United Way campaign hits home stretch

BY PAUL MAYNE

With Western’s United Way campaign entering its final few weeks, Rosemary Lawrence-Pitt is confident the push to reach the record-breaking goal of $450,000 will become a reality.

As co-chair of Western’s campaign, along with Health Sciences Dean Jim Weese, Lawrence-Pitt says the campaign has been a wonderful story of one community helping another – Western helping London & Middlesex.

To date, the university’s campaign sits at just over 81 per cent or $364,850. As the county-wide campaign’s largest single donor, Western’s success this year will go a long way in helping the London and Middlesex campaign reach its goal of $6.85 million. Right now it sits at just over $4 million or 60 per cent.

“The spirit of the community - not just Western but all of London – shows what can happen when you bring people together for a common cause,” says Lawrence-Pitt. “It’s begins to build an even stronger sense of community when everyone truly understands the need and is striving towards the same goal.”

She adds getting the opportunity to “go behind the scenes” on the United Way campaign has been an exciting learning experience and one she won’t soon forget.

One opportunity, in particular, that Lawrence-Pitt appreciated was to see first-hand some of the 40 community agencies and over 75 programs supported through the United Way of London & Middlesex.

“When I had the chance to go on an agency tour it was a real eye opener for me,” she says. “The work these agencies do in our community and the important services they offer is tremendous. I came away inspired by what I saw and that inspiration continued when I returned to campus.”

Lawrence-Pitt says she has been excited about all the “creative fundraising ideas” at Western - everything from bake sales and silent auctions to Hospitality Services “Drink Coffee Today for the United Way” and the Geography department’s ‘Pie in the Face’ event Nov. 24 (www.geography.uwo.ca) - showing how every fundraising idea makes a difference in reaching the goal.

Western students lent a hand to the campaign with a recent haunted house that brought in over $1,100.

“I see the faculty and department campaigns, and the students, and there is some truly amazing work going on,” she says. “It’s been a real pleasure to be part of this campaign.”

For more information on the United Way campaign, visit www.uwlondon.on.ca
Ambassadors, policy makers and business leaders discussed Canada’s evolving relationship with the world’s leading economies as part of an Engaging Emerging Markets Conference at the Ivey School of Business Nov. 16. Her Excellency Shyamala Cowsik, High Commissioner of India, shares her idea while looking on are Canadian MP James Peterson (Former Minister of International Trade), His Excellency Valdemar Carneiro Leão (Ambassador of Brazil) and Weidong Zhang (Minister Counsellor of China).
Research support grows by 25%

Western experienced a 25-per-cent increase in research funding for 2005-06.
Coming in at over $221 million, Western is 10th nationally for overall funding. Ted Hewitt, Vice-President (Research and International Relations), told Senate the university is a strong competitor in the country’s research landscape.

“Our overall research funding is up 25 per cent. There are many contributing factors to this,” says Hewitt.

“At the top of that list is the generosity of our donors who underwrite programs at Western and our faculty and staff who bring in research funding from external sources. The $221 million we have committed to research for 2005-06 is the highest in our history.”

Hewitt says that while the $221 million was down slightly from 2004-05, the funds were still up significantly from 2003-04.

Western has increased its support for research and outreach programs, bringing in $172 million from provincial government, $3.3 million from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and $4.6 million in CFI equipment grants through the federal government, which, at $3.3 million in 2005-06, is the lowest in the last four years.

Western is second only to the University of Toronto in research funding and has 70 per cent of its funding support from external sources.

Hewitt adds Western and its affiliates have done well with CFI grants, attracting $3.3 million in 2005-06.

However, Hewitt says an area of concern is research infrastructure, which, at $3.3 million in 2005-06, is the lowest in the last four years.

“We have a lot of strong faculty and contributors to research at Western, but not all are recognized with awards or funding,” says Hewitt. “We want to focus on helping these faculty members in applying for potential funding.”

STRATEGIC PLAN GETS NOD

Western’s Report of the Task Force on Strategic Planning received quick and unanimous support at the Senate meeting Nov. 17. The original vote in October was delayed following a quorum challenge that abruptly ended the meeting. The Strategic Plan addresses key initiatives and directions the university will undertake in developing a plan for the future. The report goes to the Board of Governors today for final approval.

DAVENTPORT CHAIRING COU TASK FORCE

Western President Paul Davenport will chair the Council of Ontario Universities Task Force on Graduate Enrolment Expansion. Recently, several universities have found their enrolment targets were too ambitious.

“I agreed to take on this role with the condition that it will not involve decisions on the distribution of funds,” Davenport told members of Senate. “The focus of the task force is about the total package, to get support behind such expansion and the fact we are not there yet on the full funding needed.”

The task force will consider operational and capital funding issues with a view to ensuring that enrolment targets will be met.

MORRISSETTE INSTITUTE APPROVED

Senate gave full support for the naming of the Pierre L. Morrissette Institute for Entrepreneurship. A $2.5-million gift at the naming of the Pierre L. Morrissette Institute for Entrepreneurship. A $2.5-million gift at the inauguration on Oct. 23 at Western the Institute will be housed in the new centre at 670 Law. The gift will be used for student experience, research, outreach, PhD scholarships and knowledge conversion. The money will be received over 10 years, beginning in January.

Morrissette (MBA ’72) is President and CEO of Pelmorex Inc, which owns and operates the broadcasting license for The Weather Network and its French sister station, MétéoMédia.

TIME LIMIT TO BECOME DOCTOR

Students looking to become doctors will need to do so within six years of initial registration. The Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry’s Doctor of Medicine Program is a four-year full-time program and in the past students with extenuating circumstances could be granted a leave of absence.

However, to ensure continuity within the program, a student who fails to complete a degree within six years must withdraw. They may be granted readmission only in light of extraordinary circumstances and they must be approved by an appeals committee.

MINOR IN RUSSIAN STUDIES DROPPED

Senate has withdrawn the minor in Russian Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities effective next school year. Following a series of retirements, the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures no longer has the staff to offer a sufficient number of courses for the program.

NEW MEMORIAL AWARDS

The Bruno Da Silva Community Service Award will be presented each year to a third- or fourth-year student in an honours program based on leadership and community service, financial need and minimum average of 70 per cent. The award, valued at $4,500, was established by Ed and Juditte Holder in memory of their son, Bruno Da Silva.

The William Fuller MBA Award will be presented each year to a full-time student entering the MBA program at the Ivey School of Business who has demonstrated genuine financial need, community involvement prior to pursing their MBA and a commitment to continued community service. The award, valued at $20,000, was established by William (MBA ’61) and Sylvia Fuller.
Month-long myUWO shutdown threatens grad applications

Western needs to take more aggressive action to help students affected by a software upgrade says Society of Graduate Students President Shannon Dea.

Western recently announced that a number of student services offered by the registrar’s office will be unavailable throughout December due to an upgrade to Western’s PeopleSoft system. In particular, grades cannot be posted, nor transcript orders processed while the upgrade is underway. For the many Western students and alumni preparing to apply to graduate programs for Fall 2007, next month’s myUWO shutdown is going to be a huge pain in the neck, and one that may have long-term consequences for their education and careers.

While application deadlines for graduate school vary between disciplines and departments, with some occurring well into the spring, the most common deadline dates fall between December 1 and February 1. Moreover, at many universities, prospective graduate students seeking internal financial awards have earlier deadlines. Given the processing time for transcript orders (two weeks for regular orders and three to four business days for the more expensive rush orders), this means that transcripts should be ordered by the beginning or middle of December.

In light of the shut-down, prospective graduate students have two options: take a chance that transcripts arriving late will still be considered by admissions teams, or order transcripts in November. With respect to the former, the fact is that the very best graduate programs receive so many applications from exceptional candidates that they use any heuristic they can to whittle down the pile. The most obvious of these is to adhere strictly to published application deadlines. Thus, students whose transcripts arrive late due to the myUWO shutdown may as a consequence find themselves out of the running at top programs.

While ordering transcripts in November, before the upgrade, would seem like the perfect solution, the fact is that November is an exceptionally busy time for most students, academically. Many prospective graduate students wait until Fall term courses are done before assembling their grad school application packages simply because, before then, they’re too busy with term papers, projects and exams to attend to anything else. Many undergraduate students are unaware of exactly what supporting materials are necessary for grad school applications until they sit down in December and start filling out the forms. Thus, even though the university has made exceptional efforts to publicize the service shutdown, transcripts arriving late will still be considered by admissions teams, or order transcripts in November. With respect to the former, the fact is that the very best graduate programs receive so many applications from exceptional candidates that they use any heuristic they can to whittle down the pile. The most obvious of these is to adhere strictly to published application deadlines. Thus, students whose transcripts arrive late due to the myUWO shutdown may as a consequence find themselves out of the running at top programs.

Information of one sort of another is always being disseminated on campus. Students receive a lot of mass emails and see a lot of posters, and usually don’t read all of them. Moreover, many Western alumni applying to graduate schools will not even learn about the upgrade until they try (and fail) to order transcripts in December.

The Registrar’s Office argues that there is no good time to do such an upgrade. The PeopleSoft system supports a variety of important services in addition to transcript-ordering, many of these with “busy seasons” outside of December. Taking the system off-line in December will apparently mean the least possible overall disruption to service. Fair enough. However, this is small consolation to the student who might otherwise have received an offer of admission from Princeton (where application deadlines are early, and strictly observed).

So, what can Western do? There’s still time to disseminate this information through faculty members and departmental administrators, who know which students in particular are contemplating graduate school. There are also possible web solutions. The administration could post a form on the Western website where students could enter the email addresses of departments to which they plan to apply, thereby generating an automatic email from Western to those departments explaining the delay with the transcripts. There might be other creative alternatives that would mitigate the effects of the shut-down. After all, as one Gazette editor pointed out in an editorial last Thursday, “transcripts were invented before computers and websites.”

Whatever the solution, it is crucial to get the word out to students and alumni about the upgrade and how it will affect them. Western must do everything in its power to support the grad school applications of those who miss the chance to order transcripts before the upgrade begins. We should expect nothing less from a university that prides itself on offering the “best student experience.”

Shannon Dea is an instructor and doctoral candidate in the Department of Philosophy.
Election wins turn two students into politicians

BY BOB KLANAC

Two Western students will be combining their education with politics for the next four years. Ruth Tisdale, a first-year BMOS student attending Brescia University College, and Sarah Doub, a second-year English student, have been elected as trustees to the Thames Valley District School Board.

Doub had a passion for involvement in her education from an early age. As a student at Glencoe High School, news of the potential closure of her school moved her to action. “I felt as a student in a small high school that all of these decisions were being made at Queen’s Park and no one came to ask me as a student what I felt,” she says. “I don’t want that to happen again. I want students to have a say as to what happens in their schools.”

Through her role as the student voice of her high school and the town of Glencoe itself, Doub developed a strong contact base organically as Doubs’. A mother of five children, Tisdale also saw a disconnect between the education system and its users. “Seeing a lack of consideration for parents’ views and student views, I thought it was time for me to put my hat into the ring and see what happens,” says Tisdale. “I think it’s a growing sentiment among students, from parents,” she says. “It’s been four years that I’ve been attending every board meeting regularly. I’ve seen what difference good student trustees can have on the board in helping parents and students get their voices heard.”

Tisdale’s passion for the educational system came about as organically as Doub’s. A mother of five children, Tisdale also saw a disconnect between the education system and its users. “At first I didn’t know what to think because I didn’t know what special duties were involved,” she says. “I think education is my passion,” she says. “I can’t see that passion ever changing or going away. It’s been there a long time.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CHAIN-SAWED TREES CAN’T EVOLVE

With respect to the impending assault of Western’s campus ash trees by the Emerald Ash Borer, Jim Galbraith is to be commended for his “wait and see” policy. Evolutionary theory predicts that resistance to infection by pathogens varies among individuals in a species, and that when the pest beetle starts its ravage on campus, the first trees to die will be those that are the least resistant.

As Galbraith said, “we can only hope Western’s trees are strong enough to survive. Even if only a few survive, they will pass on their resistance to the next generation. In many other cases, authorities have opted instead to cut all ashes at the very first sign of infestation. The latter violates a very fundamental principle of biology, namely that dead things don’t evolve. It probably also encourages the beetle to spread faster by depriving it of its immediate habitat and forcing it to go elsewhere.”

ANDRÉ LACHANCE AND JANE BOWLES

Biology

NO COMMON GROUND HERE

Regarding the Western News article “Creation, Evolution, and the Search for Common Ground” that appeared Nov. 16, I defy Steve Duncan to locate even one – just one – scientist who claims that “evolution (or more specifically Darwinism)” can “explain the origins of the universe.” There are none, of course, for the same reason that there are no fast-food restaurant owners who believe that the manufacture of McHappy Meals explains the origins of cows.

But that sort of argument is quite typical of the sloppy thinking and writing we’re growing accustomed to in Duncan’s columns. Don’t we at Western have an undergraduate paper for this sort of nonsense?

Graham Broad

Doctoral Candidate, History

What are some dos and don’ts of exam studying?

Have an opinion on this question? Visit the ‘At Western’ feature on Western’s homepage at www.uwo.ca
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Service-learning more than good deeds

By Bob Klapac

A service education movement is taking a stronger hold at Western.

Service-learning is an experience-based education strategy in which students engage in structured activities designed to enhance learning and civic responsibility, while addressing community needs.

According to Debra Dawson, Director of Western’s Teaching Support Centre, formalization of current service-learning efforts at Western is a logical progression given the university’s ad hoc efforts in this regard over the past number of years.

“Housing and Ancillary Operations have been doing things along this line for several years,” says Dawson. “Whole floors of university residences have been doing this.”

The launch of a new website (servicelearning.uwo.ca) has helped put a focus on the movement says Dawson. The launch was celebrated at a recent information session which invited faculty, staff and students to learn more about the educational tool.

The crucial difference between simple volunteerism and service-learning lies in the integration of the work into the student’s studies.

“The difference has to do with the fact they are graded on the learning that they do and not the service that they do,” says Dawson. “It’s curricular service learning. They will integrate their real life experiences into the course.”

“The difference has to do with the fact they are graded on the learning that they do, and not the service that they do.”

Debra Dawson
Director, Teaching Support Centre

One of the efforts that Dawson says Western is adopting is the alt-spring-break program where students go to developing countries and work with orphaned or adopted children or help to build houses with Habitat for Humanity.

Dawson also notes that a Western course on media and homelessness is integrating service-learning a kinesiology professor says that there is documented evidence that applied knowledge works remarkably well at reinforcing information taught in the classroom.

“This is the generation of students that’s the most committed to volunteer service since the World War II vets,” says Dawson. “So the ability for the university to integrate this into their class-rooms seems like the right time to do that.”

Next steps for Dawson is to take the faculty and staff contacts she made at the event and pull together all of the ideas and initiatives discussed there.

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Or contact Assistant Dean Valener Perry at 734-764-5550 or by e-mail at vlperry@umich.edu.

Your future never looked brighter.
Hunting for brain’s addiction switch

By Erin Isings

Steven Laviolette remembers one project he worked on about the brain.

He put a bird brain in rubbing alcohol to use as an anatomical display and he had odour-testing vials to do olfactory experiments. That was his Grade 3 science fair project. But he wasn’t thinking then about becoming a neuroscientist.

“I was like any typical kid. One week I wanted to be a fireman, the next week I wanted to be an astronaut,” says the North York, Ont. native, who is now a research assistant professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at the University of Western Ontario.

Eleven years after that Grade 3 science fair project, Laviolette began his post-secondary education at the University of Toronto. He still wasn’t thinking about becoming a neuroscientist. Hoping for a career in foreign service, he took courses in French, Russian, philosophy and international politics. But the course that led him to his future career was an introductory psychology class.

“There was a section that dealt with psychological disorders, and there was a huge section on neuroscience, and I became obsessed with that,” says Laviolette, 35. His obsession led to six years’ work as a teaching assistant followed by a PhD in neuroscience from the University of Toronto in 2002.

The professor who taught Laviolette in that psychology class at the University of Toronto agrees that Laviolette was obsessed.

“He was always the student that took the most interest in the details of the science … What I remember most about Steve was how careful and how serious he was about the scientific quality of his work. He didn’t just want to be successful, he wanted to answer questions, and he always answered them well,” says John Yeomans, professor of psychology at the University of Toronto and president of the Southern Ontario Neuroscience Association.

“He will be a real credit to Western and to our whole Ontario neuroscience community.”

Laviolette’s research has focused around “switches” in the brain. He found that after repeated exposure to the rewarding effects of a drug, “something happens in the brain to switch into an addicted state where you need the drug, and you experience withdrawal if you don’t have the drug. My job was to find that mechanism.”

Recalling the initial stages of his research, he says he and his colleagues began with “a lot of brainstorming and bouncing crazy ideas off of each other. It was a crazy idea - the whole idea of being able to identify switches is the Holy Grail.”

Neuroscience researcher Steven Laviolette hopes work on how drugs can trigger an addiction will lead to better treatments for addiction as well as problems such as schizophrenia.

But Laviolette was successful in identifying the “switches” during his PhD studies and his work was published two years later in Nature Neuroscience. He is hoping his research will result in more government funding, not only for treating but also for more effectively preventing problems like schizophrenia and addiction, which cost the government billions of dollars per year.

After completing his PhD, Laviolette spent three years doing research at the University of Pittsburgh. While in Pennsylvania, he met and married his wife, Julianna, who works in business administration. They relocated to London in January 2006. He says London is a great place to live, adding that his parents and two sisters live in the Toronto area.

Academically, Laviolette says that it’s a great time to be at Western.

“We’re really hoping to make this neuroscience division in our department a very attractive study option for graduate students and post-doc students. We’ve got a very exciting next decade planned out, and for any graduate students thinking of graduate studies, particularly neuroscience, this is the place to be.”

Laviolette admits that he does have one addiction of his own - six cups of coffee per day. And he even understands the neuroscience behind this habit.

“Ironically, it’s the same system that I work on, but I consider this an adaptive addiction,” he says, laughing.

The writer is a graduate student in Journalism.

By Brian R. McGorman
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What does your workplace culture look like?

Results of the Culture Survey will be communicated to 40 local units. The Culture Survey will be conducted in January 2007, with results scheduled for January 18, 2007. That report will be shared for the first time at the Leaders’ Forum scheduled for January 18, 2007. Leaders will be asked to participate in a more accurate reflection of the workplace culture in their particular unit. Results of the Culture Survey can be accessed at http://communities.western.ca/culture/culturesurvey.

■ It will provide useful insights for individual people’s growth. People see themselves, how clear and consistent the vision is, what we are doing in the workplace, how they are with their work and their roles seem to them, how satisfied they are with their work and their roles.

■ It will provide a framework for the strategy and vision of the organization. How do these units link to the overall mission of the organization? How do these units link to the overall mission of the organization by helping people understand what they’re doing? How can they contribute?”

■ We think they’re meeting the needs of the campus community and the students they serve, and that committee members are involved and are contributing to the perception of not feeling accountable and blaming each other.

■ We responded by creating a team of staff from all levels to make recommendations about what we might do to improve our workplace culture. For example, we created workshops to get feedback from staff. We did some follow-up sessions to see how they are, and we began holding regular meetings to communicate to the campus community and to make sure everyone’s informed and is on board.

■ The 2003 survey showed there were significant gaps between what we believe our culture should be and what our staff actually was experiencing. For example, we learned that we could provide more opportunities for personal growth and development and opportunities for people to think about their personal growth.

■ The 2003 survey showed that staff in non-academic units had different work environments and expectations than their academic counterparts. So we created a faculty-wide staff development meeting, and we initiated a “Have Your Say Day,” which invited staff to come to my office over coffee to discuss whatever they thought they need to discuss. Other channels include weekly emails on sales training and feedback. We’ve created a newsletter, invited 300 employees to participate. For example, we invited Larissa Bartlett (Acting Director, Equity & Human Rights Services) and her team to a staff meeting to encourage participation. Our priorities include making sure that people are supported, helping them to see what’s going on, and what’s happening, and a quarterly newsletter.

■ We recognize it may be related to the expectations of our high-performing colleagues. It may be difficult to make mistakes in a high-pressure environment. We cannot afford to make mistakes in a high-pressure environment. We cannot afford to make mistakes in a high-pressure environment.

■ We try to create a culture where everyone is connected to each other, and we try to maintain regular meetings to communicate our ideas and information. We developed a mission statement to help everyone understand and focus on what’s important. We try to create a culture where everyone is connected to each other, and we try to maintain regular meetings to communicate our ideas and information. We developed a mission statement to help everyone understand and focus on what’s important.
NSSE: Ontario schools still trail U.S.

By Paul Mayne

With the latest National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results in, Western’s 12 deans are preparing to scrutinize their individual faculties for ways to improve and foster a strong learning environment.

“There was really no appreciable change in what we saw for Western. It will likely take some time to move those benchmarks.”

Marty England
Director of Government Affairs and Institutional Research

With Western’s second appearance in the international survey targeting first-year and graduating students, results essentially mirrored those from 2004—the first year Western took part—with the university ranking at or above fellow Ontario schools, and generally below American counterparts.

This was the first year all Ontario universities took part in the survey, part of the new accountability framework under the Reaching Higher plan, the provincial government’s plan for postsecondary education.

“There was really no appreciable change in what we saw for Western,” says Marty England, Director of Government Affairs and Institutional Research at Western. “It will likely take some time to move those benchmarks.”

The survey creates five clusters, or benchmarks, to determine effective educational practice and includes active and collaborative learning, student-faculty interaction, an enriching educational experience, level of academic challenge, and supportive campus environment.

While most category results were similar in nature, Western did excel in the area of supportive campus environment—even outsizing American schools. This benchmark looks at how a university is committed to cultivating a positive working and social relations among different groups on campus.

But in areas such as active and collaborative learning and student-faculty interaction, Western and other Ontario institutions remain behind the U.S. England says this can be attributed to a significant difference in financial resources.
Leslie Bisbee

The Western Physical Therapy department lost a beloved staff member when Leslie Bisbee passed away on Saturday November 11. Bisbee was a lecturer with the Physical Therapy program with four years of service.

Prior to her role with the PT program, she was the Academic Coordinator of Clinical Education (ACCE) with the School of Physical Therapy in Western’s Faculty of Health Sciences from 2001-2006. Bisbee linked with Clinical Instructors in clinics and facilities both locally and internationally to organize more than 350 clinical placements per year for students enrolled in the Masters of Physical Therapy program.

She also represented Western as committee member of the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario and the National Association of Clinical Educators in Physiotherapy. Bisbee recently celebrated with Western’s Physical Therapy Class of 1976 with 30 years as an alumna of Alumni Western’s PT program.

Colleagues lauded Bisbee in her struggles with breast cancer over the past three years, noting her tenacity, pride and dignity.

The Leslie A. Bisbee Clinical Experience Bursary was recently established to honour Bisbee’s contribution to Western and the profession of Physical Therapy. For more information please view the School of Physical Therapy website at uwo.ca/fhs/pt/

Cornelis (Kees) Van Dop

Cornelis (Kees) Van Dop, 84, an employee of the Physical Plant department, died on October 29. Van Dop retired from Western in July, 1987 with 15 years of service. A remembrance service was held on Saturday, Nov. 4 at 1 p.m at the Memorial Funeral Home, 1599 Fanshawe Park Rd. E, London.

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10. White & Nerdy - Weird Al Yankovic

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MCMULLIN WINS EARLY-RESEARCHER RECOGNITION

The Gerontological Society of America has chosen Western Sociologist Julie McMullin as the 2006 recipient of the Margaret M. Baltes Early Career Award in Behavioral and Social Gerontology. This honour recognizes outstanding early career contributions in behavioural and social gerontology. A winner of the 2004 premiers’ Research Excellence Award, McMullin is an internationally recognized scholar in the area of aging and the life course. The Baltes award is given to a person from any discipline in the social sciences.

OFF TO SINGAPORE

A Western Law team will compete next summer in the International Negotiation Competition in Singapore after being judged the top Canadian team during the American Bar Association’s Regional Negotiation Competition held at Western Nov. 11-12. Shane Gonsalves and Dan Chapman finished second to the winners, Brennan Grayson and Adam Eckstein from the University of Cincinnati College of Law.

Western Law has placed second at the international competition for two consecutive years.

BRECIA CIRCLE FUNDRAISER

The fifth annual ‘More than just a book’ fundraiser for the Brescia University College Circle for Women is slated for Sat., Nov. 25. Running 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Brescia Auditorium the event features more than 20 local artisans selling stained glass, pottery, jewellery, handmade soaps and other items. Also featured are silent auctions, draws and refreshments. The event also includes a huge selection of books.

UNIVERSITIES SHARING INFORMATION

The Council of Ontario Universities has created an online data tool so the public can compare information about universities. The service, known as CUDO – Common University Data Ontario – includes information gathered in a consistent manner and that will be regularly updated.

Areas measured include:

- Number of degrees awarded
- Student enrolment and entering averages – all by program
- Number of students living on campus and activities offered
- Student satisfaction
- First-year tuition and ancillary fees by program
- Number of teaching faculty
- Undergraduate class size
- Research awards granted
- Graduation rates and employment rates by program

CUDO is available at the websites of the Council of Ontario Universities (www.cou.on.ca) and the Ontario Universities’ Application Centre (www.ouac.on.ca). The University of Western Ontario recently developed a Public Accountability website which is linked from the home page (www.uwo.ca) or directly from www.uwo.ca/pvp/accountability.html.

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CAMPUS DIGEST
FALL PREVIEW DAY

Bob Klanac, Western News
Thousands of high school students and family members visited Fall Preview Day last Saturday. Here, a hands-on Physics presentation requires a sturdy pair of gloves.

Paul Mayne, Western News
Microbiology and Immunology professor Mansour Haeryfar spoke to hundreds of interested secondary students during this past weekend’s Fall Preview Day.

Monica Julian, 17, and her mother Denise, made the trip from Dundas to check out the campus.

SHARCNET wins award

Western’s SHARCNET has taken home an award from an organization that recognizes innovation in technology.

The Canadian Information Productivity Awards (CIPA) presented a Silver Award of Excellence for efficiency and operational improvements earlier this month at its annual ceremony.

The award recognizes exceptional application of information technology.

CIPA, Canada’s longest running awards program in the field of information technology, presented a total of 24 awards for excellence during the 14th annual CIPA Gala Banquet on November 1 in Toronto.

Shared Hierarchical Academic Research Computing Network (SHARCNET) is a consortium of colleges and universities that share high-performance computing resources.

The initial installation of equipment was done in 2001 as a result of a grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation and matching funds from the Government of Ontario.

The stated goal of SHARCNET is to accelerate the production of research results to give researchers and their industry partners access to computational expertise and hardware.

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How Western measures up
A regular feature on key Western performance and activity measures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Financial Support per Doctoral Recipient</th>
<th>All Programs (Excluding Basic Medical Sciences Programs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
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</table>

**What is measured in the graphs?**
Average financial support per doctoral student - Each G10 institution (except Alberta) submitted a record-level file of all student support provided to its 2004-05 masters and doctoral students. The exchange has noted certain problems of data comparability in the basic medical sciences, and have thus excluded them from the analysis for 2004-05, pending resolution of the problems.

**Why is it measured?**
The Strategic Plan refers to the maintenance of competitive financial support for graduate students.

**What does it mean?**
To significantly increase doctoral enrolment, Western must provide financial support for graduate students. The data indicate that Western’s support from internal and external sources is highly competitive among the leading research universities.

Data for McMaster University, while correct in total, are not comparable to other G10 universities in terms of the internal/external split. Certain external funds are categorized as being internal.

Source: G10 Data Exchange as reported in Western's 2006 Performance and Activity Indicators annual report

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**REGISTER’S BULLETIN**

**Important Notice for all Students**
During the period of Dec. 5, 2006 until Jan. 2, 2007 some services will not be available due to an upgrade of the University’s Student Admin system including myUWO. The services affected are:
- No production or printing of transcripts
- Online transcript ordering system will not be available
- Transcripts can be ordered by mail, fax or in person but will not be processed until January 2nd, 2007
- Viewing of Fall term final grades will not be available
- No updates to addresses or telephone numbers
- No updates to tuition account balances
- Letter of Permission Requests will not be processed
- Online acceptance of Graduate offers will not be available

**Mid-Year Examination Timetable, December 2006**
The Final Schedule is now posted on the Registrar’s website. Students booking flights for the holiday are advised to book a flight date of Dec. 21, 2006 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 not later than Nov. 15.

**Due dates for tuition fees**
Second installment of fees for Undergraduates weeks in India where she participated in the Khoj International Arts (KIA) Work shop. Along with 23 other artists from various parts of the world, she produced multimedia installation work at Chaudhari Bari, a sprawling 19th century structure set amidst extensive gardens in Barapur. Also, she is exhibiting lithographs at the International Print Triennial Krakow 2006, Krakow, Poland, which opened in July. Her prints will be part of the International Print Triennial Venice 2007 exhibition in Kun stlerhaus, Vienna, Austria, which opens in May.

Geophysics PhD student Kadircan Aktas and Earth Sciences Professor David Eaton present ed a paper entitled [toward the development of lithoform tomography for tectonic studies] a case study from Cascadia’ at a workshop in Nice, France (Nov. 20-23). The workshop is for participants in the French SEISCOPE project, which is partly supporting this research at Western.

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**ACADEME**

**PhD Lectures**
Halyan Zhu: A Chemical and Biochemical Engineering PhD Public Lecture will be held Nov. 27 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 434, Thompson Engineering Bldg. Title of Thesis: “Turbulent Fluidized Bed vs. High Density Riser - Regimes and Flow Characteristics”. A Thesis Examination will follow at 3:30 pm in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Jie Chen

Suhini Mallick: A Psychology PhD Public Lecture will be held Nov. 28 at 1 p.m. in Room 94, Social Sciences Centre. Title of Thesis: “An Investigation of the Correlates and Developmental Sequelae of Anomalous Maternal Behaviour and Disorganized Attachment Relationships”. A Thesis Examination will follow at 2 p.m. in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. David Pedersen

Radoslav German: A Mechanical and Materials Engineering PhD Public Lecture will be held Nov. 28 at 1 p.m. in Room 2009, Spencer Engineering Bldg. Title of Thesis: “Studies in Thin-Film Flow of Newtonian and Viscoelastic Fluids”. A Thesis Examination will follow at 2 p.m. in Room 152A, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Roger Khayat

Faheem Ahmed: An Electrical and Computer Engineering PhD Public Lecture will be held Nov. 29 at 2:45 p.m. in Room 234, Thompson Engineering Bldg. Title of Thesis: “Process Maturation Model for Software Product Line”. A Thesis Examination will follow at 3:30 p.m. in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Bldg. Supervisor: Dr. Luis Capretzi

Marcin Wierzchowski: A Biomedical Biophysics PhD Public Lecture will be held Nov. 28 at 9 a.m. in Room 148, Medical Science Bldg. Title of Thesis: “Subject-Specific Models of the Heart From 4D Images”. A Thesis Examination will follow at 9 a.m. in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Terry Peters.

**Faculty & Staff**
Joselyn Gardner, Visual Arts, spent three weeks in India where she participated in the Khoj International Arts (KIA) Workshop. Along with 23 other artists from various parts of the world, she produced multimedia installation work at Chaudhari Bari, a sprawling 19th century structure set amidst extensive gardens in Barapur. Also, she is exhibiting lithographs at the International Print Triennial Krakow 2006, Krakow, Poland, which opened in July. Her prints will be part of the International Print Triennial Venice 2007 exhibition in Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria, which opens in May.

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**CHRISTMAS SILENT AUCTION**
London Central Lioness is holding a Christmas Silent Auction on Saturday November 25th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at St. Luke’s (Broughdale), 1204 Richmond St. N. and Bernard Free Admission. Refreshments.

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COMING EVENTS

November 23

Communications & Public Affairs Annual Book Sale and Silent Auction at Talbot Hall - Located in the lower hallway of Stevenson-Lawson Bldg. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Department of English special reading. Joan Barfoot, author and Western's Writer in Residence, Talbot College, Rm. 340, 10-11 a.m.

Paranopia McIntosh Gallery Exhibition - Joseph Hubbard: WMDs & Paranopia fear and prejudice in the context of symbols of power and belief systems, for gallery hours of operation contact 519-661-3181. Runs until Dec. 10.

Microbiology & Immunology - J. Coutelier, McGill University. "Molecular microbiology of the TonB interactosome" OSB, Rm. 3008. 11:30 a.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Wind Ensemble present Psalm and Dance. Talbot Theatre, 12:30 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Cecilia Singers present Caritas. Season of love, and the Chorale performs NOEL! von Kuster Hall, 12:30 p.m.

Physics & Astronomy Colloquium - Graydon Raymer, Western. “Investigating Human Muscle Metabolism during Exercise with Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy” Physics & Astronomy Room 123, 1:30 p.m.

Faculty of Education Seminar Series - Rachel Heydon, Faculty of Education. "Radical conceptualizations of childhood in neoliberal times: An overview of Asset-oriented practices: Early childhood curricula and the de-pathologization of childhood" Faculty of Education, Room 100, 1:45 p.m.

Health Sciences - “From Chaos to Clarity: Sur- prising the Tornado of Mental Illness” Inter- professional Workshop for Health Sciences Faculty and Students. Great Hall, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Visual Arts - Annual Juried Exhibition, opening 5 - 7 p.m. Until Dec. 8. For more information: www.uwo.ca/visarts/ or email arts@uwo.ca

Bruce McCaffrey Memorial Graduate Seminar Series - Jessica van Horssen “The Man More Myth Than Legend: Elijah Harper, Manitoba and the Meech Lake Accord” SSC Rm. 4317, 4:30 p.m.

Occupational Therapy Open House “Skills for the job of living” Elborn College Room 154A. 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Open to all.

Infusion Online Auction Supports Cancer Patients - running until December 8th at www.infusioncanada.org/auction

The piano duo of Anagnoson and Kinton mark their 30th anniversary with a Nov. 24 performance at von Kuster Hall, Talbot College.

Distinguished University Professorship Award Public Lectures - Michael Groden, Factory of Arts and Humanities. Michael Groden will deliver a public paper in honour of his recent appointment as Distinguished University Professor. "Adventures with Ulysses" Gonor Hall, University College. 4:30 p.m. Everyone welcome to attend. RSVP at 519-661-3181 or rsvp@uwo.ca

Men’s / Women’s Swimming - Women’s Meet @ Western (CGAC) 10:00 a.m. Finals at 6:30 p.m.

November 25

Champion’s Cup - Every year, the Champion’s Cup is held between Western residences and affiliate colleges to give the winning con- stituency the ultimate in bragging rights. A competition of female flag-football, the games are fast paced and a must-see event. Teams have been practicing since September for this rapped tournament. Finals Sunday night at TD Waterhouse Stadium.

Women’s Hockey - Waterloo @ Western, 4 p.m.

Men’s / Women’s Swimming - Women’s Meet @ Western (CGAC) 10:00 a.m. Finals at 6:30 p.m.

More than just a Book Sale - Silent Auctions, Great Draws, Unique Gift Idea, Live Harp Music, Gently Used Books, Refreshments. 10 - 3:00 p.m. More than just a Book Sale

November 26

Don Wright Faculty of Music – UWO Symphony Orchestra presents a powerful program. Tickets 155/130 in advance at Orchestra London. Hall, 3:00 p.m. For concert information visit: www.music.uwo.ca

Western Adventist Students’ Association (WASA) second annual SOS concert at Aeolian Hall (795 Dundas St. E.) Funds will support UCCEF’s “Stead for children. Unite against AIDS” campaign. Tickets $5.00, doors open at 6:15 P.M. Contact westernadventiststudents@hotmail.com for information.

Men’s / Women’s Swimming - Women’s Meet @ Western (CGAC) 10:00 a.m. Finals at 6:30 p.m.

November 27

Blood Donor Clinic - UCC lower level. 12 - 4 p.m.

Toastmaster’s Campus Communicators - Improving all your public speaking needs. Meets every Wednesday. For more info contact Brett Tomlison, bm.tomlison@uwo.ca 519 330, 12:05 - 12:35 p.m.

Modern Languages and Literatures - Janina Falkowska: "Melancholy and Mourning in Austrian Cinema: Longing for the Pre-European Union Past in the Films of Michael Haneke and Ulrich Seidl" UC 142. 4:30 - 6 p.m.

Autumn Writes - Jay Ingram. Theatre of the Mind: Raising the Curtain on Consciousness.

Western Cares Food Drive: Help top last year’s total of 5,000 pounds of non-perishable foods, baby formula and diapers. Donations collected will be in support of the community-wide Business Cares Food Drive developed to assist families and individuals in need. Convenient Western Cares Food Drive drop off bins are located in many of Western’s campus buildings. For 2006 we have changed the colour of the donation bins on campus to black to reduce any confusion with blue recycling bins. To find the donation drop off closest to you please visit: http://westerncares.uwo.ca/facultyandstaff/WesternCaresFoodDrive.htm

November 28

Senior Alumni Program "Still Vibrant After All These Years" The London Arts Scene. Catherine Ellick Shaw, Curator. McIntosh Gallery. McFarland Room, UCC, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

Blood Donor Clinic - UCC lower level. 12 - 4 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Early Music Studio performs music of the 16th and 17th centuries on period instruments of von Kuster Hall, 12:30 p.m.

Oncology Grand Rounds - “Drug Discovery in Academia - Making Small Molecules for Big Targets” Aaron Schmimmer, University of Toronto. London Regional Cancer Program, Room A3. 9:04/12. U - 1 p.m.

Western Early Modern Society presents Mary Helen McMurran, Department of English “Eighteenth-Century Translators & the Myth of the Grop Street Hack.” uwmolinets/weems/wemsevnts.html Room 224A, University College, 4:50 p.m.

Modern Languages and Literatures - German Film Series. The Edukators (2004) Director: Hans Neumann. UC 142, 6:30 - 9 p.m. Film shown in Germany with English subtitles.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Fortissimo Clarinet Quartet - von Kuster Hall, 8 p.m.

November 29

Western Cares Food Drive being held to Dec. 8. Help top last year's total of 5,000 pounds of non-perishable foods, baby formula and diapers. Donations collected will be in support of the community-wide Business Cares Food Drive developed to assist families and individuals in need. Convenient Western Cares Food Drive drop off bins are located in many of Western's campus buildings. For 2006 we have changed the colour of the donation bins on campus to black to reduce any confusion with blue recycling bins. To find the donation drop off closest to you please visit: http://westerncares.uwo.ca/facultyandstaff/WesternCaresFoodDrive.htm

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The editor of Canada’s foremost military journal urged Canadians to question their military’s missions during a recent talk at Conron Hall.

Scott Taylor, formerly a soldier in the Canadian military, has been editor and publisher of Esprit de Corps since 1988.

“Some will tell you that to question the mission is to undermine the troops,” Taylor said.

“It’s not true at all. Our duty as citizens is to question what we are doing over there.

“Don’t kid yourself. Our military questions it every day.”

Taylor has reported from most major military conflicts in recent years including Iraq in 1992 and recently, as well as the Balkans in the nineties.

Through his talk for the Clissold Lecture titled From Belgrade to Baghdad, Taylor reviewed most phases of his work as a journalist taking especial note of Iraq.

“Thinking Bush is lying is different from knowing Bush is lying,” Taylor said.

Taylor said that the Iraqis knew they had to replace Saddam with someone equally as powerful.

He said that Paul Wolfowitz, architect of Bush’s foreign policy, stated that the operation would be simple as the Iraqis were one people and wanted Saddam gone.

“That was a surprise to the Kurds, Assyrians and Turkmen to say the least,” said Taylor. “There are many different peoples there. As a country, Iraq is only 80 years old.”

In 2004 Taylor and a colleague were kidnapped in Iraq, bid on by various extremist groups, and tortured. They were released five days later after Turkish intelligence secured their release.

“It’s different when you think that this is how you might die than it is when you are sure that you are going to die,” said Taylor.