Development of artificial human tissue could soon provide medical trainees with the head start they need to become the next great surgeon.

Independent researcher Leonardo Millon and his team, under the mentorship of Engineering professor Wankee Wan (Director, Graduate Program in Biomedical Engineering), are creating synthetic anatomic models made of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) that provide a realistic surgical experience for students.

A multiple Western grad, Millon holds a chemical and biochemical degree (’00) and PhD in bio-medical engineering (’06).

Currently, human and animal cadavers are used for surgical training but they come with limitations, a key one being they are not quite like living tissue.

The research is attracting a lot of attention, already netting the University of Western Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE) Martin Walmsley Fellowship for Technical Entrepreneurship, and an award of $100,000 over two years. Millon is the first Western graduate to win the award.

As well, Millon has created a start-up company, LifeLike Bio Tissue Inc., to provide surgical training materials to medical schools in southwestern Ontario. He hopes to begin with Western’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry within the next year.

The model he will produce will give surgical trainees the ability to practice over and over.

“We are proud to honour Leonardo with the Walmsley Fellowship which will accelerate this technology to help him achieve the next level of commercial development,” said OCE President and CEO Mark Romoff. “His technology could have a profound impact on surgical training, giving surgeons the chance learn procedures faster and with more accuracy.”

The fellowship provided the boost needed to go commercial, he says.

“Without this funding I probably wouldn’t have started this company,” says Millon.

He has developed models of different tissues and organs such as the aorta and coronary arteries. They are made from a novel proprietary material that is non-toxic and has a similar composition to soft tissue.

“This really wasn’t on my radar,” admits Millon, whose main research focuses on implantation, such as for bypass surgery. “But the feedback I received was tremendous. Mechanically it’s pretty much the same as skin, the same mechanical properties.”

Schulich associate professor Mackenzie Quantz (Cardiac Surgery) was one of the examiners during Millon’s thesis and saw potential with PVA material.

“To be honest, I can’t really pinpoint what it was that sparked the idea of using it for mimicking skin,” admits Quantz. “But that’s the great relationship we have with bio-medical (program). We create that think tank that allows us to come together on similar problems, with different approaches to the solution.”

Quantz says training opportunities for new surgeons are limited. While current materials look good, they don’t have “the same feel and texture” required for training. He likens the importance of good simulated tissue material to that of flight simulation for pilots and offers a way to move training from the operating room to the classroom.

Millon says with the help of his sister Karen, an Ivey graduate, the pair will look at ways to increase the number of models to be created, as well as prepare to scale up production. Millon says a number of companies worldwide produce artificial human tissue using regular silicone, although they don’t always have the realistic feel that surgeons want.

In the future, it’s possible these materials will be used in medical schools across Canada, North America and globally.
Cabinet assembled by year’s end

Continued from page 1

but this university will be around for hundreds of more years,” he adds. “At the end of the day nothing is going to make people feel better than being involved in a project that will make a difference in the school and the community.”

Beattie was named campaign chair last December and has since been working to assemble his fundraising cabinet. With a core number of cabinet members in place, he hopes to announce the final members by the end of the year.

“I am not in a rush. I don’t want to get ahead of myself. I want to leave lots of room to include different people who bring different perspectives to the cabinet,” he says. “My leadership in a role like this is to make sure the people involved in the university feel the commitment of its cabinet.

“I thought I had a sense of what Western was all about ... but it wasn’t until I took on this cabinet role that I realized some of the remarkable work that is being done at the university in every faculty.”

Beattie called the opening of the green building as “the perfect backdrop” for the launch of the campaign because it represents a tangible example of the role philanthropy plays in facilitating research and innovation.

Beattie is President and CEO of the Woodbridge Company Limited. He is deputy chairman of Thomson-Reuters, and he also serves as chairman for CTV Globe Media and director for the Royal Bank of Canada.

Western President Amit Chakma says private donations “play critical roles in the success of our public institutions” and help the university to achieve excellence.
Engineering walks the sustainability talk

By Paul Mayne

Touted as the cornerstone of sustainable engineering, the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion, the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified building on campus, opened its doors during Homecoming celebrations Saturday.

The $22-million, 45,000-square-foot building will house research on green technologies, processes and materials and, at the same time, the building itself features environmentally sustainable construction technologies.

“The university’s new state-of-the-art teaching and research facility will be a benefit not only to engineering students, but the entire campus and beyond,” President Amit Chakma told a packed house that included donors, engineering students, staff and faculty, the London construction community and university staff who have been involved in the project.

“If will no doubt be the birthplace of many new ideas, discoveries and innovations, advancing our notion of a cleaner planet and a green place to live.”

Unique areas of the building to be studied include a green roof covered with flats of drought-resistant sedum, a hardy garden plant. The soil and plants insulate the building for sound, along with increasing the heating and cooling efficiency.

A wind turbine and solar panels are also located on the roof to generate electricity.

The building is named for Claudette MacKay-Lassonde, the first female president of the Association of Professional Engineers Ontario. She has been described as a strong advocate for the role of engineers in society, and tireless in her promotion of the profession as an attractive career for women. She died in 2000 following a battle with cancer.

Her son Christian, a Western Computer Science and Engineering grad from 1997 and 1998, says his mother would say: “I’m doing what I do because I believe in my profession and I care enough to make a difference.”

“This is an extension of what I, and my family, did to have this building built,” he says. “We really believe in our profession - we are all engineers - and we care enough to make a difference, inspired by my mother Claudette.”

Lassonde adds when the opportunity to help build the first LEED-certified building on campus arose, the family wanted to be involved and donated $5-million.

“It’s the type of building that through the educational and research facilities will enable those who walk the halls to hopefully believe in their profession and learn enough and care enough to want to make a difference. That’s really the dream my mom always had, equal access to education for all and for those who have that access to go out and make our lives better.”

Within the building, the Richard Dillon atrium is named in honour of the Western graduate and the Faculty of Engineering’s first dean. Dillon’s daughter Kelly Meighen (BA’71) is chair of the Development & Fund Raising Committee of the Board of Governors.

A donation of $1 million in honour of her father created a space Meighen says will bring the faculty together. Dillon passed away in April 2008.

“He success in life and in relationships is in part due to the fact that dad had a complete absence of the means to dominate,” says Meighen, adding her father was at his best when collaborating with others. “This space within the Lassonde pavilion will provide the opportunity for students, faculty and visitors to come together to collaborate and enjoy their experience here at the Engineering school and we are delighted that it would have pleased him tremendously, as it does us.”

Engineering Dean Andrew Hrymak says the opening of the building is a landmark day in the faculty.

“The building and the research and educational initiatives it will support are the cornerstones of what we now know as sustainable engineering,” he says.

The building is an example of how engineers are taking a holistic approach to benefit society by recognizing performance in human and environmental health, sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality, he adds.

“Engineering is about pushing boundaries and I am very confident that our students will be recognized for becoming leaders in innovation and design, and sustainable engineering.”

Western astronomers capture spectacular footage

Astronomers from The University of Western Ontario have released footage of a meteor approximately 100 times brighter than a full moon that lit up the skies of southern Ontario two weeks ago.

They were enlisting the help of local residents in recovering one or more possible meteorites that may have crashed in the area of Grimsby, Ont.

Associate Professor Peter Brown, who specializes in the study of meteors and meteorites, says the Sept. 25 event (9:30 p.m.) was caught by seven all-sky cameras of the Western’s Southern Ontario Meteor Network (SOMN), recording a brilliant fireball in the evening sky over the west end of Lake Ontario.

Brown, along with Phil McCausland, a postdoctoral fellow at Western’s Centre for Planetary Science & Exploration, are now working to get the word out amongst interested people who may be willing to see if they can spot any fallen meteorites.

“This particular meteorite fall, if any are found, is very important because its arrival was so well recorded,” says McCausland. “We have good camera records as well as radar and infrasound detections of the event so that it will be possible to determine its orbit prior to collision with the Earth and to determine the energy of the fireball event.

He adds research can also figure out where it came from and how it got here, which is rare. In all of history, only about a dozen meteorite falls have that kind of record.

Researchers at Western are interested in hearing from anyone within 10 km of Grimsby who may have witnessed or recorded this event, or who may have found possible fragments of the freshly fallen meteorite.

Meteorites may best be recognized by their dark and scalloped exterior, are usually denser than normal rock and will often attract a fridge magnet due to their metal content. In this fall, meteorites may be found in a small hole produced by their dropping into soil.

Meteors are not dangerous, but any recovered meteorites should be placed in a clean plastic bag or container and be handled as little as possible to preserve their scientific information.

If you have questions, observations or possible meteorites from this event, contact McCausland at 519-661-2111, ext. 87985 or on his cell at 519-694-3523.
THE WAY WE WERE: 1971

People strolling by the then-women’s residence Delaware Hall during November 1971 would have noticed plastic bags hanging from some of the windows. Due to limited space in the one refrigerator allotted to each floor, the residents hung bags out of their windows to preserve perishable items normally kept in the fridge, such as fruit, meat and liquid refreshments. Carol Hanbridge, after returning from class, digs into her bag for a cool one.

Re-appointed to NSERC

Applied Mathematics professor and associate department chair Chris Essex has been reappointed to a three-year term as a member of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

A Western grad (BSc [Hon.] ’76), Essex’s research interests include radiation thermodynamics, anomalous diffusion, chaos, dynamical systems and predictability. NSERC supports university students in their advanced studies, promotes and supports discovery research, and fosters innovation by encouraging Canadian companies to participate and invest in postsecondary research projects.

VERBATIM

An occasional look at reports on higher education

UNITED KINGDOM

“There also needs to be a change of culture at the top in higher education. At several points we encountered what could be characterized as defensive complacency. We found no appetite whatsoever to investigate important questions such as the reasons for the steady increase in the proportion of first class and upper second class honours degrees over the past 15 years or the variation in study time by students taking the same subjects at different universities. We also have concerns that the protections for whistle-blowers within universities are inadequate. Nor did we find any interest in testing the assumptions that pervade the sector—for example, that there is a link between carrying out research and the quality of teaching. We found some of the justification for the current arrangements wholly unconvincing. The most glaring was that it was possible to justify academic standards with a market mechanism.

“The challenge for the next decade for the higher education sector will be to develop consistency in practice and standards and much greater openness and transparency.”

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmselect/ cmdius/17017002.htm

LOOKING BACK

From the Western News archives: Oct. 9, 1997

- Western staff vote to unionize, 70% are in favour. Turnout was about 60% of the 1,000 employees. Salaries have not increased in five years.
- Alibi Roadhouse: $5.99 Wednesday All You Can Eat Pasta.
- Selected by the Canadian Space Agency to study at NASA’s Kennedy Space Centre in Florida last summer, Julie Ho, first-year medical student, posed for a photo op with Western alumnus Bjarni Tryggvason, who travelled on shuttle Discovery in August. In her own time, Ho takes part in the whitewater kayaking club.
- Western’s online student job board will soon be password protected. The site is visited 15,000 times a day. Sharon Lee, Coordinator of Student Employment Services in the Student Development Centre explains the motivation for the change: “It’s not fair for 25,000 students to support 162,000 alumni.” Alumni may purchase access for $30 per year.
- “Purple, Proud and Protected” is the theme for mouse pads being distributed to a second round of first-year students. School mascot JW was invoked for this campaign on the issues of violence against women, alcohol abuse, and smoking.
- Treasure Hunt: CANARIE (of which Western is a member) and SchoolNet are placing 25 puzzle pieces on the World Wide Web. The hunt runs for one month.

- compiled by Joshua Safer
Virtually overhauled by virtual reality simulators

By Heather Travis

Virtual reality is more than just playing games; it may play a pivotal role in training future doctors and refreshing the skills of medical practitioners.

Rajesh Aggarwal, clinical lecturer in surgery in the Department of Biosurgery and Surgical Technology at Imperial College London, England, sees virtual reality simulators as transforming medical training.

During a presentation to clinicians and industry representatives at the Canadian Network for Simulation in Healthcare Industry Roundtable held at CSTAR (Canadian Surgical Technologies and Advanced Robotics) on Oct. 5, Aggarwal presented evidence-based research on the benefits of laparoscopic virtual reality simulation.

“It’s going to transform the way doctors are trained. It will allow us to refine our skills,” he says.

Using the analogy of a musician, Aggarwal says patients would prefer a doctor work on his skills in the practice room, rather than during the grand performance on stage.

With various simulators on the market, he says doctors-in-training are able to practice surgical procedures, get familiar with the tools, improve proficiency and simulate working in a team inside an operating theatre.

No matter how many times a physician performs a surgery, there is no objective measure of his or her proficiency, he says. However, the virtual reality simulators can provide data on how well the task was performed.

Some simulators can provide what Aggarwal refers to as a “black box” recording of non-technical skills during the simulation as well, such as measurements of the surgeon’s heart rate levels during a crisis or unexpected event.

Aggarwal suggested the simulators could also be used by surgeons wanting to maintain their skills or to gain familiarity with new technologies.

“Like the old adage ‘practice makes perfect,’” many other professions, such as the military, use simulators to rehearse a procedure. Aggarwal hopes the future of medical training will include virtual reality simulators as a common practice.

Doctors-in-training can make mistakes in the virtual world, rather than making the same – possibly life or death – mistake on a patient, he adds.

“In the operating theatre, the patient comes first. In simulation, you can focus on education.”

Research has shown simulators make the learning curve less steep, improved effectiveness and reduced the necessary training hours.

With patients increasingly taking control of their own health and becoming more inquisitive, doctors must provide the best of their abilities and reach a high level of proficiency, he notes.

Although Canada is a leader in the use of simulation and much research and development has been done in the area, Aggarwal still finds resistance in the implementation of virtual reality simulators in medical training. He feels patients need to be included in the discussion of implementation.

“We are in a period of broad innovation but can assess how innovation and changing best practice affect improved outcomes,” he says.

Relative to other sectors, the use of simulation in medical training is fairly new, says John Parker, director of CSTAR.

Representatives from 16 simulation companies from Europe, the United States and Canada attended the event, as well as London clinicians, students completing their residency, members of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, Daniel Johnston of the National Research Council of Canada, and representatives from the London Health Sciences Centre including President and CEO Cliff Nordal.

In the creation of a roundtable, Parker hopes to provide a collaboration opportunity for stakeholders in the simulation industry.

“The international business option will be open to students with any undergraduate degree that prepares them to study international business at the graduate level and is completed at Ivey. In both cases, Ivey and CEMS students will learn together.”

“Joining the CEMS alliance will expand Ivey’s international profile and our connection with practicing managers through a high-profile network of corporate partners,” said Eric Morse, Ivey Associate Dean, Programs.

Ivey will be the exclusive Canadian partner for CEMS and is the leader in North America.

“CEMS is proud that the Ivey Business School will formally join the alliance this December and offer the MIM program,” says Francois Collin, Executive Director of CEMS. “Ivey is a pioneer in leadership education and it is only fitting that they will bring the CEMS MIM to North America.”

CEMS members include London School of Economics, National University of Singapore, HEC Paris, ESADE (Spain) and Fundacao Getulio Vargas (Brazil). Ivey will formally join later this year.

The program is subject to approval by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies.

For more information, visit cems.org.
New tool introduced to track absences

**By Heather Travis**

Faculty, staff and students who are sick are asked to use new online self-reporting tools for absences due to flu-like illnesses.

The new tool comes just as the Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) is reporting a possible increase in the number of cases of influenza.

Developed by the Registrar’s Office for students and Human Resources for faculty and staff, the system will monitor flu-like illness and absences to help manage a potential outbreak of H1N1 influenza.

**FACULTY AND STAFF**

Departments will determine how the tools will be used to report absences. Although it was designed specifically for a pandemic, employees can report sick, compassionate care and bereavement leaves, or a workplace injury. This tool will not be used for reporting absences due to training, development or vacation.

Human Resources Director of Total Compensation, Louise Koza, says the information will allow the university to monitor flu and assess the ability to maintain operations.

“Without this data we will have no ability to assess our ongoing operations,” she says.

Although this tool is available, not all departments will require self-reporting.

“It depends on how the business unit decides to use these tools. We are not dictating how this needs to be done.”

Each department will inform employees whether to self-report an absence or if the department will do this on the employee’s behalf, or both.

Faculty and staff members can access their online absence reporting tool by logging on to myHR from the Human Resources website. The tool defaults to the current date; however employees can back-date absences for the period they were off sick. They can enter a prospective end-date if it is known, or enter the information after returning to work.

It will also enable the university to report on patterns to the health unit.

The data will not affect an employee’s compensation, says Koza.

The tool went live on Oct. 5 for those considered to be essential services by the Continuity of Operations Planning Committee. Human Resources is talking about the tool with other departments which will determine the best strategy for implementing the tool. It is expected to roll out across the university throughout October.

**STUDENTS**

Similarly, an online self-reporting tool is in place for students.

Those who should use the self-reporting tool are individuals who stay home from class due to a flu-like illness, meaning experiencing a fever with at least one of the following symptoms: coughing, sore throat or shortness of breath.

The tool will only be used for influenza-like symptoms and will replace the student requirement of providing a medical certificate for absences in these instances. All other illness will require a medical certificate.

Students are encouraged to report symptoms early and indicate a start date (or back-date up to 10 days) for when symptoms began and add an end date for when they feel better. Students should indicate the courses that need academic accommodation, including exams, tests, labs or reports, and other relevant information.

Students have already started to use the tool, says Associate Registrar Glen Tigert. A daily report will be sent to deans and graduate program offices listing students who are ill.

“The primary reason we developed it was to be able to track student illness because it is a very important concern of the university to know how many students are sick at a given time. It will impact the services we provide; it may even impact whether we remain open if it becomes extremely serious,” he says.

Although concerns have been raised about potential abuses, Tigert reassures it is not a “free pass.”

“I don’t think there is going to be a lot of abuse because (students) understand and see that this is an accommodation for them, but it doesn’t mean they don’t have to do the work in some other fashion,” he says.

Students can access the self-reporting tool by logging on to the Student Centre website or calling the Helpline at 519-661-2100.

**FEW CASES**

Overall, the university has seen few students reporting flu-like symptoms. In a Sept. 30 letter to employees Fred Longstaffe, Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Gitta Kulczycki, Vice-President (Resources & Operations), the university reports it has seen a low number of students with symptoms. Similarly, the number of cases in the community remains low.

“At any time we could begin to see influenza activity increasing. Just having people come in with fever and respiratory symptoms doesn’t necessarily mean influenza unless you know there is some evidence of influenza in the community,” says Bryna Warshawsky, Associate Medical Officer of Health for MLHU and a faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics.

Based on provincial data, MLHU says less than five per cent of the test results from samples taken are positive for influenza, including Pandemic H1N1 influenza. However, there are suggestions this increased in the past week.

In recent weeks, the MLHU has received four laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza.

“Because the percentage of positive swabs is low, it appears that influenza is not the predominant viruses causing respiratory illness out there at the moment,” says Warshawsky.

“Of people who are presenting with respiratory symptoms, at this point, most of them don’t have influenza, either seasonal or pandemic. Most of them likely have other viruses.”

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**Chief Administrative Officer**

Huron University College invites applications for the position of Chief Administrative Officer.

Reporting to the Principal, the Chief Administrative Officer oversees all administrative functions of the College and in particular financial management, human resources, physical plant, campus lands and buildings, conference services, emergency planning and food services. The CAO is also the Treasurer of the Huron University College Foundation.

Huron University College is a small, academically excellent, primarily undergraduate university institution affiliated with The University of Western Ontario. Huron has an operating budget of approximately $16 million and a full-time faculty and staff of approximately 125.

The successful candidate will have the required skills and experience to manage financial operations, including budget development, forecasting and control, accounting, employee benefits, payroll, purchasing, contracts (including collective agreements), facilities development, maintenance and operations. Expertise in employee relations and staff training and development is also required. An understanding of emergent human resource issues such as AODA is desirable.

The ideal candidate will have outstanding organizational, interpersonal and communications skills, general knowledge of all portfolio areas, and experience at a senior level within a complex public or private sector environment. The ability to work effectively with a volunteer Board is also desirable.

Applying in writing including a resume and the names of three references to:

**Application Deadline: October 30, 2009**

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**Research Western** is pleased to announce the following competition:

**International Research Award Competition**

Funded by the Office of the Vice-President (Research & International Relations), Western’s International Research Awards are offered to support the cost of international research projects of modest scope in the subject areas of Arts, Social Sciences, and Humanities. This program provides seed money for one-time requests and projects of short duration, which involve a significant international component and enhance knowledge generation or information exchange between Canadian and foreign academics. Please note that “international” refers primarily to the subject of the research and not simply to the means by which it is carried out. Applicants are encouraged to describe any plans for scholarly interactions with researchers while abroad.

**Grant Amount:** Up to $7,000

**Deadline:**
- Dean’s Deadline: November 2
- RD&S Deadline: November 16

Please note that this competition has new submission instructions. To see “What’s Happening in RD&S” and for more program information, please visit: [http://www.uwo.ca/research/tds.html](http://www.uwo.ca/research/tds.html).

**Contact:**
- Florence Lourdes
- Internal Grants Coordinator
- Room 5150, Support Services Building
- University of Western Ontario
- London ON N6A 3K7
- 519.661.2111 x84500
- internalgrants@uwo.ca
Breakfast with stars

Stargazers are invited to a special breakfast on Friday, Oct. 9 that will toast the morning with a special view of the NASA LcROSS spacecraft exploration venture to the moon.

The “LcROSS for Breakfast” event is hosted by Western’s Centre for Planetary Science and Exploration (CP SX) and the Canadian Lunar Research Network (CLRN) at The University of Western Ontario.

Beginning at 5:30 a.m., astronomy enthusiasts can catch a rare glimpse of the stars through the telescope housed at the Cronyn Observatory.

But the real show begins with NASA TV’s live coverage of the impact of the spacecraft crashing into the lunar surface in search of water ice in a permanently shadowed crater near the moon’s South Pole.

“The LcROSS crash will kick up some water dust on the moon and will allow the concentration of water ice to be measured in a permanently shadowed lunar soil,” says Cassandra Marion, Administrator/Coordinator for CP SX.

“The impact will also allow us to monitor lunar impact processes such as crater formation, ejecta and plume dispersion. This information is very helpful because impact events are very difficult to reproduce in a laboratory,” she adds, noting the information collected may serve future missions to the moon.

By hosting the public event to celebrate the lunar crash, CP SX and CLRN hope to get people excited about planetary science. CP SX and CLRN are also interested in watching because “it’s a significant planetary science event and that’s what we do,” she says.

The schedule is as follows:

5:30 - 6:30 a.m.: Stargazing using Cronyn telescope
6:30 - 7:30 a.m.: NASA TV/Mission overview
7:30 a.m.: Watch the impact live via NASA TV.
Breakfast will be provided during the NASA TV viewing.
Contact Marianne Mader at mmader2@uwo.ca for more information.

Food donations sought

Quarterbacked by offensive line coach and recruiting assistant Chris Bertoia, the Western Mustangs are asking for help in collecting non-perishable food items for the London Food Bank.

The Mustangs will collect non-perishables at the football game on Thursday, Oct. 8 vs. York at 7 p.m. The goal is to collect the weight of the offensive line, about 1,500 pounds in food.

Here’s a list of items the food bank needs:

- powdered or canned milk
- oatmeal
- canned beans in tomato sauce
- canned tuna, salmon
- peanut butter
- canned fruit
- canned vegetables
- canned juice
- rice, pasta (uncooked)
- macaroni & cheese dinner
- canned tomatoes / pasta sauce
- baby formula
- baby food (jars, cereals, cookies)
- canned stew
- westernmustangs.ca
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The Faculty of Information and Media Studies is pleased to announce the recipients of the

Dean’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching

2009

The Dean’s Awards recognize outstanding contributions to the academic development of students in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies.

Alison Hearn
Lynne McKechnie

Dean’s Award for Excellence in Teaching

Gord Nickerson
Dean’s Award for Excellence in Part-Time Teaching

OSSTF/FEESO uniting education workers since 1919.

Proven leader in bargaining exclusively for the education sector.

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- Expert negotiators
- Financial resources
- Effective government lobbying

For more information call Colombe Beauregard at 1.800.267.7867 or email beaurec@osstf.on.ca

OSSTF/FEESO

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The Animals’ Turn?

New Approaches in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Monday, October 19th at 5pm
Kingsmill Room, Huron University College
1349 Western Road, London

(free parking available at main/south parking lot)

The Douglas and Margaret Derry Interdisciplinary Lectures

Dr. Harriet Ritvo
Arthur J. Conner Professor of History
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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The Animals’ Turn?
New Approaches in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Monday, October 19th at 5pm
Kingsmill Room, Huron University College
1349 Western Road, London

(free parking available at main/south parking lot)

The Douglas and Margaret Derry Interdisciplinary Lectures

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Arthur J. Conner Professor of History
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A weekend ‘second to none’

By Heather Travis and Paul Mayne

The University of Western Ontario looks quite different from the way Bill Wark remembers it from the student days 50 years ago.

Now buildings stretch right across the campus, and the classroom sizes are larger.

Like Wark, she remarked on the difference between attending classes 50 years ago.

It was the timing of the 25th reunion and being reunited with classmates and being back in the place where I spent many years down the road, sending the university and recognized landmarks in the institution’s history, including Western’s famous landmarks in the institution’s history, including Western’s

“Because of the small numbers, we got to know each other really well,“ she says. “It was easy to dip out of class. And it was not unheard-of to have the president join you for coffee in the cafeteria.”

About 12,000 alumni and friends returned for Homecoming activities Oct. 1-4. A variety of events helped alumni reconnect with the university and recognized landmarks in the institution’s history, including Western’s famous landmarks in the institution’s history, including Western’s

“Since the small numbers, we got to know each other really well,“ she says. “It was easy to dip out of class. And it was not unheard-of to have the president join you for coffee in the cafeteria.”

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Like Wark, she remarked on the difference between attending classes 50 years ago.

“One class that stood out was a business class,” Wark says, pointing to the Lawrence National Centre For Policy and Management. “But a lot of it is by design. The university used the Homecoming to give alumni a warm welcome back to campus. The events helped alumni reconnect with the university and recognized landmarks in the institution’s history, including Western’s famous landmarks in the institution’s history, including Western’s

Researchers flock to study of birds

BY PAUL MAYNE

How do birds regulate body fat as a fuel for long distance migration?
How does eating affect their flight performance?
How do the aerodynamics and physiology of bird flight change as they fly at higher altitudes?

With the opening this week of the world's first hypobaric climatic wind tunnel for bird flight, The University of Western Ontario’s Advanced Facility for Avian Research (AFAR) is ready to seek the answers to these and similar questions essential to our understanding of the increasingly fragile world of birds.

Funded by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Ontario Research Fund and private partners, the $9.2-million facility allows researchers to assess birds’ abilities to adapt to their environment. The magic of the facility is its ability to mimic real-life conditions in a laboratory. In turn, researchers hope to gain insights into conservation efforts, ecosystem health, disease and how birds respond to climate change.

While there are two other bird tunnels in the world – located in Europe – AFAR is the only one that can simulate altitude, up to seven kilometres or more.

“Birds are an important group of organisms deserving of study,” says AFAR principal investigator Scott MacDougall-Shackleton. “Studies of birds have been critical in both ecology and evolutionary biology, as well as at the forefront of conservation biology. Research on birds is central to understanding of the increasingly fragile world of birds.

Special chambers allow researchers to reflect seasonal changes by varying light and the temperature from 2 to 40 degrees, which is particularly significant to studies of breeding patterns. “Making the birds comfortable and happy is one of our number one priorities,” he says.

The 13,000-square-foot facility and its hypobaric climatic wind tunnel will allow for study not only of the aerodynamics of bird flight in high altitude conditions, but also how changes in the environment affect birds’ neural and physiological systems, and their reproduction and migration patterns. Researchers can also study flight while altering air pressure, moisture and humidity.

In combination with specialized indoor and outdoor holding rooms and cutting edge experimental and analytical facilities, AFAR becomes a leading centre for the study of avian behaviour.

Western has assembled one of the largest groups of integrative avian biologists in Canada. “This represents a world-first and a world-leading facility for interdisciplinary study of birds,” says Ted Hewitt, Vice-President (Research and International Relations).

“It provides us with an opportunity at Western to build on our strengths in other areas such as environmental sustainability, wind engineering and neuroscience.”

Selected research topics include all aspects of birds’ annual cycles including reproduction, migration and wintering. This research will help us understand how birds migrate over long distances, how they handle environmental stresses such as habitat change, disease and climate change, and how avian reproduction is affected by changing environmental conditions.

MacDougall-Shackleton notes that birds and humans affect each other in positive and negative ways. Habitat disturbance and climate change present challenges to bird reproduction and migration, and their high mobility makes them carriers of disease and parasites.

Studies of birds have led to understanding of the increasing importance of birds as biomarkers and birds’ global movements have important implications for human and ecosystem health.

“How do the aerodynamics and physiology of bird flight change as they fly at higher altitudes?”

Paul Mayne, Western News

Starlings at the new Advanced Facility for Avian Research take a test flight in the world’s only hypobaric climatic wind tunnel.
Sixtieth year full of progress, promise

By David Scott

A positive feeling of challenge and change was in the air at Western Alumni Association’s 2009 Annual General Meeting (AGM) at TD Waterhouse Stadium Oct. 1.

Association President Carol-Lynn Chambers welcomed all in attendance and said each year the face of campus changes. “What is constant is the spirit, passion, and pride that drives all of our efforts...Our goal as an Alumni Association remains a lofty but reachable one – to offer the best alumni experience.”

Chambers shared highlights of the year from all corners of our alumni community:

- A new commitment to two-way communication with alumni including enhanced use of the Alumni Gazette, Western News and Purple Flash to promote initiatives of the Alumni Association;
- Significant growth in commercial affinity partner profiles, including the addition of a new partner, idAlerts;
- Continued expansion of Alumni Association revenue lines which ensured continued development of all important programming initiatives during this year’s limited perspective to a national audience;
- An increase in the number of volunteers, helping to achieve worldwide alumni outreach initiatives; and
- Continued progress in meeting goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan (developed with the help of alumni).

Chambers concluded her report with a quotation from the 1949 AGM minutes to mark the 60th anniversary of the association:

“Ladies and gentlemen, it is felt that the Association has and is making progress. It has been a big year for the Association and indications are such as to reflect greater growth in [the coming year] for the betterment of the Association and the university.”

NEW CANDIDATES FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Two new directors were presented and approved for the Alumni Board of Directors: Deborah Cupello, BA’98, BEF’99, ME’06, and Eric Saarvala, BA’95.

Chambers also presented incoming Association President Chris Makuch, BA’93, who will take over as president next fall. Introduced as members of the Executive Committee were: Carol-Lynn Chambers, President; Chris Makuch, Incoming President and Chair of the Student & Young Alumni Outreach Committee; Robert Collins, Chair of the Alumni Outreach Committee; Aubrey Leblanc, Chair of the Communications Committee; and Jim Etherington, Member at large.

The approved full slate of officers of the Alumni Association Board includes: Hilary Bassett, BA’98; Anne Baster, BA’98; Carol-Lynn Chambers, BSc’82, MPA’01; Simon Chen, BA’91; Robert Collins, BA’93; Luc L’Heureux, BSc’88; Linda Mulholland-Tarvit, BA’05; Deborah Cupello, BA’98, BEF’99, ME’06; John Erb, BA’66; William “Doc” Eames, BA’61; Fionnuala (Fiona) Kelly, BA’69; Jiri Kolar, BA’93; Patricia McLaughlin, BA’71, Cert.Hons’78, MA’81; Mark Millar, BSc’94; Perry Monaco, BA’90; Eric Saarvala, BA’95; Gary West, HBA’88.

Alumni representation on the university Board of Governors includes: Paul Baay, BA’83; Joanne DeLaurentis, BA’75, MA’77; Hanny Hassan, BSc’64, and Michele Noble, HBA’71. University Senate representatives are Jim Etherington, BA’61, President’s Designate; Wayne Dunn, BA’80, and Helen Luckman, MEd’82. Alumni reps on Foundation Western’s Board of Directors includes: Jeremy Cohen, HBA’76, Chuck Grace, BA’80, Denise Korpan, BA’77, and Christene Scrimgeour, BA’81. Honorary Degree Committee includes representation from Paul Berton, BA’87 and Jim Etherington, BA’61.

GREETINGS FROM WESTERN PRESIDENT

Western’s 10th President Amit Chakma greeted alumni with a backdrop of Mustangs practising, in a rare reprieve of sunny weather, for their game against McMaster on Saturday (42-35 for McMaster). Chakma congratulated the Association on its 60th anniversary and asked for help of alumni near and far to offer up suggestions, advocate for Western and let him know if they felt the university was off-course in its direction.

He drew parallels between where Harvard had come in its first 300 years to Western’s accomplishments in its 131 years. “I believe that Western’s future is very bright. In my judgment, Western is at a stage in development that parallels the place where Harvard found itself in the early years of the 20th century. It grew from that excellent but limited perspective to a national and world leader. By building on our present status and strength, we have the opportunity today to take Western to the next level.”

SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD

Chakma presented the second annual Spirit of Western Award to President Amit Chakma on behalf of Senior Alumni members.

Alumnus Ron McClatchie accepts the second annual Spirit of Western Award from President Amit Chakma on behalf of Senior Alumni members.

The Editor is the editor of the Western Alumni Gazette

Dr. John Lott and Dr. Alexandra Ociepa

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Western health discoveries make best-of list

Two out of the eight awards presented for the first ever CIHR-CMAJ Top Canadian Achievements in Health Research Awards have gone to faculty members at the University of Western Ontario.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) recognized the research excellence of Fred Possmayer and Bob Litchfield from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

The winners were selected by a peer-review panel of Canadian international experts, who looked for the discoveries and innovations with the biggest impact on the health of people in this country and around the world.

Litchfield, an orthopaedic surgeon and Medical Director of the Fowler Kennedy Sport Medicine Clinic, was recognized for a ground-breaking study of patients with arthritic knees, proving that knee surgery provided no extra value over physiotherapy and patient education.

“Every orthopedic surgeon felt strongly that we were helping patients, but one of the problems with busy surgeons is we would probably follow a patient for only about three months,” explains Litchfield. “When you put it to the scientific test and follow these patients longer, you realize you really could have achieved the same result with an optimized non-operative program.”

Possmayer, Professor Emeritus, developed a technique to purify and sterilize lung surfactant – a substance that allows lungs to expand and breathe. After saving the lives of countless premature babies with BLES, the surfactant he developed, Possmayer’s work has now shifted from children to adults. BLES is manufactured in London and used by more than 99 per cent of the neonatal intensive care units in Canada.

“It’s no surprise to us at CIHR that Canadian health researchers perform so well and have made such a difference in the day-to-day health and well-being of Canadians and others worldwide,” said Alain Beaudet, President of CIHR.

A second round of the Top Canadian Achievements in Health Research Awards has just been launched, with a February 1, 2010 deadline for applications. For more information, visit cihr-irsc.gc.ca or cmaj.ca.

The other 2009 winners are:

- Paul Armstrong, Robert Welsh and Padmaja Kaul, University of Alberta, who trained ambulance crews to liaise with doctors and begin treatment of heart attack victims about one hour earlier on average, dramatically improving chances of a full recovery.

- Adolfo de Bold, University of Ottawa Heart Institute, for the discovery of hormone secretion by the human heart. This knowledge now allows physicians to control water and salt levels in the body, reducing hypertension and helping the heart recover after heart attacks.

- Geoffrey Fong, Mary Thompson and David Hammond, University of Waterloo, for work with the International Tobacco Control Policy Evaluation Project in assessing the effectiveness of programs to reduce smoking around the world.

- Michel LeMay, University of Ottawa Heart Institute, who developed a new way to handle heart attacks that empowers paramedics to read electrocardiograms and identifies patients with blocked heart arteries who need to be fast-tracked for angioplasty surgery – reducing mortality by 50 per cent.

- Nizar Mahomed, University Health Network in Toronto, who led a team involving some 35 hospitals that introduced new procedures for hip and knee surgery. These procedures reduced wait times, cut rehabilitation stays and dramatically improved patient outcomes.

- Stephen Moses, University of Manitoba, who demonstrated the effectiveness of male circumcision in reducing the transmission of HIV in Africa.
Challenging the community to be kind

By Heather Travis

King’s University College student is hoping to kill hate and bias with kindness—1,000 acts of kindness to be exact.

Amber Merucci, a fourth-year student in the Bachelor of Social Work program, is joining LUSO Community Services—a non-profit multicultural community centre—to rally the London community throughout the month of October to spread a little kindness through the “1,000 Acts of Kindness” challenge.

“It is something that anyone can do,” says Merucci. “It’s not something that costs money. It can be as simple as taking people’s groceries to the car.”

She hopes the awareness campaign will get residents thinking about how they treat others and take stock of acts of kindness they receive. More than 200 acts of kindness have been recorded on the website to date.

Around the Christmas holidays, Merucci says people are more likely to make ‘kindness’ a priority. However, the goal of the campaign is to raise people’s consciousness about acts of kindness year-round.

Merucci and King’s Social Action Committee will hold bake sales today (Oct. 8) and Oct. 15 outside the cafeteria in the Mon- signor Wemple Building at King’s to raise money for items such as warm clothes, bus tickets and toys, which will be distributed by LUSO to local non-profit agencies throughout the city. Non-mandatory donations of items in need will also be accepted.

“I hope to see a wide range of people participating,” she says. “You are really promoting love, kindness and acceptance. That goes beyond cultural boundaries. “Seeing the community come together in a positive way, it’s really hopeful for the future,” she adds.

Meredith Fraser, a Western graduate and the Anti-Hate and Anti-Bias Program Co-ordinator for LUSO, says people often get overwhelmed by an “all or nothing” mentality when it comes to feeling they can create change in their community and eliminate hate and bias.

To empower the community to make a difference, Fraser decided to issue a challenge to complete small acts of kindness which would add up to make a larger, more tangible impact.

By getting the public to record their acts of kindness, she hopes to be able to show, in a meaningful way, how these can affect a person’s life and the community at large.

“Hate spreads. It’s just as easy to spread kindness,” she says. “If we create these community connections … we make a community that is more engaged. A healthy community is resistant to hate.

“We all have the power to make that change,” she adds. “It isn’t just something that you do. It’s the way you live and who you are.”

The challenge will wrap up on Oct. 31 and an event will be held in November to celebrate the achievements.

Fraser encourages everyone to get involved in the challenge by organizing an event, such as Kindness Days or starting a Kindness Campaign, for friends, roommates or co-workers. Individuals can submit their stories, photos, cheers, poems or artwork to the campaign and these special acts will be featured on the daily blog on the website. Individual acts of kindness can also be submitted.

“Everyone benefits, not just the people who receive kindness, but also the people who give,” she says.

Grzyb joins Holocaust task force

With teaching and research interests focused on genocide studies, media and the public interest, Faculty of Information and Media Studies assistant professor Amanda Grzyb has been appointed to B’nai Brith Canada’s advisory board of the National Task Force on Holocaust Education, Remembrance and Research.

The National Task Force on Holocaust Research, Remembrance and Education will bring scholars, legal experts and educators together with Holocaust survivors and community stakeholders to share and enhance Holocaust research and educational work being done in Canada.

The national task force is led by Western French Studies professor Alain Goldschläger, Director of the Holocaust Literature Research Institute at the university, which contains one of the largest collections of Holocaust survivors’ published accounts.

Grzyb also launched a new media studies course called Community Holocaust History, which includes a two-week travel component, over Reading Week, to sites of Holocaust memory in Eastern Europe.
CONFERENCES

October 15-16
Health over the life course
National conference of the Canadian Research Data Centre Networks. David Buller-Jones, Canada’s Chief Public Health Officer, will give the keynote address. Western’s Research Data Centre and the Aging and Health Research Centre are organizing the event. www.rdc.uwo.ca/conference2009/index.html

October 15-17
Canadian Society of Continental Philosophy
This annual international conference is expected to attract up to 200 scholars to Western Canadian Society of Continental Philosophy. They will discuss questions, research and themes in recent and contemporary continental European thought. The coordinator is Antonio Calcagno, a professor in the King’s Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies. www.c-scp.org

October 16
Belonging! Developing and Maintaining Inclusive Environments
The Centre for Inclusive Education at the Faculty of Education is presenting this daylong conference featuring keynote speaker Sheila Bennett of Brock University. The event runs 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at the Faculty of Education Building, 1137 Western Rd. London. www.edu.uwo.ca/inclusive_education. Contact: onewell@uwo.ca

October 16-18
Digital Labour: Workers, Authors, Citizens

October 31
6th Annual Labour Law Conference
8 a.m.-5 p.m. Hosted by Heron Blanke LLP and Western Law.

November 3-4
Digital Interactive Gaming London Conference
This conference is held at the London Convention Centre and gives the public a chance to connect with Canada’s leading video game developers, publishers, technology companies, service providers and emerging talent. There are a total of nine key speakers, including Michael Kalchbrenner from Western. Reception and dinner are an option. To register, visit http://conf.diglondon.ca/index.php/dig/menu_link/home

November 13-15
States of Emergency: Crisis, Panic and the Nation
This conference is sponsored by the Canadian Association of American Studies and Western’s Centre for American Studies. Sessions will be held at the Hilton Hotel in London. For information contact Conference Program Director Professor Bryce Trudel at trudel@uwo.ca

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October 8  
John Labatt Visual Arts Centre - "Production Still" MFA/PhD Student Exhibition. Janice Gurney, Jason Hallows, Kelly O’Dette, Sohaila Kohaibahaj, John Cusine, Kevin Rodgers and Jamie Duali. Artist Talk. All welcome. Open reception today 5 - 7 p.m. For more info call 519-661-2111 ext. 85856. Runs until October 22nd.

Cross Country - Motzang Open (Gibbons Park) 3:30 p.m.

Western Writer in Residence Looks at Minuita - Penn Kemp, Western’s Writer in Residence, will be leading a discussion on the exhibition MINUITA by Calgary artist Robert Kelly currently on view at the McIntosh Gallery. Writer, essayist, playwright and sound poet, Kemp will consider various qualities in Kelly’s bookwork installation which is based on a quotation “the first time I heard the sound of a page turning”. Each of the eleven books, one for each word in the phrase, explores different meanings through metaphors, concrete poetry, narrative, visual sculpture, and literary acoustics. Everyone is welcome to attend this special program. McIntosh Gallery, 5:30 p.m.

Football - York at Western. 7 p.m. Family Football Festival starts 6 p.m.

Student Seminar Series - An opportunity for students to engage with other students. This seminar will be on the second half of Arundhati Roy’s, “Come September” speech. Somerville House, Room 3355. Everyone welcome. 7 - 9 p.m. Contact matthias.vangaelen@gmail.com.

King’s University College - Religious Life Lecture Series. Reverend Economos Apostolos Hill, “Understanding Byzantine Music in the Context of Orthodox Prayer” Labatt Hall, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Visit: kings.uwo.ca/campus_ministry/lecture_series/

Truth vs. The Lie: Christianity, Secularism and Canadian Law - Michael Coren, host of the weekly Michael Coren Show. Justin Trottier, Executive Director of the Centre for Inquiry. Law Building, Most Courthouse Room. Refreshments. 6:45 - 8 p.m.

October 9

Western’s Centre for Planetary Science (CPSS) and Exploration Network (CLRN) hosting "LCROSS for Breakfast". The NASA LCROSS spacecraft will crash into the lunar surface in its search for water ice in a permanently shadowed crater near the moon’s south pole and you can watch it - Star and moon gazing using Cronyn telescope, 5:30 a.m.; NASA TV/Mission overview, 6:30 a.m.; Watch live impact NASA TV coverage, 7:30 a.m. Cronyn Observatory.

Women’s Rugby - Guelph at Western. 3 p.m.

Field Hockey - York at Western. 5 p.m.

October 10

Women’s Hockey - Brock at Western. 4 p.m.

Men’s Hockey - Brock at Western, 7:30 p.m.

October 11

Women’s Hockey - Guelph at Western. 2 p.m.

October 12

Happy Thanksgiving - offices closed

October 13

Senior Alumni Program - Paul Bertol, Editor-in-Chief, The London Free Press. “Roy’s “Come September” speech. Somerville House, Room 3355. Everyone welcome. 7 – 9 p.m. Call for information and to register 519-661-3090.

Ontology Grand Rounds - Department of Oncology and London Regional Cancer Program. Tracy Sexton, Radiation Oncologist, Western. “Adolescent and Young Adult Oncology; Walking an Endangered Species? The decline of the daily newspaper” McKellar Room, UC. 9:30 – 11 a.m.


October 14


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 tertulias@uwo.ca.

Men's Rugby - Guelph at Western. 4 p.m.

Wellness Series Wednesday - Laura Granville, Campus Recreation. Learn how to fight fatigue and low energy naturally. Western Recreation. Campus Recreation. Learn how to fight fatigue and low energy naturally. Western Recreation Centre. 3rd floor meeting room. No charge. All welcome. 5:30 – 6:30. Call for information and to register 519-661-3090.

Men’s Basketball - Ryerson at Western (exhibition). 7 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Chamber music and art. McIntosh Gallery. 5:30 p.m.

Schulich Medicine & Dentistry Graduate Seminar Series - Attend this seminar to learn about graduate student opportunities at Schulich. "Cancer Research in London" Dental Sciences Bldg 1002. 4:30 – 6 p.m.

Office of Interprofessional Health Education and Research - “Conflict Workshop.” The Great Hall. 5 - 7 p.m. Contact 519-661-2111 x 82234. Email nh@uwo.ca.
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**NAME OF UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT**

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**CATEGORIES**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Deanna Friesen - Psychology, Semantic Activation in Bilingual Visual Word Recognition, Oct. 9, Room 4940 SSC, 10:30 a.m.

Jamu Alford - Physics, Delta Relaxation Enhanced Magnetic Resonance, Oct. 9, Room 123 PAB, 9 a.m.

Luke Jerzykiewicz - Philosophy, A Cognitive Approach to Benet’s Dilemma, Oct. 9, N/A

S.M. Zahangir Khaled - Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Development of a New Generation of Bone Cements using Nanotechnology, Oct. 13, Room 434 TEB, 1 p.m.

Maia Hoeberechts - Computer Science, On the Foundations of Computability Theory, Oct. 13, Room 77 MC, 10:30 a.m.

Send submissions to newseditor@uwo.ca