Trash audits are uncovering large volumes of recyclables

By Heather Travis

The lifecycle of a plastic bottle or fine paper should carry it to a blue recycling bin, however at the University of Western Ontario many of these items are getting tossed in the trash.

To keep up with the problem, the Physical Plant department is playing the role of recycling watchdog.

A challenge has been issued for students, faculty and staff to think twice before discarding waste – especially if it can be reused or recycled. Since September, Physical Plant has conducted two waste audits of non-residence buildings on campus.

In October, about 21 per cent of the sampled garbage was recyclable and about 19 per cent in September. In these surveys of 10 buildings, Middlesex College and the Medical Science building had the least recyclables in the trash each month.

Jim Galbraith, Manager, Grounds Maintenance and Waste Management, is not satisfied. “Residences are really good at recycling because of the peer pressure,” he says. “When you get up with the flow of main campus, things change.

“There is less ownership in communal areas,” he adds.

Western’s goal is to meet the Ontario Ministry of the Environment’s target of diverting 60 per cent of waste from disposal; however the university is struggling to reach its mark because of a relapse in recycling.

EnviroWestern’s 2008 waste audit showed roughly half of the refuse headed for a landfill was recyclable.

“With more awareness of environmentalism and sustainability, Galbraith wonders, ‘Why isn’t recycling working? We have the stations.’

In most buildings, recycling stations for fine paper and beverage containers have been added to areas where garbage is collected. Office spaces have been equipped with recycling bins for fine paper, but recycling for beverage containers are often kept at a central location.

“When people don’t have something to put their beverages in, worst comes to worst, they throw it in the garbage,” he says, adding people are less likely to take the extra steps to recycle.

A large amount of waste is generated from pop and juice containers.

Every day, 150 blue bins are collected and sorted. As a result, 30 yards of beverage containers are shipped out daily to be recycled.

But the process doesn’t stop there.

Everyday, EnviroWestern recycles electronics, cardboard, fluorescent bulbs, furniture, scrap metal, batteries and wood products.

In the London Free Press this week, city director of environmental programs Jay Stanford says the price of recyclable material is expected to drop from $168 per tonne netted from January to October to $35 or $40 a tonne in November.

Submitted photo

What would it take to get young people to vote? On the heels of a poor youth turnout for last month’s federal election, computer science students were asked to combine technology and creativity to create a marketing campaign to promote voting. Using a reality show format dubbed Voting Idol, Rebecca Quach produced the winning poster. See story on Page 10.
When third-year Popular Music Studies student Daniel Crystal thought of raising money for Western through a student concert of Pink Floyd music, he had no idea how successful it would be.

After a sold-out show at The Wave in March 2007 and an even more successful encore show in March 2008 at Alumni Hall, Crystal and his 12-member band raised more than $42,000 for the Popular Music Studies program in the Don Wright Faculty of Music.

“I really wanted to support the school and decided that our relatively new program could really benefit from the money, so future students could get their money’s worth,” says Crystal, who notes some of the money will help buy new production and recording equipment.

“I also wanted to help students who are less fortunate, so a portion of our donation will go toward scholarships for Popular Music students.”

Crystal, a guitar player, recruited the 11 other band members, nine of whom were students in the Don Wright Faculty of Music. He says the entire group made the whole experience worthwhile.

“It was probably the most fun I ever had,” he says. “To have pulled something like that off, and have it be such a great success is such an amazing feeling.”

Vice-President External, Ted Garrard, says he is impressed with Crystal and the band for being creative in their fundraising efforts and for working so hard to make it a hit.

“This was a great student-led initiative to give back to the university,” says Garrard. “Daniel and his band are great examples of how enthusiastic our students are at Western to be engaged beyond academic studies, and to make a difference.”

To offer suggestions for future fundraising features please contact Karmen Dowling at kdowling@uwo.ca
Rental licensing seeks safer student housing

BY HEATHER TRAVIS

The City of London is considering a plan to license rental residential businesses, which University of Western Ontario Housing Mediation Officer Glenn Matthews believes will ensure safer housing for students.

The Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act was amended in January 2007 to allow municipalities the option of licensing, regulating and governing residential rental accommodations, similar to the licensing of other businesses. Prior to this, the act prevented municipalities from having such abilities.

Changes to the act, including the possible implementation of a residential licensing program, could have implications on rental units around the university area.

In order to combat unsafe housing conditions or buildings which do not adhere to property standards in the London area, a planning committee was formed to examine the merits of a rental residential business licensing program, lead by bylaw enforcement manager Orest Katolyk.

Two public meetings were held earlier this year to allow residents and stakeholders to comment on the proposal.

Most recently, the planning committee met on Nov. 10 to compile a list of four options, which will be presented in a draft to London city council. The options on the table are: maintaining the status quo of no licensing; targeted area enforcement in geographic areas with a high concentration of complaints; licensing of four-plexes and below; and licensing of all residential rental units in the city.

“Our number one goal is to provide safe housing for London residents,” says Katolyk, adding there are costs associated with all four options.

In the case of licensing, Katolyk has earmarked the cost to residential rental property owners to be set at about $150 per property paid over a five year period. Concerns have been raised about the cost of licensing resulting in an additional charge to tenants, however Katolyk says it is unlikely property owners will pass the minimum monthly fees on to renters.

As with other businesses, a licensing program would allow the city to inspect rental properties on a regular basis to make sure they meet building standards and fire codes and are safe.

Katolyk says the most common complaints arise from basement accommodations – the height of the ceilings, rooms without windows and improper exits pose fire and safety hazards. These problems are often caused by property owners building illegally within their units, he says.

The city receives few complaints from apartment units, he adds, which is why the committee is proposing licensing four-plexes and below.

“Unfortunately some landowners take advantage of the opportunities in high-demand rental areas and those areas around our two educational institutions (Western and Fanshawe College),” says Katolyk.

Matthews, of Western’s Housing & Ancillary Services, supports a licensing program.

“We think it’s a good thing because it’ll make for safer housing because they have to be inspected,” he says. “We are in favour of it, [but] if you are going to put it in, make it citywide.”

There is some concern housing availability will decrease after licensing, says Matthews, however he feels London’s high vacancy rates will be minimally affected.

Students living in rental units deemed to be illegal or not up to code could be forced out of their unit. However, the first step would be to make improvements to the rental property so it is safe and students are not displaced, he says.

“If you’ve got students living in a place that is not up to building or fire codes, that’s a concern for the university,” he says. “Would you put a car on the road that wouldn’t pass a safety test?”

Of the four options on the table, Matthews prefers that all rental units in the city be inspected.

“In an ideal world, everyone would be inspected,” he says, adding he can see the merits of licensing four-plexes or less because that is where the bulk of the complaints arise. Similarly, Ward 6 city councillor Nancy Branscombe, the area in which Western is located, favours city-wide licensing by size of unit.

“I don’t think we need to license every unit, but I do think we need to license the ones where we are having problems,” she says. “I want to find the line (for the size of units) where the bulk of the problems occur for tenants.”

This is not just a student housing issue, she adds, explaining there are building safety concerns in rental units in other areas of London.

“Obviously it’s more regulation, (but) I really see positives. It levels the playing field for landlords,” she says. “In my ward, it gives students safer accommodations.”

“My view is if the regulations we have now were working, we wouldn’t need to do more.”

If city council unanimously supports one of the options, Branscombe expects it could be implemented in early 2009.

Western Cares food drive begins

BY PAUL MAYNE

Thousands of London families are assisted by the London Food Bank each month, and these numbers are expected to grow in the face of turbulent economic times.

However, something as simple as canned food can make the difference between young children having a warm meal or going hungry, says University of Western Ontario Campus Communications Consultant Scott May.

“It’s disappointing in a country like Canada, there are thousands of people, both young and old, that literally go to bed hungry,” says May. “But that doesn’t have to be. Western can do its part to make sure the lives of hundreds of local residents will be a bit brighter over the holidays.”

The annual Western Cares Food Drive, which runs Nov. 28 to Dec. 12, would love to surpass last year’s total of more than 17,000 pounds of food.

May says with the generosity of the campus community in past years, there is no reason to believe Western can’t make a statement to stamp out hunger.

“Imagine if everyone on campus brought in just one can, just one each,” says May. “Do you realize the impact that would have on our community? When you’re at the store loading up on groceries for your holiday festivities, why not make someone else’s holidays that much better – toss in a few extra cans.”

More than 30 drop-off spots set-up across campus this year will help Western achieve its goal of collecting non-perishable foods, baby formula and diapers (even pet food for family pets is welcome).

Western’s annual food drive continues to play a big role in the success of the larger city-wide Business Cares Food Drive, which last year brought in more than 133,000 pounds of food for the London Food Bank. The city-wide campaign kicks-off Dec. 1 at Western’s London Hall, beginning at 10 a.m.

Anyone for a good cause

BY PAUL MAYNE, WESTERN NEWS

Who said raising money would be easy? Just ask graduate student Melissa Hendrickson, and Geography professors Chris Smart and Jeff Hopkins, who more than willingly donned costumes - all in the name of raising money for the Geography department’s United Way campaign. Western’s overall campaign sits at $359,106 or 6.5 percent of its $550,000 goal.

Paul Mayne, Western News

Western News

The Dec. 4 issue of Western News will be the last issue of 2008. News and information will continue to be posted on Daily News Service on the university’s homepage at www.uwo.ca. If you have a news item please direct correspondence to newseditor@uwo.ca.

The first issue for 2009 will be published Jan. 8. Please note the display, classified advertising and editorial deadline for features such as Student Services, Careers and Coming Events for that issue will be Monday, Dec. 22 at noon.

Please direct advertising questions to Denise Jones at advertising@uwo.ca.
THE WAY WE WERE: 1970

Throughout its history as a leading concert venue in London, Alumni Hall has hosted everything from opera to magicians. Among the more memorable events was the massed children’s choir presenting annual Christmas concerts. Earle Terry, director of music for the London Board of Education, guided participants from 25 area public schools. During these concerts more than 1,000 children were gathered on the stage of the hall with an orchestra immediately in front. These performers alone represented 50 per cent of the hall’s occupation capacity.

VERBATIM

In Canada, the level of international co-authorship is double that of the world average, with more than 40 per cent of academic publications having co-authors from other countries. In 2005, the U.S. accounted for more than half (52.1 per cent) of Canada’s co-authored articles. Canadian researchers also frequently publish with research partners in the U.K. (13.4 per cent), Germany (10 per cent), France (9.5 per cent) and Japan (5.2 per cent). In recent years, Canadian researchers have also significantly stepped up their co-publication rates with emerging and developing countries, nearly doubling this rate from 3.4 per cent in 1992 to 6.4 per cent in 2003.

FILM FESTIVAL COVERAGE BOMBS

I am writing to you to express my disappointment as Chair of Film Studies that Emergence, the queer film festival organized by the student group SAQD and sponsored by my department, eight other departments, six faculties, Research Western, SOCS, the Western GTA Union, and the Canadian Federation of Students was ignored by your publication despite efforts by the organizers and their faculty advisor who contacted you directly to request coverage. Internationally celebrated award-winning filmmakers John Greyson and Tom Kalin came to Western to share their work and ideas in screenings and presentations that spoke directly to the university’s Diversity program. The queer nature of the festival programming, the festival’s research component, its independent organization and fundraising by undergraduate students and the support from across campus (excluding your failure to tell this story) were unprecedented at Western and worthy of attention.

I am told that Western News was unable to cover the festival due to a shortage of reporters and competing events on campus. As Western has a journalism program on campus, I find it surprising that your organization doesn’t have a line on capable freelance journalists who would be happy to cover significant intellectual and cultural events like Emergence when circumstances place your regular writers elsewhere. If there is not a relationship between Western News and the MA in Journalism, it might be worth pursuing one so that this kind of omission does not occur in the future.

Christopher E. Gittings

WANTED: HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

In August, 40 nursing students traveled to Dominican Republic with Danica’s Dreams Dominica Medical Team. The volunteer medical team worked on two main projects – medical clinics and building projects.

Danica’s Dreams is focused on providing free medical care to as many Dominican and Haitian refugees as possible. The 2008 team consisted of merely four professionals: one doctor, one registered nurse, and two dentists. With help from student volunteers they treated hundreds of people in a few short days. The goal for the 2009 team is to drastically increase the number of health care professionals, in hopes of maximizing the amount of primary health care provided.

As part of a fourth year nursing political action campaign we are lobbying local health care professionals to join this amazing organization. If you are interested in learning more about Danica’s Dreams or would like to attend an information session, please contact us at danicasdreams@gmail.com.

Angel Sanchez
Nursing program

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Western News archives from November 20, 1986

The Richard and Jean Ivey Family Scholarship was awarded for the first time to Kevin Wright, a first-year student at Western with the highest Grade 13 average in Ontario. Wright was to receive $3,000 per year, for four years in total in recognition of his academic excellence.

Delaware Hall’s International House, a cross-cultural living wing emphasizing understanding and acceptance of various cultures, was seen as an opportunity to learn about different cultural heritages and aid in the integration of international students. As of November 1986, the wing was operating successfully, enriching the lives of participants.

The Mustangs were to compete against the number one ranked UBC Thunderbirds for the Vanier Cup on Saturday Nov. 22, 1986. Risk of losing after an undefeated season was a factor for both teams. The Mustangs were to wear a City of London shoulder patch on their jerseys to signify the university’s “strong bond” with the London community.

1964 as The Beatles was to be the theme for the Third Annual Western Charity Ball. The Ball, to be held at the Progress Building, Western Fair on Jan. 17, 1987, would benefit Hutton House and the Multiple Organ Transplant Unit at University Hospital. Tickets were available to students for $16,520 to the community.

The classifieds featured a 1973 VW Beetle for $500. The car was described as “runs well, gas heater, engine good, body good, floor needs work”.

– compiled by Caterina White
Visit a world of wonder and whimsy

By Carolyn Doyle

Wonderfull by William Neil Scott is a delightful novel that tells the lives, history, and stories of the East coast village of Garfax. This is not an ordinary place - nor are these ordinary stories.

Garfax is a village that does not exist on any map. It is a community that has been erased by government historians who deemed that it had no historical significance or contribution to justify its existence. The people of Garfax, however, remained after the historians left. And although Garfax does not exist to the outside world, it is brimming with magic, inhabited by people filled with stories and a yearning for a future.

The characters in Wonderfull are quirky and endearing. Central to the story is Emma Brodie, a woman who sets off a chain of events that affect the whole village when she takes to the bay in a stolen boat for seven days and seven nights.

“…we have to move on from our old stories before we can make new ones.”
- Cadmus Brodie in Wonderfull

Garfax is populated by wonderful and whimsical characters including Sara, whose hair does not dry after being abandoned in the rain, or Cadmus who visits other times and places while sleepwalking, and whimsical dead uncles who daily play dominos in the kitchen.

Occupying a place where its inhabitants are caught in the present and continue to search for the future, the writing of Wonderfull is lyrical, metaphorical, engaging, and, as the title aptly suggests, full of wonder.

William Neil Scott was born in Aberdeen, Scotland but has lived most of his life in Calgary. He attended the University of Calgary, graduating with an Honours BA in English with a concentration in Creative Writing. He is currently completing a writing program at the Vancouver Film School.

Wonderfull is Scott’s first novel. He cites the inspiration for this magical story from Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s One Hundred Years of Solitude and the multitude of his own family’s stories. Wonderfull was winner of the 2008 Trade Fiction of the Year and shortlisted for the 2008 Sunburst Award. Wonderfull is the selected title of celebrity reader and Western alumna Adria Iwasutiak, Senior Publicist of Random House of Canada and Paul Berton, Editor-in-Chief of The London Free Press.

Adria’s impressions summarize the appeal of Wonderfull: “This is a short and compulsively readable book that you do not want to end. It’s like nothing else that I’ve read as it bends the rules of every genre and invites you on a journey that is both bizarre and satisfying.”

All book lovers are invited to pick this one up, or better still come out for the London Reads discussion.

The writer is supervisor of the London Branch of the London Public Library. She is also a London Reads alumna, having partnered with Ted Hewitt and Michael Coleby.

Cost of recycling

Continued from page 1

Western contracts BFI Canada Recycling to pick up its recyclables and find buyers and “when it (the price) sinks, we sink with them,” says Galbraith.

Even with the expected drop in revenue from recyclables, he says “it’s not going to stop us.”

The recycling program costs Western $160,000 a year, including credits it receives from the sale of materials.

Galbraith plans to streamline the recycling program with London so the same materials can be recycled on campus as in the city. Composting is another area for expansion.

To justify growth, more people have to get on board and the Recycling Challenge provides a monthly reminder of Western’s progress.

“We need people to participate and help out,” he says. “There is always room for improvement.”

Check out the challenge on the Environment and Sustainability website at www.uwo.ca/nmp/sustainability.
Written in November 1887, several years after Archibald Lampman moved from Toronto to Ottawa in the early 1880s, “In November” was almost certainly inspired by the countryside of the Ottawa Valley into which the poet frequently walked to find relief from the urban and work environments that he found oppressive and hostile to his creative spirit. “Let us be much with Nature,” Lampman urged in another poem, and “In November” shows him following his own advice and experiencing the combination of close observation and imaginative reverie that he apparently considered crucial to his own creativity. A Petrachan sonnet that quite effectively uses the octave/sestet division of the form to present different portions of the Ottawa Valley landscape, “In November” is written in the present tense, as if composed (as is highly unlikely to have been the case) en plein air in front of the wintry “hills,” “forests,” and “fields” that it depicts. (The painterly terminology is appropriate here because in Lampman’s day pieces such as “In November” were often referred to as “word-paintings.”) Among the sonnet’s notable features are the unifying repetition of the long and sombre (almost painful) “ow” sound in such words as “slowly,” “snow,” “sowed,” and “grow” and the placement of the two words “I alone” at the end of the third-to-last line to emphasize the solitude of the poet and his sense of his own uniqueness as a motionless observer and dreamer “Wrapped” in a protective and warming layer of happy “thought.” Yet the poet has a partial correlative in the “last ploughman” whose “black furrows” across the “whitening field” bear a visually striking resemblance to writing (or print) on a page. Indeed, Lampman suggests elsewhere that the farmer and the poet are parallel in their creative use of the earth – the farmer in sowing and harvesting his crops and the poet is harvesting a “crop of images and curious thoughts” that he stores in the “granary” of his mind for use in future poems. It is permissible to imagine that one evening in November 1887, as an Ottawa Valley farmer ploughed in the “thin fading stubbles” of one of his fields, Lampman noticed that the “stubbles” were “golden-gray” and later remembered them as the only patch of colour in an otherwise entirely gray, black, and white landscape. In the poet’s grisaille that resulted, the “gold” of the “stubbles” finds a chromatic echo in the “gleam” of the “village lamps” – an echo that accords well with the sense of the closeness of the human to the natural realm in rural Canada that lies at the heart of “In November.”

The writer teaches in the English department and is founding editor of Canadian Poetry: Studies, Documents, Reviews.
Teacher war service marked

By Heather Travis

The names of 72 teacher veterans who served in the First World War - some making the ultimate sacrifice - are displayed in the Faculty of Education building.

During the Remembrance Day ceremony, the Western Alumni Association presented a plaque with the names of 19 fallen soldiers from the Great War to be placed in Middlesex Memorial Tower.

But across campus, a lesser-known memorial of First World War veterans resides near the auditorium in Althouse.

Faculty of Education professor Allen Pearson was reminded of the plaque - The Honour Roll for Those from the London Normal School Who Served in the Great War and Those Who Died - upon hearing of the university’s latest acquisition.

The plaque originally hung in the London Normal School, later the London Teachers’ College, on Elmwood Avenue. It lists the 68 men and 4 women who were graduates of the teachers’ college and served in the First World War.

After the teachers’ college was integrated into Western in the early 1970s, the memorial was also moved.

“While none of these would be Western grads, their legacy is marked on campus.”

Elite opera academy trains youth

By Heather Travis

The application deadline is nearing for entrance into The Canadian Operatic Arts Academy, an elite program for the best young opera voices, to be held at The University of Western Ontario in May.

The Don Wright Faculty of Music is opening its doors to Canadian university students and emerging operatic professionals to study with faculty and guest presenters from May 4-23. This is the first year of the program.

Interested students must complete an application and live audition. The application deadline is Friday, Nov. 28.

Music performance studies professor and program director Sophie Roland-Wieczorek says the three-week session will give students an opportunity to ‘exercise’ their vocal skills during the off-season after the school year.

“Singing is like any sport, it needs constant supervision and practice.”

As opera evolves with the crossover of film directors into the opera industry, Roland-Wieczorek says special attention will be paid to stage technique, including character development, stage deportment and character interaction.

Roland-Wieczorek says the program is “about taking risks” and the ability to adapt into a medium that is reinventing itself.

“The balance of acting and singing has changed,” she says. “We have to train them to be singing actors and acting singers.”

Twenty-five students will be selected and the age limit is 34 years old. Audition dates are:

- London – Dec. 1
- Toronto – Dec. 15
- Montreal – Jan. 1
- Winnipeg – Jan. 17

For more information visit www.music.uwo.ca
Marathon Man runs for diabetes

BY Heather Travis

W ith a rigorous running schedule that would make most people cringe, Brian Groot has earned the title Marathon Man. The Faculty of Engineering University Machine Services technician recently completed five marathons in six weeks. The 23-year-old ran the Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront marathon on Sept. 28, the Prince Edward County marathon on Oct. 5, the Niagara Falls marathon on Oct. 26 and the Road 2 Hope marathon on Oct. 19, placing second overall. He also ran the Hospice Half Marathon on Sept. 14 and ran the London Hospice Half Marathon on Sept. 20, placing second overall.

“If someone were to say to me, ‘I am going to go run five marathons in just over a month,’ I would say you have to really think about that,” he says. “I wasn’t sure in the beginning if I would be able to do all five.”

“I wanted to push my body to those limits and see what I was capable of,” he adds. Groot started long-distance running just over four years ago and has been running every year since, he had doubled the amount of marathons, finishing this year with eight in total. But he saved the bulk of his energy this year for the Toronto Marathon, for which he raised $1,000 for Team Diabetes. He finished the race eighth overall and won his age group. Groot chose to run for Team Diabetes, a fundraising program for the Canadian Diabetes Association, in honour of his grandmother who had Type 2 diabetes before she died.

“I was mostly surprised with how well I was able to do it,” he says of the total experience. “I wanted to show that people can surprise themselves.”

Although he took on a great personal challenge, Groot doesn’t have a competitive nature when it comes to running. Rather than burning his muscles out in all of the races, he decided to conserve energy during some of the runs, including running as a pace bunny – someone who sets the pace for other inexperienced runners – in the Niagara Falls Marathon.

“I wouldn’t say I am very competitive with other runners – that’s usually when you get injured,” he says. “I usually have a goal for the run, sometimes it is to go slow.... Sometimes it’s hard to hold yourself back.”

Although he was in the physical condition to run multiple marathons, Groot maintained a strict regimen of running from 50-65 kilometres a week and a disciplined meal and sleep schedule. He practiced yoga and made regular appointments with a massage therapist and chiropractor.

But half the battle is the mental preparation. “I know the hoops you have to go through mentally to get there (to the finish),” he says. “I’m glad it’s over. I can rest for a little while,” he says.

Send It Yourself with the New Self-Serve Kiosk

Introducing a fast, easy and convenient way to send your letters and parcels....but only for a limited time! The NEW self-serve kiosks are available to use until December 31, 2008, as Canada Post pilots this new technology. Simply bring your ready-to-send envelopes or parcels to the kiosk and follow the simple instructions.

Available at University of Western Ontario – 96 University Community Center (UCC) – 1151 Richmond St, London ON until December 31, 2008.

www.canadapost.ca/sendityourself

*Trade-marks of Canada Post Corporation.

Send It Yourself with the New Self-Serve Kiosk

At the Kiosk, you can select and pay for the service that’s right for you!

• Send letters anywhere in the world
• Send Parcels in Canada
  - Priority Courier
  - Xpresspost
  - Regular Parcel

From anywhere... to anyone
By Paul Mayne

HAMILTON, Ont. — Greg Marshall is not one to mince words following his team's 44-21 Vanier Cup loss to the Laval Rouge et Or.

"Give credit to Laval, we battled, but they're a better football team than we are," says Marshall. "That's a heck of a football team. They beat us soundly today."

While attendance at Saturday's game in Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium was just under 14,000 - one of the lowest attended finals in the past 20 years - support for the purple and white was strong with President Paul Davenport, several busloads of students and a strong alumni presence braving chilly temperatures and a late-game snowstorm.

Despite a strong Western contingent in the stands, it seemed whatever Mustangs threw at Laval on the field they had a response. At times it looked as if the Rouge et Or was always a step ahead of the Mustangs both offensively and defensively.

"There is no shame in losing to a team like that, it tells us where we need to be to compete with the best team in the country," says Marshall. "When we made a big play, they came back with a couple big plays. Our defense played well, but you can't give them that many opportunities, it's hard to come back from that."

While losing the Vanier Cup – the Mustangs first appearance in 13 years – Marshall is well aware of the effort it takes to make it to the national final.

"We're a very young team and this experience does a ton for our program, which I hope translates into some good recruiting," says Marshall, noting 16 of 22 offensive players are first- or second-year players and veteran quarterback Michael Faulds will return for a fifth year.

"We're going to be a good football team next year. We're going to be in good shape."

With a young team and solid coaching staff, second-year linebacker John Surla is already looking forward to being part of a strong Mustang team next year.

"The whole experience of choosing Western and playing football is the best choice I could have made," says Surla. "I don't want to predict anything big, but if we keep going at the level we're at right now I think you can expect us to be back here in future years."

Marshall agrees. "We get better and better each game, but we're not there yet," he says. "We got to where we are now because of our work ethic, our strength program and the conditioning that our team is in. We need our young players to develop and that doesn't happen in a couple weeks, it happens in a couple years. We're going to get better next year."

Clockwise from top: Mustang running back Ryan Tremblay takes a quiet moment to prepare himself before Saturday's Vanier Cup against Laval Rouge et Or. Mustang head coach Greg Marshall fought for his team right down to the last minute of the game. Western quarterback Michael Faulds did a lot of scrambling against a strong Laval defense but still threw for career highs in passing attempts and completions (37/65 for 403 yards and three touchdowns). Despite the chilly temperatures, Western fans were out in full force to support their team.
Using posters to stuff ballot box with youth votes

By Heather Travis

Computer science professors Laura Reid and Vivi Tryphonopoulos are giving University of Western Ontario students one more reason to consider the importance of voting.

With last month’s federal election having recorded staggeringly low voter turnouts, the pair asked students in the two sections of the first-year Multimedia and Communications computer science course to create a poster promoting election participation amongst young people.

The poster had to be generic, not emphasizing one party or another, and be applicable to municipal, provincial or federal government elections.

“The reason for this is to give you a live experience to be in the role of a designer,” says Tryphonopoulos, adding the top posters were selected based on whether they made an impact.

On Nov. 14, a so-called Voting Idol was held to decide the winning poster. Among the judging panel was London-Fanshawe MP Irene Mathyssen, who was the Paula Abdul of the group. She was joined by University Students’ Council Vice-President of University Affairs Jacqueline Cole ( RANDY JACkSON) and local graphics designer Michelle Bauer (SIMon Cowell).

When asked how many students in the lecture hall voted in the October federal election, just over half of the students raised their hands. If the project had been assigned prior to the election, Reid feels the amount of research the students put into the poster might have impacted the turnout amongst her students.

“We tried to make it (the assignment) related to their age group,” she says. “It’s too bad we didn’t do this earlier.”

Mathyssen says posters like these can attract attention and raise the profile of elections Canada and the right to vote amongst young people.

“I think this assignment probably pulled people into the problem of low voter turnout and the ability to make a difference,” adds Mathyssen. “Art and creativity do make change.”

All of the top 10 posters showed an inventive use of Adobe Photoshop; however it was the image of a homeless man holding a sign asking for change, created by Rebecca Quach, that was the judges favourite. The tag line on the poster reads, “He is looking for change … Are you?”

Mathyssen says youth need to realize their votes and voices matter to politicians and to their country.

“Every single voice matters,” she says. “The more people are engaged and at an earlier stage, the better it will be.”

Above, Out of 305 submissions to Voting Idol, Computer science professors Laura Reid and Vivi Tryphonopoulos narrowed the selection to the top 10 compelling messages that were submitted to guest judges. Above left, Voting Idol guest judge London-Fanshawe MP Irene Mathyssen (centre) offers a critique of election posters created by first-year students in the Multimedia and Communications computer science course. University Students’ Council Vice-President of University Affairs Jacqueline Cole (left) and local graphics designer Michelle Bauer (right) also sat on the judging panel.

Discover A Taste of Japan

Authentic Japanese Cuisine

NOW OPEN 7 DAYS/WEEK

LUNCH: 11:30 - 2:30
DINNER: MON - SAT 4:30 - 10:30, SUN 4:30 - 10:00

www.shiki-london.ca

Licensed under L.L.B.O.
Obama campaigner enjoying moment in history

By Paul Mayne

So how does one go about summing up in one word their participation in one of the most historical moments in United States history? "Phenomenal." "Magical." "Amazing."

For Western alumnus Jean-Michel Picher (LLB/MBA'06), the past two years as part of U.S. President-elect Barack Obama's campaign team ranks up there as one of the highlights of his life. From the initial "retail politics" of greeting diners in small American towns, to experiencing the crowds of more than 225,000 in Chicago's Grant Park on the night Obama was elected the first Afri-

Canadian-American president, Picher has experienced it all. "It was a phenomenal feeling and such a magical event," says the 35-year-old Picher. "There was a tremendous amount of hope and emotion to be part of that event."

A self-proclaimed political junkie, Picher first immersed himself into political life while attending college in Maine, where he joined John Kerry's senate campaign in 1996, working in the press office. He came to Western in 2000 for the joint LLB/MBA program. But after the World Trade Centre tragedy of 9/11 and what he says was the 'impactful step' made by President George Bush, he took leave from the program in 2003-04 to again join Kerry, this time on his presidential campaign.

Following Kerry's defeat, he returned to Western to complete his LLB/MBA degree, graduating in 2006. Picher then spent time planning events for Obama's campaign while preparing for bar admis-
sions and articling, completing them this summer at Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP in Toronto. He promptly took a leave to work for him.

"On the one hand you got that, but on the other hand it's always nice to follow a pretty lame act," quips Picher. "He's coming in where the opening act wasn't so stellar in the opinion of most folks. There are expectations and they are high, but I think people will be patient, given the fact he's fundamentally not responsible for the economic conditions he inherited, nor the foreign policy he's inherited."

While there is a chance Picher may be offered a spot on the Obama team, for now he is simply focusing on his bar exams, looking back on the campaign over the last two years it was a real sense of appreciation," he says. "This is an amazing human being, Senator and now President-elect Obama, and it was a real treat to share time with him, and to work for him."

Last day to drop a course

■ Nov 30 - Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course (on campus day and even-
ing and Distance Studies) without academic penalty.
■ If the deadlines occur on a Saturday, Sunday or a Statutory holiday, they will be extended to the next working day.

Mid-Year Examination Timetable, December 2008

The final mid-year examination schedule is now posted on the Registrar's website www.
registrar.uwo.ca. Students booking flights for the holidays are advised to book a flight date of Dec. 18 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. 14. Due dates for tuition fees

Fee-based investment consulting and asset management for portfolios in excess of $500,000.

The WINDERMERE Manor

THE place to meet!

Retire With Dignity

"Fee-based investment consulting and asset management for portfolios in excess of $500,000."

Quality at a Fair Price

Get the straight facts about the current government rebate programs.

WESTERN NEWS  NOVEMBER 27, 2008 11
 remembers

Robert Alan Richardson

Robert Alan Richardson

‘Unbridled curiosity about the natural world’

Robert Alan Richardson, Professor Emeritus of the Department of History of Medicine and Science at the University of Western Ontario, passed away on Sept. 27 after a long illness.

Richardson was born in 1928 in Toronto, to immigrant parents from the Newcastle area of England. It was not a family of great means, and he supported himself through his entire academic career. He received his B.A. in History from Sir George Williams University in 1952, was named Woodrow Wilson Fellow in 1960, received his M.A in Anthropology from McGill University in 1961 and his PhD in History of Science from the University of Wisconsin in 1966, with an investigation of Charles Darwin’s biological theories.

He joined the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario in 1967. He was the founder and first member of the newly formed Department of History of Medicine and Science. An advisory committee assisted Richardson in developing courses in the history of science and medicine. Further appointments enabled him to offer specialized courses in areas of greatest interest to him, primarily in the history of anthropology, of evolutionary thought, and of science and medicine in Canada.

Richardson considered teaching an extremely important responsibility and focused a great deal of time and energy on it. He developed close relationships with his students, many remaining friends throughout his life. Undergraduate and graduate students fondly remember his commitment and mentoring.

He published in the fields of the history of evolutionary thought and the history of science and medicine in Canada. In the former field, he published a lengthy essay entitled “Biogeography and the Genesis of Darwin’s Ideas on Transmutation” in Journal of the History of Biology. In the latter, he co-authored the very extensive bibliographical tool Science and Technology in Canadian History: a Bibliography of Primary Sources to 1914. This work has served as an indispensable research tool in this field, which he helped nurture throughout his career.

Richardson retired and was named Professor Emeritus in June 1991. In early 2007, he was diagnosed with colon cancer. Following surgery, considering his advanced age, he declined chemotherapy, his family supporting his decision.

He was admitted to Parkwood Hospital’s Palliative Care Unit in mid-September. Despite his illness and rapid weakening, he remained the same man he had always been: witty, determined, and without complaint. The professionalism, attentiveness, sensitivity and compassion of the unit’s nurses and support staff made his passing as gentle as anyone could wish for.

Friends and colleagues will miss his unbridled curiosity about the natural world. Until the day of his death, he insisted on updates on the Large Hadron Collider, lamenting the delays needed for repairs and the fact that he would not be there to enjoy its revelations.

Richardson was survived by his wife of 46 years, Dr. Liliane Delaquerrière Richardson; by his brother, Gordon, of Pickering; by his sons Robert, an attorney in Seattle, Washington; and Thomas, a librarian in Ottawa.

‘Big Al’ will be fondly missed as a passionate fan and benefactor by the New Orleans and traditional jazz community, especially at Grossman’s Tavern in Toronto, home to his beloved Kid Bastien’s Happy Pals; by the shortwave and DX community – another lifelong hobby; and by everyone who shared his love for good conversation and the pleasures of the kitchen and the table.

At his request Robert Alan Richardson was cremated and a private service held for family.
National Scholar program marks 20 years

A handful of some of Western’s best and brightest were praised by Western President Paul Davenport Nov. 18 as winners of the university’s prestigious National Scholarships.

From Music and Science to Engineering and Social Science, 20 first-year students were joined by their upper year peers at a celebration at Gibbons Lodge where they received a plaque and personal accolades from Davenport as national scholars, a program which began at Western in 1988.

“All of you could have easily chosen a different school, but you didn’t, and I thank you for that,” says Davenport, who expressed his satisfaction at Western’s top ranking once again in the recent Globe and Mail Canadian University Report that gauged student satisfaction with their university experience.

For Ethan Cassidy, who received the J. Howard Crocker Scholarship, “I probably could have gotten an offer anywhere I wanted, but I actually I only applied to Western,” says Cassidy. “I guess I have a little bit of a bias - both of my parents are alumni. And being from Ingersoll, I’ve been to the campus many times before and it’s really beautiful. I love it so much.

As far as regrets for not ‘testing the waters’ at other universities, Cassidy says he doesn’t have one. “I have no plans of leaving anytime soon,” he says. “I’ve definitely been loving all my courses and the professors are great.”

He even jokes with his friends at other schools.

“I always encourage my friends that there’s a chance for them if they were to transfer over to Western,” says Cassidy.

Other National Scholarship winners include:
- David Stewart - Dr. D. Carlton Williams President’s Entrance Scholarship
- Gladys Yeung - Dr. Leola E. Neal President’s Entrance Scholarship
- Emily Kress - F.K. Ashbaugh President’s Entrance Scholarship
- Maxime Lafontaine - F.K. Ashbaugh President’s Entrance Scholarship
- Alison Curcio - F.K. Ashbaugh President’s Entrance Scholarship
- Reid McNaughton - Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Stephanie Kwok - Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Leah Woelfle - Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Jonathan Silver - Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Melanie Liu - Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Steven Wellman - Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Alexandra Aliferis - Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Laurent Curk - Faculty Entrance Scholarship
- Kevin Zhou - G. Edward Hall President’s Entrance Scholarship
- Shelley Chen - President’s Entrance Scholarship
- Julien Lapointe - Richard and Jean Ivey Family President’s Entrance Scholarship
- Alison Savill - W. S. Pyke Faculty of Science Entrance
- Kimberly Rodda - Faculty Entrance Scholarship

Those who were praised by Western President Paul Davenport welcomes the university's newest group of national scholarship winners at Gibbons Lodge.
Donations rise as donors slip

Giving grows outside central Canada

Canadian taxfilers reported making charitable donations surpassing $8.6 billion in 2007, up 1.4 per cent from 2006. At the same time, the number of donors fell 0.9 per cent to just under 5.7 million. Data is based on income tax returns filed for 2007 and compiled by Statistics Canada.

Nationally, 24 per cent of all tax filers claimed charitable donations, slightly lower than in previous years.

Manitoba had the highest percentage who declared a donation, at 27 per cent, followed by Ontario, Prince Edward Island and Saskatchewan, all at 26 per cent. Manitoba and Ontario have had the highest and second-highest proportions, respectively, for more than a decade.

Among donors in 2007, the median donation was $250, meaning that half of the donors gave more than $250 and half gave less. This was unchanged from 2006, unlike in prior years when the median donation had consistently increased.

The median increased in all provinces and territories, except Quebec and Ontario, where it remained stable.

Donors in Nunavut reported a median donation of $470, the highest among the provinces and territories for the eighth consecutive year.

Donors in Prince Edward Island had the second highest median at $360, followed by those in Alberta with $350.

When it came to cities, communities in British Columbia lead the way.

Among census metropolitan areas, donors in Abbotsford, British Columbia, had by far the highest median donation at $620, the fifth year in a row that they have led the way. Donors in Kelowna followed with a median of $370, slightly ahead of those in Vancouver with $360.

Clinics help patients in high-risk areas

Two high-risk neighbourhoods in London are having more of their health care needs met through an innovative program by The University of Western Ontario called the Interprofessional Care Learning Labs Project, which officially opened last week.

The Allan Rush Gardens and Southdale Housing Units now feature a one-stop “Centre for Family Health,” a clinic where primary health and social care needs can be met. The clinics are funded by the Ontario government.

“It’s a win-win combination - families will benefit from top-notch care and students will benefit from a wide variety of hands-on, practical experience,” says David Caplan, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

Nurse Practitioners staff the clinics, along with faculty and students from the Faculty of Health Sciences, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, King’s and Brescia university colleges providing nursing, social work, speech-language pathology, physical therapy, occupational therapy, nutrition and psychology counseling. The clinics integrate health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

“These clinics offer valuable training for students from interdisciplinary health programs, but just as important, they provide better access to health services to those who often feel powerless in achieving their own health,” says Carole Orchard, Coordinator of Western’s Office of Interprofessional Health Education and Research.

Males more likely to drop out

The proportion of students who leave post-secondary studies without graduating varies widely depending on the institution they attended.

Statistics Canada interviewed Canadian students between the ages of 18 and 20 in 1999 and in 2005 when they were between 24 and 26. Among those who attended university, about 16 per cent left without graduating, compared to 25 per cent at college/CEGEP and 22 per cent at other post-secondary institutions.

Several factors were associated with leaving school.
**COMING EVENTS**

November 27

**Western Cares Food Drive** - drop off donations at one of many food bins on campus. Runs until Dec. 10.


Physics & Astronomy Colloquium - Sylvie Ranjan, Rutgers University: "Electronic Energy Level Alignment in Dye Sensitized Oxide Surfaces". Physics & Astronomy 123, 1:30 p.m.

Film Studies - A film screening with Director Oliver Husain, UC, 84, 3:30 p.m. Contact Tobias Nejoi: tapan@uwo.ca

Men's Hockey - UOT at Western, 7:30 p.m.

November 28

Biochemistry Visiting Speaker Program - Sachdev Sidhu, University of Toronto: "Natural and Synthetic FOD Domains" MMB 384, 10:30 a.m.

External Silent Auction for United Way - lots of amazing items. London Knights Tickets, cordless drill, books, gift certificates, one-of-a-kind items and lots more. Westend Mall, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - From Brazil: Fredi and Cristina Gerling, violin and piano duo. Kresge Building Rm. 1200, 2:30 p.m.

Research Seminar, Epidemiology & Biostatistics - Michael Rofoto, PhD Student: "Meta-Analysis: Topics in the Meta-Analysis of Cluster Randomization Trials" MMB 141, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Earth Sciences Colloquia Series - Michael A. Hamilton, Geology, University of Toronto: "Fron- tiers of U-Pb geochronology: high-precision dating of large igneous provinces and associ- ated mineralization" Kresge Bldg. Room 203, 1:30 p.m. All welcome.

Philosophy Colloquium - Stefan Liguori, University of Guelph: "Models, Meaning and Philosophy Colloquium - Stefan Linquist, "Multiliteracies' and diversity for pre-service teachers and young children: Building and reflecting on worlds and identities. Faculty of Education Bldg. Room 900, 11 a.m.

Fall 2008 Retirement Plan - Overview of current markets, conditions; Western's response; Perspectives on market and questions. Registration not required but room capacity is limited. We encourage you to submit questions in advance to Martin Bélanger, Associate Director, Retirement Plans at mbelang7@uwo.ca. University College, Room 1010, 11 a.m.

December 1

Faculty of Education - Wendy Gunning-Potvin, Murdoch University Perth, Western Australia: "Multiliteracies and diversity for pre-service teachers and young children: Building and reflecting on worlds and identities. Faculty of Education Bldg. Room 900, 11 a.m.

Don Wright Retail Seminar Member Meeting - A cover overview of current market conditions; Western's response; Perspectives on market and questions. Registration not required but room capacity is limited. We encourage you to submit questions in advance to Martin Bélanger, Associate Director, Retirement Plans at mbelang7@uwo.ca. University College, Room 142, 12 - 1:30 p.m.

Mechanical and Materials Engineering Graduate Seminar, William Lin: "Large-scale physical simulation of a downburst flow" - Spencer Engineering Building Rm. 1200, 2:30 p.m.

Mechanical and Materials Engineering Graduate Seminar, Rebecca Austman: "Investigation of Bone Strains in the Distal Ulna Using Experimental and Finite Element Methods" - Spencer Engineering Building Rm. 1200, 3 p.m.

December 2

Senior Alumni Program - Paul Davenport, President, and Vice-Chancellor, Western: "On A Mission - Western provides the best student experience among leading research-intensive universities in Canada" - McKellar Room, UCC, 9:30 - 11 a.m. Followed by a luncheon at The Great Hall.

**Oncology Grand Rounds** - Department of Oncology and London Regional Cancer Program. Cyndi Esclat, Princess Margaret Hospital: "Do you see what I see? Image guided radiotherapy, the RTT perspective” Room AJ-904 ab. 12 - 1 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Chamber Orchestra von Kuster Hall, 12:30 p.m.

Modern Languages and Literatures: Comparative Literature Research Forum - Agatidaski, "A Bicycle for Two: Edward Stachura and Samuel Beckett" UC 114, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Christmas at St. Peter's Seminary features a concert of early music sung by Thames Scholars and performed on period instruments by the Early Music Studio in the beautiful chapel of St. Peter's Seminary. Tickets sold at Orchestra London 519-679-8778. Unsold tickets available at door, 8 a.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Molinari String Quartet, von Kuster Hall, 8 p.m.

December 3

Don Wright Faculty of Music - UWO Singers and St. Cecilia Singers present A Christmas Celebration, a double choir performance featuring songs of hope and light. von Kuster Hall, 12:30 p.m.

Modern Languages and Literatures presents "La Tertulia" Spanish Conversation Group. Any-one wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. UC 117. Email tertulia@uwo.ca.

Please send submissions to comingevents@ uwo.ca.

**The classic architecture of University College is captured through this window from inside the tower.**

Paul Mayne, Western News
For Rent
Furnished, detached house, on treed lot, 1 km from university. Seeking professional tenant. No smoking, no pets. $1,350/month + utilities. Available approx. December 15, 2008 for 6 – 8 months. Phone 519-473-4174.

For Sale

Short Term Rental

For Classifieds, call 519-661-2045 or send email to advertise@uwo.ca. Rates: faculty, staff and students - $15; others and services/commercial ads - $20. Beyond 35 words, please add 50 cents per word. Payment must accompany ads. Submit by 9 a.m., Thursdays to Western News, Suite 360, Westminster Hall. No refunds. Visit Classifieds Online at http://communications.uwo.ca/classifieds_menu/ for further information. Member of the Professional Writers Association of Canada. Telephone: 519-433-0896. E-mail: joey.hughes@rogers.com.

Woodland Trails Townhouse Condo
40 - 124 North Centre Rd

Furnished, detached house, on treed lot, 1 km from university. Seeking professional tenant. No smoking, no pets. $1,350/month + utilities. Available approx. December 15, 2008 for 6 – 8 months. Phone 519-473-4174.

For Sale

Short Term Rental

For Classifieds, call 519-661-2045 or send email to advertise@uwo.ca. Rates: faculty, staff and students - $15; others and services/commercial ads - $20. Beyond 35 words, please add 50 cents per word. Payment must accompany ads. Submit by 9 a.m., Thursdays to Western News, Suite 360, Westminster Hall. No refunds. Visit Classifieds Online at http://communications.uwo.ca/classifieds_menu/ for further information. Member of the Professional Writers Association of Canada. Telephone: 519-433-0896. E-mail: joey.hughes@rogers.com.