orchestra. Their unique sound, the so-called “Wiener Klangstil,” is perpetuated through their use of Viennese instruments and Viennese way of making music.

I first fell in love with the WPH years ago by watching their renowned “New Year’s Concerts,” which are broadcast worldwide. In March of 2006 they came to Toronto, their first time in Canada since 1993.

A number of Western students and faculty went to see the orchestra perform at Roy Thompson Hall, myself included, which was a truly profound experience. This was orchestral music presented in its highest form, and what really struck me was the energy and enthusiasm that each individual musician brought to the orchestra.

Having heard that the WPH offered a summer program, I auditioned for it, knowing full well that there would be applicants from all over the world. When I heard that I had won a successful audition and was offered to go on full scholarship, I was excited beyond words! I was the only student from Canada to take part in this program. The other musicians were from the top schools and conservatories in New York, Paris, Berlin, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Vienna, Budapest, as well as Brazil and Argentina.

On the first day there we had to audition for placement in the orchestra, in front of the entire violin section. There were 22 violinists in total, and I won the fifth chair of the first violins. We were coached by members of the WPH individually and in sectional rehearsals.

Every morning we had lectures with a professor of acoustics from the University of Vienna, about the scientific basis for the “Wiener Klangstil.” Our program included Mendelssohn, Berlioz, Berio and Mahler, and we performed in and around Salzburg.

The conductor for this year’s working period was Christoph Eschenbach, who is one of the most respected conductors of our time. It was a real pleasure getting to work with such a distinguished musician. We also performed with the members of the WPH in several of our concerts, and soloist Bo Skovhus.

We were all housed in the same hotel, and I wonder how the other guests must have felt with people practicing Brahms concertos and Tziganes everywhere and at all hours of the day. Many of the students had such an earnest desire to make wonderful music, and there were many spontaneous recitals given in the hotel.

It was very inspiring being in such a stimulating environment, and meeting so many great musicians. I had the opportunity to see the Wiener Philharmonic in concert several times, and to renew the thrill of watching this great orchestra performing live. Another highlight was to play in the Musikverein, the famous concert hall in Vienna, in which I had watched the WPH perform on television countless times.

Orchestral playing has always been an important part of my life. As the current concert-master of the UWo Symphony Orchestra, I also perform with Orchestra London, Arcady, same school and Cambridge Community Orchestra.

No matter where I am performing, however, be it on the stage of the Musikverein or Alumni Hall, my goal is to bring some of the inspiration gained through my studies with the WPH to my audience.

Music student Lucy-Ana Gaston practices in the opulent surroundings of Vienna’s Musikverein concert hall.