Grad student growth drives huge building, renovation boom

By Paul Mayne

Plans to expand graduate student numbers and improve student services are driving forces behind more than $80 million in building and renovation over the next year.

The strategy features relocation of a large number of administrative jobs to the edge of campus in order to open up more academic spaces at the core.

With renovation projects set for Physics and Astronomy, Biology and Geology, Althouse Building and others, Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Administration), says it’s an active time for Western.

“The growth is clearly targeted towards the graduate students and we need to allow them the space to grow.”

Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Administration)

Groundbreaking for the $28-million Biotron began this week.

“This is a good busy. We have a lot of things on deck,” says Kulczycki. “This is being driven by a lot of things on deck,” says Ted Garrard, Vice-President (Affairs, Advancement Services and Pre-School, and consolidated the External portfolio including Communications and Public Affairs, Advancement Services and Alumni Relations and Development.

The move, likely in early 2007, is required to increase space in the core for academic purposes, says Ted Garrard, Vice-President (External).

“It’s a win-win from not only the student perspective, because it opens up space at the core of the campus, but also from External’s perspective we will be able to be fully integrated under one roof,” says Garrard. He adds the move is also important from a community perspective.

“It provides our alumni, friends and others in the community easier access to those of us in External who interface with members of the community and that is really important,” he says. “It also gives us that sort of streetscape presence.”

New projects being considered would include moving staff in the Support Services Building to a new building on a periphery site and would include staff from Physical Plant, ITS and other support units. The Support Services Building may be used as a one-stop student services building.

Kulczycki says work could begin next year on a recreational field house for Campus Recreation.

“These projects are more than a wish list,” she says. “These are strong possibilities we are hoping to make happen.”

Future projects also being examined include replacing the Bio-Engineering Building, renovating the Chemistry addition and Ivey additions at Spencer Hall for the MBA program.

Look closely

UW campaign hits homestretch

By Paul Mayne

With just a week left in Western’s United Way campaign, the push is on to reach the $400,000 fundraising goal.

Pledge cards continue to roll in, adding to the $333,000 raised to date – 83 per cent of the goal. Sponsored employee Tammy Gibbons says the current task is to seek out donors who contributed in the past and have not yet pledged.

“The last stretch of the campaign will prove to be a little more challenging,” says Gibbons, working with fellow Western sponsored employee Colleen Thody. “But I’m confident we’ll make it.”

The city- and county-wide campaign, led by Western President Paul Davenport, has just reached the halfway point with $3.2 million of the $6.4-million goal raised.

To make a pledge, please fill out the pledge card at http://unit-edway.uwo.ca/resources.htm
CAMPUS DIGEST

GO COLONIAL: A ‘Colonial Christmas’ fundraiser for the London Museum of Archeology features an opportunity to tour the Langdon family home near Arva. Located at 13174 Medway Road in Arva, the home is a replica of the Raleigh Tavern in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Tickets are $10, adults; $5, children. For tickets call 473-1360.

NSERC: Royal Military College board member Suzanne Fortier has been selected to head the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). The McGill University graduate has held positions on faculty of Queen’s University in Chemistry, and a number of administrative posts at Queen’s including Vice-Principal, Academic. Fortier also served on the Board of Directors for the Ontario Centres of Excellence.

OLYMPIC: Western’s Law’s Distinguished Speaker Series will host Montreal lawyer Richard Pound, chair of the Anti-Doping Agency and one of Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world for his efforts to rid sport of performance-enhancing drugs. The presentation, “Doping in Sport” takes place Nov. 24, 12:30 p.m., in Room 38 in Law.

CITY HALL NORTH: The Environment and Transportation sub-committee of City Council will hold a meeting in the Law School on Mon., Nov. 28 at 4 p.m. in Room 36. This will be the first time a committee of Council has conducted one of its regular meetings at Western. The chair of the committee is Fred Tranquilli, who is also a member of the First Year Class.

25 YEARS AGO AT WESTERN

■ Western Greg Marshall has won the Omega Award as outstanding football player in the OUAA in 1980.
■ A scaling down of the university system will be examined by a new provincial committee following concerns chronic underfunding could “be close to fatal” for smaller institutions as early as 1985.
■ Curriculum development from a feminist perspective is being planned by the Caucus on Women’s issues in cooperation with a Provost committee.

Cracking under pressure

What do you make with one kilogram of Polar Sticks, two bottles of glue and one spool of floss? A bridge, of course. Dozens of London high school students and Western students took part in the annual Western Society of Civil Engineering’s Polar Stick Bridge Competition. Chris Kocar, third-year Engineering student, adds a 10-kilogram weight at left, and reacts as the bridge shatters.

I’ve created a legacy for tomorrow.

“As an alumnus, I’m grateful for the student experience I had at Western. I chose to attend graduate school because of the examples set by my professors and coaches. My positive experience also influenced my children, four of whom are now alumni. To give back to Western, I serve on the Board of Governors and chair the Mustang Fund. My wife Margaret and I have also made a gift of life insurance to Athletics. It’s our way of helping Western’s future student-athletes.”

Dr. John Nash (BA’63)

Dr. Nash with student athletes Matthew Curtis (Science, Basketball) and Lauren Willoughby (Science, Volleyball).

Legacies for Tomorrow

www.givingtowestern.uwo.ca/legacies
legacies@uwo.ca
661-2111 ext. 88825
Senate approves Women’s Studies department

By Karmen Dowling

Following years of effort and an emotional plea by Kathleen Okruhlak, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, Senate has approved creation of the Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research.

While a majority of Senate favoured establishing the department, the creation appeared to hit a last-minute hitch when some senators expressed disagreement with the number of administration voting members for the proposed department’s constitution.

No other university department has a constitution controlled so much by administration, said Michael Carroll, adding he felt arrangement was patronizing towards women.

In disagreement, Okruhlak said the administration involved included a number of women who had a personal stake in the department and who had been working towards this point for many years.

“This is the culmination of 20 years of hard work to get Women’s Studies at Western,” said Okruhlak, her voice shaking. “I hope (today’s approval) is seen as a tribute to a large number of very far-sighted and brave women who couldn’t be with us today.”

Some of the women Okruhlak was referring to were supporters of the proposed department who have died or left Western for other opportunities.

Roma Harris, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs and Student Services), would be a voting member on the constitution. She added, “To embrace women’s studies and feminist research, it has to include voices of women scholars.”

UWOFA President Jane Toswell proposed an amendment to the motion creating the department that then carried the day.

With the proposed constitution piece, the motion was overwhelmingly approved.

After the meeting, Okruhlak said she was relieved.

“It’s taken so long to get here,” she said. “When we started, things were different and it was a high risk to support us. Today’s decision is important. It shows attitudes towards women and feminist aspirations and endeavors have changed over 20 years.”

Okruhlak notes there have been a lot of compromises along the way, but that’s how one reaches one’s goals. Okruhlak made special reference to the work of Julie Ashford, assistant to the Director of the Centre for Women’s Studies and Feminist Research since it began in 1987.

“Without Julie, I don’t think we’d be here today.”

In other business, Senate set Convocation dates for 2006.

■ St. Peter’s Seminary Theological Convocation – April 27
■ Huron University College Theological Convocation – May 11
■ Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry – MD Program – May 19
■ Spring Convocation – June 12 to June 16
■ Autumn Convocation - October 19 and October 20

Carroll fears faculty information at risk

By Karmen Dowling

Questions and concerns raised about the potential for Western faculty’s personal information getting into the hands of authorities in the United States will have to wait until next month.

Senator Michael Carroll says faculty records may become subject to the U.S. Patriot Act, which permits access to personal or corporate records and other items in order to intercept and obstruct terrorism.

“I want written assurance from (Buck) that they will not transmit our personal data across international boundaries and that they would not comply with an order from a U.S. court to turn over our data.”

Senator Michael Carroll

However Carroll’s notice of motion has been referred to Senate’s Operations and Agenda Committee.

The Patriot Act, passed in the U.S. after the September 11 terrorist attacks, allows a Federal Intelligence Surveillance (FIS) court in the U.S. to order a U.S. corporation to produce records of an affiliate in other countries, including Canada.

Western has outsourced pension record-keeping information to Buck Consultants Canada, which is owned by a U.S. company, ACS.

“My point is that the simple possibility that a U.S. FIS court can gain easy access to our records is a threat to privacy and likely to academic freedom,” says Carroll.

“After all, only a very few academics are ever going to say things that challenge established authority in general and U.S. policies in particular. But the whole point of academic freedom is to protect the rights of the minority who might want to do just this - and anything that increases the ability of the U.S. government to invade our private life clearly is going to have a chilling effect on this minority and so curtail academic freedom.”

Vice-President (Administration) Gitta Kulczycki says there is potential for personal information to be requested of Buck, but it’s a theoretical power and is not likely. Western is in compliance with the Canadian Personal Information and Protection of Electronic Documentation Act (PIPEDA), she says.

“We have a duty to protect personal information and we believe we are meeting the standards,” says Kulczycki. “We abide by the laws of Canada and Ontario. We have informed our employees of the use of their information and we also give the employees an opportunity to opt out.”

Buck has never received a U.S. request for information, she says, noting the Canadian government also has authority to request this information, but hasn’t. Even a slight risk personal information could be surrendered to the U.S. means it is still an issue, says Carroll. He adds that if faculty have already been put at risk, opting out doesn’t solve the problem.

“I want written assurance from (Buck) that they will not transmit our personal data across international boundaries and that they would not comply with order from a U.S. court to turn over our data.”

Beat the winter blues

 Margaret Wente

Lies, damn lies, and journalism: how the media misinform the public

November 24, 2005 • 4:30 pm Somerville House, Room 3345

Margaret Wente is one of Canada’s leading columnists. As a writer for The Globe and Mail, she provokes heated debate with her views on social issues and political issues. She has twice won the National Newspaper Award for column writing, and has written for the paper from Iraq, China and Israel. Her recent book, An Accidental Canadian, has just been published in paperback.
VIEWPOINT

Are universities more afraid of unpleasant facts?

History Professor Emeritus Heinz Klatt worries that multiculturalism and political correctness erode willingness to discuss the facts.

Earlier this term I attended a public lecture on campus given by a Muslim scholar on how Islam should be defined and seen by the West after September 11. The speaker was introduced as someone who writes widely in national and local newspapers and who chooses his words carefully.

That young indoctrinated students do not know the difference between a mosque or church and a university shows the challenge that we have to meet.

The invited professor, competent and gentle, said everything we have become used to hearing: Islam means peace and tolerance, and Khomeiny and Osama bin Laden do not represent Islam. It was a pleasant surprise to hear, if only for the fact that his speech deviated from the usual mantra, that he approved of President George Bush's military interventions in the Muslim world.

During the question period I asked him how he reconciles the message that Islam represents peace and tolerance with some of the details of Mohammad's life. I told the audience that Christianity had to deal with the Inquisition and horrible religious wars which, however, were unable to explain his speech departed from the usual mantra, that he approved of President George Bush's military interventions in the Muslim world.

The speaker, after having listened attentively, gave truly breathtaking answers to my question. He confirmed the veracity of my statements and added that all the above facts have been reported by Muslim historians and are "well known by all of us." Even more astounding was his assertion that nothing of what "we all know" diminishes Mohammad since God chose an "imperfect vessel" for his message. Thus, murders committed by the Prophet do not affect his image as the Perfect Human Being and as the moral model for all mankind.

After these truly heart-stirring revelations by the lecturer, a student reproached me for having offended him and for not respecting others. The above examples and not of the absurdity of only some of the details of Mohammad's life. I told the audience that Christianity had to deal with the Inquisition and horrible religious wars which, however, were unable to explain his speech departed from the usual mantra, that he approved of President George Bush's military interventions in the Muslim world.

In a similar vein, we may imagine a Twentieth Century History class in which the professor says the Soviets killed tens of millions of their own people (disenfranchised and members of "wrong" groups) during peace time, and in which a Russian student claims to be offended and asks for respect for himself. An Eighteenth Century History class may mention that the French revolutionaries used the guillotine to reduce the number of aristocrats and a French student says he is offended. An American History class may mention that the majority of our blacks descend from slaves, or that many emancipated slaves quickly became slave owners themselves, and a black student asks that those facts not be mentioned so he can feel respected. Some of our students and colleagues are so inebriated by multiculturalism and political correctness that they recognize the absurdity of only some of the above examples and not of the others.

In 1939, Premier Mitch Hepburn announced the government had been too generous towards its provincially funded universities and would reduce their grants. He wanted to redirect money towards primary schools rather than assist universities to "clutter up the professions". Western students launched balloons carrying protest notes and participated in a massive march into downtown London. Their protests fell on deaf ears. The general public had little sympathy for university students who they considered part of the privileged class. The advent of war however quickly changed the direction of government policy.

Week with an attractively presented seminar on the topic of the mandate of the university in which there is vigorous debate on current controversies and on the absurdity of the politically correct "university" in which students feel offended and not respected by the mention of unpleasant facts. I wish administrators would deliberate about what organizational structure to create that would allow all incoming students to learn in their very first days what the mandate of a university is.

Contributed by Alan Noon London Free Press Collection/Western Archives

Have you had your flu shot? November is FLU VACCINATION MONTH

According the London-Middlesex Health Unit, "the single best way to prevent the flu is to get a flu vaccination each fall." This year’s flu shot will protect people against the A/New Caledonia, the A/New York, and the B/England strains of flu virus as recommended by the World Health Organization. It is particularly important for the following groups to be vaccinated:

- children and people who have contact with children
- people 65 years of age and over
- people with chronic medical conditions
- health care and service providers
- poultry workers

Besides getting the flu shot, everyone is encouraged to practice frequent and thorough hand washing at all times.

Tips on wellness are brought to you by Western’s Rehabilitation Services as part of Western’s Healthy Workplace Initiative.

Visit their Wellness Calendar online at www.uwo.ca/humanresources/rehab
A new president on ‘taking office’

BY ROBERT WEISBUCH

I wonder if I can follow my own advice.

For eight years, presiding at the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, I’ve been telling my fellow academics how they have been messing up and what to do about it. Everything looked different once I left academe for the foundation presidency, which allowed me to turn those new perceptions into programs.

Free of the democratic processes of faculty governance, I’ve exclaimed about the hereditary stultitudes of universities, the mind-boggling molasses of faculty committees, and the cowardice of placing a shallow harmony above institutional good just to keep some unreasonable colleagues pacified. Of course at the foundation I didn’t have to live day after day with faculty colleagues, reasonable or unreasonable.

Jeremiah had a lot of fun but did he ever work for a living? I haven’t gained anything like profession, reasonable.

Colleagues, reasonable or unreasonable, live day after day with faculty. Of course at the foundation I didn’t have to face them. This will be my first stint as a university president.

Drew is a great place; in the words of many, “the hidden gem of American higher education.” After two days of an on-campus audition, I like the place so much I asked members of the selection committee at the debriefing if I could just stay and interview the next finalist with them.

But of course Drew is not perfect. And even a few weeks into the job, I begin to feel every possible temptation not to be bold.

I have two nightmares. One is of becoming the guy who is saying with shrill arrogance, “Follow me, gang,” while no one is following at all. In the other, I just quietly submerge myself into a ragtag crow, an undistinguished as any other.

A new president of a university is supposed to murmur that he or she will spend the first year listening. The campus will utter its wishes, which the president then will enact, as if the president were simply a collective consciousness.

I plan to do a lot of listening, but I also think a college president ought to arrive with something to say. My new colleagues will change those sayings mightily. I translate some into the historical lexicon of the place, ignore others, embrace a few. So, I am here both to listen and to lead. The James Carville of my consciousness keeps whispering to me, “It’s about the dialectic, stupid.”

In just a few weeks as president, already I have been stunned by the amount of unexpected information that I receive, information that doesn’t so much run counter to my beliefs as to constitute whole new ranges of concern.

On my second day on the job, one of our seniors, an extraordinarily fine student and person, lost her life in a terrible accident, the maddeningly arbitrary victim of a drunken driver. In the aftermath of that horrid moment, I was heartened to witness dozens of Drew students travel across several states to attend the memorial service for her, relating to one another and her family with a closeness that was deeply moving.

Both a student’s death and the communal response constituted experiences I have never written or thought about, and I found the medical dictum drumming in my head, “Do no harm.” There is something precious at Drew, and I must not damage it. Both the shocking experience of a student’s death and that thought of cautious conservation were not on my original agenda.

Another instance of surprising information – this time of a happier variety – came a few days later during a telephone call from the head of the music program, telling me that one of the nation’s renowned chamber music ensembles may wish to make Drew its satellite home in New Jersey and offer concerts and education programs here – for a price. When have I ever considered an offer like that?

Suddenly I am not simply an academic Jeremiah but a village mayor. Any number of human faculties I haven’t tested before are coming into play. Great, but might I integrate integrity of beliefs myself through the other door?

For all as the happenstance is happening, and amid the autumn arrival of students, I struggle to hold to my sense of what matters most. What matters most at Drew is going from very good to great, which this place absolutely has within its reach. It is a lovely, deeply democratic culture, but at times it has paid for its comfort at the cost of declining to make difficult decisions.

I know that I wasn’t to create more of a culture of assessment and reallocation. I know that I want to help make our place more participant in the continuing life of the disciplines, their discoveries and controversies. I know that I want to make Drew more of what it already is as a private university with a strong public mission.

I plan to do a lot of listening, but I also think a college president ought to arrive with something to say.

And I want us to be hellbent for quality, however we agree to define it. Oh hell, truth to say, I want to labor with my new colleagues to reinvent the liberal arts and help to create a new and amazing university under these Jersey skies. And I’m going to get to all that sometime today, right after we discuss increased financing for the fencing team and the complaints about the shortage in married-student housing.

Have you read one of these lately?

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Synchrotron science flourishes despite failed bid

BY KARMEN DOWLING

Canada's national facility for synchrotron light research has officially turned one year old and Western researchers have every right to celebrate.

While Western lost a bid to build the synchrotron in London a few years ago, several faculty members have been deeply involved in the development and operation of this research centre from day one.

Western's expertise and commitment to the synchrotron radiation application played a role in ensuring the Canadian Light Source (CLS) would be built, although the national facility went to Saskatoon. Current Western users of this facility include Michael Bancroft, Ronald Martin, Stewart McIntyre, Peter Norton, Richard Puddephatt and T.K. Sham.

A synchrotron produces extremely bright light – millions of times brighter than the sun - by using powerful magnets and radio frequency waves to accelerate electrons to nearly the speed of light. This infra-red, ultraviolet and X-ray light is shone down beamlines to experimental stations where scientists can select different parts of the spectrum to “see” the microscopic nature of matter, right down to the level of the atom.

Information obtained with a synchrotron can be used to help design new drugs, examine the structure of surfaces for developing more effective motor oils, build more powerful computer chips, and help with clean-up of mining wastes, to name just a few applications.

With six beamlines already complete, two overseen by Western faculty, the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron at the University of Saskatchewan is in the midst of construction to add six more beamlines in Phase 2 of the research project.

CLS officially opened in October 2004. The stadium-sized, $173.5-million project is Canada's biggest scientific research facility in more than 30 years. Capital and operating funding comes from federal, provincial, municipal, industrial and academic sources that all came together in an unprecedented partnership.

By the end of this year the CLS will have scheduled 20 experiments conducted in 140 experimental shifts, with 53 users visiting the CLS from across Canada and as far away as Germany. Requests for beam time are soaring, with over 900 experimental shifts sought.

Bancroft was the Director of CLS from 1999-2001, overseeing all of the initial construction. He continued on the management team until this past March and to this day remains on the board.

Meanwhile, Western Chemistry professor, T.K. Sham is currently at the facility working on a series of experiments. He returns to London on November 27 and says he visits the CLS every couple of months. Western collaborations will see two more beamlines completed this next phase. Sham says they are already planning for Phase 3.

Each beamline takes about two to three years to build at a cost of $5 million to $15 million. For more information on CLS, visit: www.lightsource.ca

What is the solution to doping in sports?

By Fiona Wilkinson

“You should lose your career if you do drugs.”

Fourth year, Software Engineering
Upinder Sidhu

“You should lose your career if you do drugs.”

Fourth year, Software Engineering
Carlos Sierra

“We need to motivate the athletes to be more competitive and love the sport as it is - for the enjoyment. Then we’ll see better quality and better entertainment – so everybody can win.”

Amelia Bailey
Second year, English & Ethics

“I don’t think there is a solution. There is always some way to cheat the system, whether it’s by making sure it doesn’t show up in blood tests - some people will make sure they find a way.”

Marco Lepepeg
Second year, ACS

“They need to put more money into the screening process. It seems drugs are always one step above the methods to screen for these drugs.”

Second year, English & Ethics
Alma Bailey

“If you want to succeed you have to put in the effort. You can’t cheat your way to success."n

Second year, ACS
Carlos Sierra

“You shouldn’t need to cheat to succeed, some people will make sure they find a way.”

Second year, ACS
Shawn Talbot

“Some people are too focused on winning at all costs. If you want to succeed you have to put in the effort. You can’t cheat your way to success.”

Second year, English & Ethics
Alma Bailey

“You should lose your career if you do drugs.”

Fourth year, Software Engineering
Upinder Sidhu
Hit songwriter shares his inspiration

By Quentin Casey

When Stephan Moccio was a music student at Western a decade ago, he happened to meet Celine Dion during a performance at Alumni Hall. He boldly told the famous Canadian singer he would someday write her a hit song. She laughed and the two parted ways.

Nearly nine years to the day later, Moccio delivered on his promise.

He penned Dion’s 2002 comeback hit, A New Day Has Come. The song was the title track of the album that debuted at No. 1 in 18 countries and sold 11 million albums.

Moccio was back at Western recently speaking to students in the Don Wright Faculty of Music. Moccio discussed a variety of topics, from song writing techniques and how to approach publishers, to the pitfalls of the music industry.

“Allows mistakes to happen. Nurture them,” he told the crowd. “They are your best teacher in life.”

And Moccio has experience to support his wisdom.

The 33-year-old has collected a wealth of accomplishments since he graduated in 1994 with an honors degree in composition and piano performance.

Moccio composes, arranges and produces music in a variety of genres, from rap and pop to classical. He has worked with some of the biggest names in the music industry, including Sarah Brightman, the Royal Philharmonic in London, England, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Olivia Newton John, Jessica Simpson, Randy Bachman and David Foster.

Even legendary Beatles producer George Martin has produced one of Moccio’s songs.

And the future is just as promising.

Moccio will soon work with hip-hop artist Kayne West, and Canadian jazz legend Oscar Peterson is set to record one of his songs.

Such success is the product of hard work, lots of ambition and what he calls “a very supportive musical family.”

The Niagra Falls, Ont., native started piano lessons at the age of three. He trained with the Royal Conservatory, played in rock bands as a teenager and studied at Western despite scholarship offers from many other schools.

Moccio can remember the moment, at 11 years old, when he knew music would be his life’s passion.

“The piano all of the sudden became an open canvas and the notes became these various colors, painted with different brush strokes,” he said in an interview. “That’s when I really said, ‘wow, there are endless possibilities here.’”

Moccio easily recalls his time at the university.

“Some of my fondest memories are of the beauty of the campus, the architecture. That’s extremely inspiring for any artist or musician.”

Music grad Stephan Moccio works with some of the biggest names in music including Sarah Brightman, Celine Dion and David Foster.

Moccio was back at Western recently speaking to students in the Don Wright Faculty of Music. Moccio discussed a variety of topics, from song writing techniques and how to approach publishers, to the pitfalls of the music industry.

“It was a great opportunity to see the direction Western is headed in, particularly with its new pop music program that will begin next year,” he said.

Moccio said the faculty’s open-mindedness toward pop music is essential to produce top performers in the industry.

“This is a step in the right direction,” he said. “It’s very brave and I’m very proud they are doing it.”

All these years later, with his career in full form, Moccio can still pinpoint the first song that inspired him. He was only three years old and listening to Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker. “I remember the power of that music,” he said, “and how it just took me to a different place.”

Some of my fondest memories are of the beauty of the campus, the architecture. That’s extremely inspiring for any artist or musician.

Music grad Stephan Moccio works with some of the biggest names in music including Sarah Brightman, Celine Dion and David Foster.

Following what you know and going against the grain... and having the confidence to stand by it,” he said.

But despite his success, Moccio said his greatest accomplishment came just five weeks ago.

His daughter, Elle, was born. “It causes you to look at life differently, evaluate things differently,” he said. “It has put things back into perspective for me in a very good, grounding way.”

Moccio shares his life with his wife of nearly three years, Hilary Kristen. The two are high school sweethearts and have been able to remain together despite Moccio’s hectic schedule.

Hilary is now a stay-at-home mom, but used to teach in the private school system in Toronto.

The couple make their home in Toronto, but Moccio spends a lot of his time in L.A., where much of his work is based.

Eventually Moccio would like to move to California permanently, although further up the coast from L.A. Within a decade he’d like to work exclusively with orchestras, strictly conducting and composing.

Moccio’s willingness to share his story was appreciated by the music faculty.

“He’s a special person... he’s so giving,” said Robert Laengert, a fourth-year music history student focusing on pop music. “I learned a lot about how things work in the industry.”

Moccio said he’s glad to see the direction Western is headed in, particularly with its new pop music program that will begin next year.

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Touring Europe with a clarinet

A band of keen amateur musicians gets a five-concert gig to play the birthplace of the masters

By Mark Kearney

I can now say I’ve “played the Palace.” No, not the famed New York theatre of vaudeville days; instead I performed on the grounds of Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna this past July alongside some members of the Don Wright Faculty of Music New Horizons Band. That was a bit shabby.

That we even performed in Vienna, and later Budapest and Prague, might be considered audacious for a band that’s only been around for six years and plays at a high school level. But some 40 members were keen to tour Europe and play five concerts there.

The following is a condensed diary of our tour this past summer from where I sat as a clarinet player.

JULY 4

We gather at Saunders Secondary School in London to start our first international tour. We are adults ranging from late teens to 80s, and there is a buzz of anticipation about finally being on our way after more than a year of planning. “Can you believe we’re actually going?” is the most repeated phrase. Some of us bring along kazoois and play a bit of our repertoire on the bus to the airport. I think it somehow sounds better on kazoo than we do on our instruments."

JULY 7

We arrived in Vienna yesterday, where we play the first two concerts. This is the third time I’ve been to Vienna and have always loved it. But in the home of Strauss, and for a time, Mozart and Beethoven, it’s a bit daunting to come as a musician.

There are a few clouds as we set up chairs in the courtyard of Schönbrunn Palace, former home of the Hapsburg rulers. Our concert starts at 3 p.m., but we’re here an hour early... and nervous. One sax player says, “I’m so scared I don’t have any spit.” For “our international debut,” as someone calls it, we start hesitantly with the Austrian anthem. It takes us a couple of tunes to find our groove, and I appreciate the wisdom of our conductor, Mark Enns, (B. Mus. 1983 and B. Ed. 1988), head of music at Saunders Secondary, to pick a repertoire of more than a dozen tunes that we’ve been playing for awhile.

We also battle a wind that makes our sheet music dance despite being fastened with clothes pegs; it’s also difficult to hear. I’m thinking, where are the trumpets? I can always hear them, but not outside in this huge, gusty space. As part of our performance, Enns pulls a guest conductor from the crowd, a teacher with a group of kids. She “conducts” us through Soul Bossa, music from an Austin Powers movie, and that gets the crowd animated.

The Band-Aids (spouses and friends who accompany us) assure us afterwards that we sounded fine. My sense is that it wasn’t our best performance by any means, but we’re through it and can relax a bit.

JULY 7 (EVENING)

Two concerts in one day—that’s showbiz, baby! Tonight we play outdoors at a restaurant in Grinzing, a suburb of Vienna. We definitively perform better this time and in the small crowd are half a dozen people from the Canadian embassy who heard it was Canadian Night at the restaurant. A few Japanese tourists snap photos of us. What, do they think we’re the Vienna Philharmonic? Dream on.

After the concert, we dine at a restaurant and are entertained by two musicians – on accordion and violin – who serve up every cheesy song that’s ever been recorded from Edelweiss to Spanish Eyes to My Way. Our group sings along heartily, definitely in good spirits. On to Budapest.

JULY 9

That our bus was able to make it down the waffer thin driveway leading to a retirement home outside of Budapest, where we play a morning concert, was as much a highlight as our performance. We discuss whether to start the concert with the Hungarian anthem; one argument is that these seniors will appreciate it, while the debate against is concern that some may have trouble standing up. We opt to play and are touched when they sing along. Several band members later say this appreciative audience made it their favourite concert, but it certainly wasn’t my best playing. I kept glancing around at the audience and missed a few bars. One sweet and ancient resident, named Olga, crocheted butterfly pins for band members to take home as a souvenir of the visit.

Budapest is divided in two by the Danube, the flat Pest side in contrast to the hills of Buda. Our afternoon concert is up in Buda at a spot called Fishermen’s Bastion. In a small park, we cram into a gazebo, but the acoustics are amazing, and I hear all the other band members playing through.

This fourth concert is our best performance, I think. We attract a sizeable crowd for some of the tunes, and I swear some audience members might even have been giving us a standing ovation. One young man in particular, a tourist from America, topped by an umbrella with a harmonica, topped by an umbrella with a spotlight that shone on him as he played. In a small, accented voice he sang You Are My Sunshine and If You Know Susie, among others. Maybe we could use this guy.

Our farewell dinner the next evening is filled with speeches, thank yous, and dancing. Many band members are pumped by what’s happened over the past 10 days and are already wondering aloud where to tour next. I have a feeling Europe hasn’t seen the last of us.

JULY 12

Prague is chock full of summer tourists exploring the bustling streets and some of the best-preserved buildings in Europe. Last night on the Charles Bridge, we saw a one-man band who played banjo, had several percussion instruments attached to his legs and head, whistles and a harmonica, topped by an umbrella with a spotlight that shone on him as he played. In a small, accented voice he sang You Are My Sunshine and If You Know Susie, among others. Maybe we could use this guy.

Our final concert, at Namesti Miru or Square of Peace, is on the hottest day of the trip. Some of us have quaffed a Czech beer before this performance, which may indicate our new, relaxed approach to performing. We get off to a ragged start with the Czech national anthem, but eventually pull together. Playing outdoors again creates a sound challenge; all I pretty much hear are the alto saxes behind me. There’s also wind, but I’ve mastered the art of pegging pages and shifting to new ones during bars of rest.

The crowd seems quiet today. After a solid rendition of Land of the Silver Birch, I swear there’s no applause. Come on, people, give it up for the band. But playing three Czech folk songs and enlisting another guest conductor for Soul Bossa invigorates the audience. We end, as always, with a march called Jovial Gentleman, and seconds before, I say to my fellow clarinetists, “Well, this is our final song of the tour. Savor it.”

Our farewell dinner the next evening is filled with speeches, thank yous, and dancing. Many band members are pumped by what’s happened over the past 10 days and are already wondering aloud where to tour next. I have a feeling Europe hasn’t seen the last of us.

One moment from the tour that sticks in my mind came between songs at Fishermen’s Bastion. Madeleine Hart (B.A. 1949), the clarinetist beside me, paused to soak in the atmosphere and then smiling, said: “This is so much fun.” Absolutely.

The writer is a London author and adjunct English professor at Western
Survey captures grad perceptions

By Paul Mayne

Western’s annual Survey of Graduating Students included in today’s issue of Western News plays a major role in helping to improve student services.

“The responses to the exit survey are very important in identifying areas where we are getting things right, and of equal importance, where we need to work harder on behalf of our students,” says Provost and Vice-President Fred Longstaffe.

The pull-out section provides a detailed look at opinions of the 2004-2005 graduates, including a survey of the views of graduates will brought to the university’s attention through the survey,” he says. “The matter of on-campus work opportunities on-campus work opportunities are once again near the bottom. Several of these areas were also featured near the bottom of satisfaction ratings in recent independent surveys in the Globe and Mail and Maclean’s magazine.

Longstaffe says it’s vital to have this sort of negative feedback.

“It is extremely important to have specific areas for improvement brought to the university’s attention through the survey,” he says. “The matter of on-campus work opportunities, for example, is something which needs our careful consideration, in consultation with all who might be involved.”

As changes to academic programs, support services and facilities are introduced at Western, the views of graduates will serve as a benchmark against which the effects of changes may be measured, says Longstaffe.

Good results
- Quality/variety of programs
- Career-relevant programs
- Library access
- Social atmosphere
- On-campus work opportunities

Poor results
- Scholarship services
- Student council services
- Off-campus work opportunities

High marks were given to the survey. A 28-per-cent response rate was received with this year’s survey.

Full-time summer opportunities are once again near the bottom. Several of these areas were also featured near the bottom of satisfaction ratings in recent independent surveys in the Globe and Mail and Maclean’s magazine.

Longstaffe says it’s vital to have this sort of negative feedback.

“It is extremely important to have specific areas for improvement brought to the university’s attention through the survey,” he says. “The matter of on-campus work opportunities, for example, is something which needs our careful consideration, in consultation with all who might be involved.”

As changes to academic programs, support services and facilities are introduced at Western, the views of graduates will serve as a benchmark against which the effects of changes may be measured, says Longstaffe.
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Labatt gift benefits health science

By Paul Mayne

A $5-million gift from Arthur and Sonia Labatt to Western will support health sciences education and research and lead to renaming the South Valley building in the couple’s honour.

The building, just completed last year, will be called the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building.

“The Labatt name will bring great distinction to the faculty and to Western,” says Western President Paul Davenport. “They believe in this university, in the value of post-secondary education and in supporting the fields of health and research. This gift strengthens the university immeasurably.”

The 80,000-square-foot state-of-the-art teaching and research facility includes a simulated hospital ward and home care unit, a 3-D virtual theatre, classrooms, labs and more. The $5-million gift will go towards:

- $2.5 million to the construction of the building;
- $1 million for the Ontario Women’s Health Council Chair in Rural Women’s Health - the only such research position in North America;
- $1 million in support of Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS) and Ontario Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology (OGSST) for masters and doctoral students in the Faculty of Health Sciences; and
- $500,000 in support of The Western Fund

“Sonia and I have decided to focus on education, health and research,” says Arthur Labatt. “Our major focus will be directed towards Canadian institutions that are leading edge – and Western certainly fits into that category.”

Arthur Labatt is president of Endiang Holdings Inc. while Sonia is an associate faculty member at the Centre for Environment at the University of Toronto.

Elected Western’s Chancellor in 2004 – a post he’ll hold until 2008 – Arthur Labatt sees Western as a “world class university.” With more than 3,000 students in Health Sciences, Labatt says he hopes his gift will help produce top health-care workers.

“I look forward to the future and what the university and this impressive faculty can accomplish,” says Labatt. “I’m so happy to be helping students attain their goals.”

Health Sciences Dean Jim Weese says the faculty will be able to do more for students with the gift. “Quality and innovation are integral in the Health Sciences and Arthur and Sonia’s gift has helped to realize this beautiful new building.”

Graduate student Andy Freeman told the Labatts their support will not go unnoticed by students. “You will definitely see the benefits of your support.”

Health Sciences includes the schools of Communication Sciences & Disorders, Kinesiology, Nursing, Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy as well as an interdisciplinary Bachelor of Health Sciences program and interdisciplinary graduate programs in Rehabilitation Sciences. The faculty also boasts three research centres - the Canadian Centre for Activity and Aging, the National Centre for Audiology and the International Centre for Olympic Studies.

Labatt gift benefits health science

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By Janis Wallace

As dynamic a concert as you will find anywhere -- that is the description director Jerome Summers gives the UWO Symphony Orchestra’s concert Nov. 27 at 3 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

The reasons? “You have a large orchestral experience, large compositional gestures, the drive and vitality intrinsic in 20th-century writing and the powerful, brooding Russian nature of Shostakovich in the slow movement of his 10th Symphony. This is offset by the more understated French violin concerto.”

The student orchestra has a chance to shine in Symphony No. 10 by Shostakovich, one of the most rebellious composers of the Soviet Bloc.

“It’s like a concerto for orchestra,” says Summers. “It features all the sections in solos parts. There are stunning fast running movements for the strings and woodwinds and brilliant percussion writing. We’re inaugurating our new timpani in this work.”

The symphony also incorporates a hidden enigma. The composer based the main theme on the initials of his name – D S C H (musically translated as D, E flat, C, B).

John Adams was a rebel of another kind. He is a well-known and highly regarded minimalist. Performing his music is a rare opportunity for students. His Short Ride on a Fast Machine, is a bit of an oxymoron in that it is minimalist, but written for a huge orchestra. “It is four minutes of rhythmic madness,” says Summers. “It drives relentlessly and gives string players a sense of what it is like to be a percussionist.”

More dynamic contrast is provided in the program by Vieuxtemps’ Violin Concerto No. 4. This relatively unknown work uses full Romantic orchestration, but with a French touch – a light colour, a gentle, gossamer quality. “It has a sense of innocence. But the violin solo is very challenging, similar to a solo by Paganini.

Eric Fujita is doing a beautiful job,” says Summers. Eric is a Don Wright Faculty of Music student, one of the concerto competition winners who is the featured soloist.

Tickets available at the door. In advance from Orchestra London at 679-8778. $15 adults; $10 students and senior.

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Parent & Child, Kindergarten to Grade 8
New members begin Board of Governors terms

By Karmen Dowling

Four new faces will join the Board of Governors starting today.

Faculty members Jerry White and David Bentley have signed on for four-year terms which take them until November 2009, while students Laura Burke and Graydon Raymer begin two-year stints ending November 2007.

Jerry P. White - elected by the Senate to the Board.

White is a professor and Chair of Sociology at Western. He is former Deputy Chair of the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council of Ontario and a holder of the Pleva Professorship for teaching excellence. White is currently Associate Director of Convocation and is serving his fourth term on Senate. From 1998 to the present he has been co-director of the nationally renowned First Nation Cohesion Research Project at Western. He has edited or co-authored six books.

David Bentley - elected by the Faculty to the Board.

He is a specialist in Canadian literature and English Victorian literature and painting. Bentley has taught and published extensively in both fields, as well as on matters of professional concern such as the relationship between teaching and research and the situation of the Arts and Humanities in Canada. His publications include The Confederation Group of Canadian Poets, 1880-1897 (University of Toronto Press, 2004). He is founding editor of Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents, Reviews (1977-) and director of the Canadian Poetry Press (1986-). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a 3M Fellow, and a winner of the Pleva Award for Teaching and the Hellmuth Prize for Research.

Laura Burke - elected by the Undergraduate Student Constituency to the Board.

She was born and raised in North Bay and came to Western in 2001 for Kinesiology Sciences. After first year Burke switched into Physiology/Psychology and is currently working on her third year of concurrent degrees in Health Science and Nursing. She has been heavily involved in the Orientation Week Program, especially this past year as the Orientation Coordinator. In addition to sitting on three student councils: Health Sciences, Nursing, and the USC, Burke is also a member of the Charity Ball Committee.

Graydon Raymer - elected by the Graduate Student Constituency to the Board.

He has a BSC (Life Sciences) and BPHE from Queen’s University. Raymer completed his Masters in Kinesiology from Western and is currently in his fourth year of the PhD program in Medical Biophysics. He has served almost three years as Vice-President Academic for the Society of Graduate Students, competed in varsity cross-country track & field at Queen’s & Western and continues to race road and MTB cycling semi-professionally. Raymer married Western Kinesiology and Physiotherapy graduate, Becky Martyn, on October 1, 2005.

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PhD Lectures

Hirosi Arizumi: An Economics PhD Thesis Examination will be held November 25 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Title of Thesis: “Estimates of Physician Contracts, Health and Unemployment, and Long-Term Care Insurance.” Supervisor: Dr. Audra Bowkus and Dr. Ake Bomqvist.

Maureen O’Neill: An Education PhD Public Lecture will be held November 25 at 10 a.m. in Room 100, Althouse College. Title of Thesis: “Understanding Understanding in Secondary School Science: An Interpretive Study.” A Thesis Examination will follow at 1:30 p.m in Room 125A, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Sharon Hagerty.

Adam G. Rehorn: An Electrical and Computer Engineering PhD Public Lecture will be held November 25 at 1 p.m. in Room 234, Thompson Dental Science Building. Title of Thesis: “The Use of Hidden Markov Models for Short-Term Forecasting.” A Thesis Examination will follow at 2 p.m. in Room 102, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Jin Jiang and Dr. Peter Orban.

Silvana Ilić: An Applied Mathematics PhD Public Lecture will be held November 28 at 2 p.m. in Room 204, Middlesex College. Title of Thesis: “Computational Complexity of Numerical Solutions on Initial Value Problems for Differential Algebraic Equations.” A Thesis Examination will follow at 3 p.m in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Robert M. Corless and Dr. Greg Reid.

Sean Gill: A Physiology PhD Public Lecture will be held November 30 at 9 a.m in Room 1002, Dental Science Building. Title of Thesis: “The Function of TIPS in Marine Branching Branch-Morophogenesis.” A Thesis Examination will follow at 10 a.m in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Kevin Leco and Dr. Andy Matson.

Faculty & Staff

Sandra Holson presented a paper co-authored with Thelma Sumson and Debbie Rae, all with the School of Occupational Therapy, that titled “Clients as Partners in Curriculum Planning and Delivery.” They presented the paper at an international conference on “Where is the Patient’s Voice in Health Professional Education?” in Vancouver. Debbie Rae, consumer representative on the Professional Curriculum Committee, was a virtual co-presenting author in front of video clips to deliver her sections of the presentation.

Jason Gilliland (Geology) gave an invited presentation entitled “Assessing the Influence of Environmental Factors on Scolex-Related Behaviours in Younger” to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Principal Investigators Meeting. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Institute of Genetics and the Institute of Human Development, Child, and Youth Health.

Melissa Adamsen. Modern Languages and Literatures) recently presented the papers “Vogelweide’s Bean Song” in the Department of English and “Theories of Asian Aesthetics and Early Modern Period, Twelfth International Conference.”

Jin Jiang and Dr. Peter Orban.

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REGISTRAR’S BULLETIN

November 24, 2005

Mid-Year Examination Dates, December 2005

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

Mid-Year Examination Timetable, December 2005

The preliminary mid-year examination schedule is now posted on the Registrar’s web site. The Final Schedule is posted November 17 on the Registrar’s web site. Students looking for flights for the holidays are advised to book a flight date of December 22 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 November 15.

Due dates for tuition fees

Second instalment of tuition fees for undergraduate and professional students is January 11, 2006, and for MBAs is January 16, 2006.

Statements of account will be mailed early in December to the address on the University’s computer system. Please update your address by logging into www.registrar.uwo.ca with your student number and PIN.

Add/Drop Deadlines

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

Hours of Operation

Regular hours, Information Services Room 190 Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Telephone Hotline: (519) 661-2100

Regular hours – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Don Wright Faculty of Music

Upcoming Performance

BEETHOVEN CYCLE

November 25, 26, 27 8pm, von Kuster Hall

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COMING EVENTS

November 24
McIntosh Gallery Exhibition - Rafael Goldberg chain: Familial Ground and Sounding Identity: New Music in New Places - until December 11

Department of Microbiology & Immunology - Miodrag Grbic, Department of Biology, Western: “Evolution of arthropod development: from ancestral developmental program to developmental novelties” DS7 Room 3008 - 11:30 am

Visual Arts Faculty/Staff Exhibition - “JOKE” featuring a New Video Production. Opening reception in the ArtLab from 5 - 8 pm. Exhibition runs to December 8.

Lunch Session (Ivey Biotech MBA Event) runs to December 8.

Lunch Session (Ivey Biotech MBA Event)

Informal lunch session every Thursday for those interested in biotechnology and business. Share knowledge from the science and business communities at Western. Special guest speakers will be arranged on occasion. Ivey Building, 2901-2 pm

FIMS’ Cissold Lecture - Globe and Mail columnist Margaret Wente will present “Lies, damn lies, and journalism: how the media misinform the public.” Somerville House, Room 3345, 4:30 pm

Men’s/Women’s Track & Field - Purple & White Intrasquad @ Western, 4 - 6 pm

Men’s/Women’s Track & Field - Purple & White Intrasquad @ Western, 4 - 6 pm

November 25
Anatomy & Cell Biology Seminar - Isabelle Plante - Universite du Quebec, “The Implication of Celi-Celi Interactions in Heschloromibenzene-Induced Female Rats Hepatocarcinogenesis” DS7 Room 1002, 12:30 pm

Astronomy Seminar - Ramon Brasser, Queen’s University “Embedded Star Clusters and formation of the Inner Dark Cloud” - Physics & Astronomy Bldg. Rm. 523 - 1:30 pm

Chechenya - The Shadowed Genocide - Guest Speaker Shelby Nose, Humanitarian worker and activist who traveled to Ingushetia to aid Chechen refugees and Rich Hitchens, Board Member and Chief Operating Officer for the Association for the Elimination of Hate. UC Room 142. 3:30 - 5:30 pm

Geography Speaker Series - Canada Research Chair on Technology, Culture and Risk in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, and the Department of Geography. Gavin Andrews Faculty of Information and Media Studies, and the Department of Geography. Gavin Andrews. 1:30 pm. For more information: www.fims.uwo.ca/news/andrews lecture.html

November 26

FIMS’ Clissold Lecture - Globe and Mail columnist Margaret Wente will present “Lies, damn lies, and journalism: how the media misinform the public.” Somerville House, Room 3345, 4:30 pm

Men’s/Women’s Track & Field - Purple & White Intrasquad @ Western, 4 - 6 pm

Men’s Hockey - RMC @ Western (JLC) 7 pm

Men’s/Women’s Track & Field - Purple & White Intrasquad @ Western, 4 - 6 pm

November 27

London Museum of Archaeology and the Langdon family invite you to step back in time for “A Colonial Christmas” fundraising event. Tour the Langdon home during an open house from 11 am to 4 pm. Located at 1794 Melway Rd, Arva. The home is a replica of the famous Raleigh Tavern in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Enjoy holiday treats, music, magic, colonial games and crafts. Tickets $10 for adults, $5 for children. All proceeds to support the museum. Tickets available at 473-1360

November 28

Men’s Basketball - Guelph @ Western, 8 pm

November 29

Senior Alumni - Live the Good Life for Your Entire Life - Be inspired to become stronger, healthier and happier. David Patchell-Evans, Founder and President, GoodLife Fitness Clubs. McKelvin Rm. UCC, 9:30 am – 11 am

November 30

Speaking Skills Practiced Weekly - Campus Communicators/Toastmasters meets every Wed, 12 noon, RM 330, S.B. Visitors welcome. For more information, Chandev Abhayaratne, cabhayar@uwo.ca or 661-2171, ext 85966

Please send submissions to comingevents@uwo.ca

More than a dozen bags of coats, boots, gloves and other cold weather necessities were collected by Community Campus Police Service as part of the Boys’ and Girls’ Club of London’s annual Koats for Kids drive. Special Constable Michael Romano, left, and Communications Operator Amanda Graham, right, helped Boys’ and Girls’ Club special events coordinator Sharon Durston load up all the items. More than 5,000 coats were collected city-wide.