Together again after 20 years

By Bob Klanc

When German rower Andreas Schotter started rowing 20 years ago, his coach was a man named Volker Nolte.

Both were in Germany at the time, Schotter on the rise as a rower, his skills in the scull earning him a slot on the German national team at 19, and a silver medal in the World Championships.

He lost touch with Nolte at the time but serendipity has brought them back together on the Western campus where Nolte is one of two head coaches of the Western Rowing Team and Schotter, at 40, its oldest member.

“I hadn’t seen him for 14 or 15 years,” says Schotter. “He said, ‘you have to row for the university.’”

How Schotter found himself once again under the tutelage of Nolte on a different continent 20 years after they first met is an intriguing one.

After his years with Nolte, Schotter went to another rowing club in Germany, representing the country a number of times in the World Cup Regatta and international regattas while simultaneously getting his masters in business economics from the University of Kassel.

For the next 15 years Schotter worked for various companies, starting with Volkswagen, then working in the field of refrigeration technology in Hong Kong for Linde and following that, Bitzer. He got married just days before moving to Hong Kong in 1997.

“I always joke with my wife about that,” says Schotter. “I like to say that we had a nine-year long honeymoon in China.”

Children followed but Schotter started to tire of the travel his job entailed. With 200 days on the

Non-profits get business injection

The London Life internships promote working in the non-profit sector as a career option

By Ashleigh Murphy

Summer jobs don’t have to be solely about earning money for school – they can be a choice to explore career opportunities. That’s what Ivey HBA student Christy Zhou discovered while working for Childreach, an organization that provides programs to encourage healthy development of children from birth through 12 years.

This summer, Zhou worked as a marketing consultant at Childreach and developed a marketing plan to promote fee-based courses for parents and young children and to enhance Childreach’s visibility in the community.

“I examined the fee-based programs at the organization, and looked for ways to increase the participation rate of these programs as well as opportunities to create new fee-based programs,” said Zhou.

Through funding from London Life, Zhou and three other Ivey HBA students spent their summer working at non-profit organizations across London.

Offering their energy and insight on a wide range of business issues, student interns were also placed at Craigwood Youth Services, Pillar Nonprofit Network, and Youth Opportunities Unlimited.

For the past three years, Ivey and London Life have joined forces, with London Life providing $5,000 in funding for each student placed in non-profits in the London area. Internships are coordinated through Ivey Connects – a student-led initiative that builds ties between the London community and Ivey student body.

“When recruiting for summer internships started for first-year HBAs, I was really looking for an opportunity that would allow me to apply the business skills I acquired in class to the non-profit sector,” said Zhou. “When the posting for the London Life internship came out, I jumped at the opportunity.”

Students gain experience being exposed to issues facing the non-profit sector. They walk away with an understanding of the similarities and differences between a community agency and a private-sector organization. The internships promote working in the non-profit sector as an attractive and challenging career option.

“This was a great experience...
‘Maintain intellectual curiosity’

Continued from Page 1

road, he says he “had to reintro-
duce myself to my son every time
I came home.”

“There was no growing any-
more,” he says. “When things
become boring for me, I want to
leave.”

While in Hong Kong, he con-

nected with the Ivey Executive
MBA program. He took the pro-
gram all the while keeping up
the rowing that acted as a stress
reliever during his business
career.

“I rowed for the Hong Kong
yacht club,” he says. “I repre-
sented Hong Kong at the 2005
Asian championships.”

Schotter talked with the faculty
at the Hong Kong MBA program
noting that many of them were
previously business executives.

“I understood the North Ameri-
can business school model from
them,” he says. “A big inspira-
tion was professor Paul Beamish.
I spoke to my wife and my
employer and said I really want
to get a PhD.”

“It was a way for me to main-
tain my intellectual curiosity and
remain competitive and the North
American school system provides
that kind of opportunity.”

Schotter is currently at the
Ivey School of Business complet-
ing his thesis “in the general area
of the context of environmental
sustainability of multinational
corporations.”

After Schotter and his family
came to London Schotter realized
Nolte was at Western.

With his family settled in,
Schotter went to Nolte’s training
camp. To his surprise he made
the team.

“It was pretty exciting to have
high-quality athletes around you
in big boats,” he says. “It’s a rare
treat to get in such a competitive
group again at my age.”

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Ivy School of Business PhD student Andreas Schotter managed to make the
Western rowing team at the age of 40.

“It’s nice to be in an eight where
the guys pull really hard.”

Schotter relishes the opportu-
nity to give the Western team the
benefit of his years of rowing.

“One of the reasons I came
back is that I can see some of
the athletes really develop and
convey my experience and help
them reach an international level
of success,” he says.

“I really like to help these guys
to go further. If my input helps
them that’s really great. I’m
enjoying that a lot.”

‘A challenge
for young leaders’

Continued from Page 1

for me. I gained valuable insight
into the pressures faced by the
not-for-profit sector — and the
level of trust and expectation I
received really motivated me to
do well at my job,” said Zhou.

The non-profit organizations
benefit from the internships. Not
only is it beneficial for manage-
ment to see their business from
an outsider’s point of view, they
also get access to bright young
students with solid business
skills.

“A big difference that I noticed
working at a non-profit was that
many people in non-profits still
have the mentality of being a
social service and are reluctant
to apply the business model,” said
Zhou.

“This creates a challenge for
young leaders who would like
to manage a non-profit organiza-
tion because they must be able to
function well as a general man-
ger but at the same time educate
staff about the changes that must
be undertaken.”
Cheryl Beech was a major impact player for Western’s women’s golf team, the defending OUA champion, at two of Western’s three tournaments Oct. 1, Oct. 2 and Oct. 4. Beech shot a personal best 76 to finish first overall at the McMaster Invitational golf tournament on Oct. 2, leading Western to the team title, 28 strokes better than second-place McMaster.

Beech is a reigning OUA first-team all-star. Western competes in the OUA championships Oct. 13-16 at the Royal Ottawa Golf Course in the nation’s capital.
Investigating AIDS in South Africa

Eric Yeboah Tenkorang is a third year PhD student in the Department of Sociology. After completing his undergraduate degree in his native country of the Republic of Ghana at the University of Ghana Legon, Eric was interested in pursuing his graduate training at a university that would offer him a unique cultural experience in addition to achieving his academic goals. His experience at the University of Western Ontario has lived up to these expectations.

Eric is trying to identify why the youth in sub-Saharan Africa have been identified as more vulnerable to the AIDS pandemic. In his thesis, “Perception of HIV/AIDS Risks and Sexual Behaviour of Young Adults in South Africa: Evidence from the Cape Town Panel Studies”, Eric examines the link between behavioural changes and perception of risk among South African youth.

The United Nations estimates 1.3-1.9 million South African youth are infected with the virus. These numbers threaten not only the lives of the individuals but they also have far-reaching implications for the economy and the development of South Africa.

Using a modified version of the Health Belief Model, Eric's research not only examines an individual's risk perception and the impact this has on their sexual behaviour, but also how one’s household and the larger community influences an individual’s perception and subsequently their behaviour.

Eric hopes that his research will be able to contribute to the study of sexual reproductive health and provide recommendations for the modification of policy to help curb the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In June, Eric presented his research at the Population Reference Bureau workshop in Washington, D.C., where he is currently a fellow.

Eric finds inspiration in his parents, the late Dr. Kwame Nkrumah (first president of the Republic of Ghana) and the former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela.

It’s no wonder with role models like these that Eric aspires not only to a life in academia but also to a life in politics which would allow him to give back to his community and to effect change that will help in the development of his native Ghana.

As the current president of the Tigress Youth Club in Ghana, Eric is actively involved in community development and service.

"The academic journey might seem very long and foggy, but there is always light at the end of the tunnel. Discipline, commitment to service, self-determination and perseverance should be our watchwords."
COMING EVENTS

October 11
Organizing the Search for Tom Thomson - London artist Jeff Willmore re-examines the impact of the Group of Seven on the Canadian approach to contemporary landscape painting and the changes exerted by industrial use and human incursion. Runs to October 28. McNichol Gallery. For more information visit mcnicholgallery.uwo.ca.

Physics & Astronomy Colloquium - Melanie C. W. Campbell, University of Waterloo: "Adaptive optics: implications to diagnosis and therapy in the eye". Physics & Astronomy 123 - 1:30 p.m.

Western's Caucus on Women's Issues Fall General Meeting - speakers Tom Stevenson, USC President, and Ted Hewitt, V.P. Research, reporting on initiatives to address sexism on campus. Preceded by informal reception from 3 to 4 p.m. for Dr. Margaret-Den Armour, Associate Dean (Diversity), Faculty of Science, University of Alberta and founding member of Women in Scholarship, Engineering, Science and Technology (WISEST). All women working or studying at Western is invited to attend from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Rooms 224/225, University College.

Visual Arts Department - Artful Exhibition "Professionalizing your Practice" Jim Logan, Program Officer, Canada Council's Grant System and a new policy providing two-year grants aimed at helping artists to develop their own career. Free admission, all welcome.

October 14

October 16
Senior Alumni Program - Reverend Barry Moore, Barry Moore Ministries. "All in the Family" - Judaism, Christianity and Islam.McNichol Hall, UCC, 7:30 to 11 a.m.

Oncology Grand Rounds - Department of Oncology, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and London Regional Cancer Program. Robert Buckman, Princess Margaret Hospital and University of Toronto. "It ain’t (just) what you say, it’s the way you say it: Communications and Ethics." Room A3-904a/b, 12 to 1 p.m.

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Chamber Orchestra - Talbot Theatre - 12:30 p.m.

Physiology and Pharmacology Seminar - Gowdey Lecture, Michel Bouvier, University of Montreal. "G protein-coupled receptors: orchestrating signaling selectivity and efficacy through modular protein complexes assembly". DSB 308 - 4 p.m.

October 17
Campus Communicators is a Toastmasters club. Develop and improve communications skills, in a supportive and learning environment - impromptu speaking, giving prepared presentations, evaluating presentations and speeches, making the most of visual aids and props. SLS 330, 3 p.m. For more information, contact Mark Phillips markphilps@gmail.com or Megan Popove michphyl99@gmail.ca. Website cctms. uwo.ca/events.html

Don Wright Faculty of Music - Consorts - The Symphonic Band explores the many tonal colours within the wind band. von Kuster Hall - 12:30 p.m.

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures presents "La Tertulia" - Spanish Conversation Group. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries are welcome. Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. UCC 117.

Clinical Pharmacology Grand Rounds - Dr. Freeman and Cutler, MEINA for Lowering Homocysteine in Dialysis Patients. "It, Auditorium C - 4 p.m.

Women’s Field Hockey - Guelph at Western, 6 p.m.

Men’s Water Polo - McMaster at Western, 6 p.m.

Women’s Water Polo - McMaster at Western, 6 p.m.

Grants aimed at helping artists to develop their own career. Free admission, all welcome.
ACCESS WESTERN NEWS

Several avenues are available for communicating through Western News. They include:

Advertising
Advertise your service or product the way you want it presented. For rates and information, contact advertise@uwo.ca.

Coming Events
The weekly feature outlines seminars, sporting events, lectures and cultural events for the coming week. Send submissions at least two weeks in advance to comingevents@uwo.ca.

Funding
In 50 words or fewer outline your campus group’s plans in support of a recognized non-political charity. This space is for event-based projects and not ongoing efforts. Events may be held on-or off-campus. sendsubmit@uwo.ca.

International Research
Faculty members with research interests outside of Canada can write about their work in this regular column. Contact Douglas Keddy, Research Communications Coordinator, for more information at dkeddy@uwo.ca or 519-661-2111 ext. 87485.

Tribute
This occasional feature recognizes significant accomplishments by faculty, staff and students as determined by off-campus organizations. Submit a brief article of 200 words or fewer about the award and the winner: newsletter@uwo.ca.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Offer praise, criticism or a fresh take on the news, or any aspect of campus life. Letters of up to 300 words should be submitted to letters@uwo.ca.

Opinions
Western News welcomes Viewpoint articles of about 600 words. Offer a perspective on campus and post-secondary education issues. Send submissions or find out more at newsletter@uwo.ca.

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

Public Space
Tell campus neighbours about developments in your area or department in 500 words or fewer: newsletter@uwo.ca.

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WANTED - Women athletes ages 18-25 to participate in national team development program. Contact Dina: info@forestcityvelodrome.ca.

Child Care

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For Rent

Old London North - Two bedroom bungalow, c/l, gas heat, 6 appliances, quiet décor, fenced in yard. $950 plus utilities. First and last. Minimum one year lease. Victoria and Talbot, easy walk to buses, St. Joe’s, U.H., Western, Gibbons Park. Staff / faculty preferable. Available now. Call 519-455-9099 after 7 p.m.

Sabbatical Housing

Executive Home, Orchard Park - fully furnished, December 1/07 - May 1/08. Walk to campus. Ideal for visiting Professor or Executive relocation. $1,500 plus utilities, $1,500 deposit and references required. Non-smokers. Call 519-455-9099 after 7 p.m.

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WESTERN NEWS

OCTOBER 11, 2007

15
Distinguished University Professorship

Call for Nominations

The Distinguished University Professorship program is Western’s highest recognition of those who have built a record of excellence in all three of teaching, research and service over a substantial career at Western.

Recipients of the Professorships will receive the honorary title of Distinguished University Professor, an award of $10,000 to support scholarly activities and a citation to be presented at an appropriate occasion. Recipients will also be expected to deliver a public lecture. The number of Professorships is limited. Full details can be found at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate/dist_univ_prof.pdf

Selection from among nominees will be made by a Senate elected committee that will complete its work by April 1, 2008. Nominations should include a letter describing the nominee’s qualifications for the award, a curriculum vitae prepared by the nominee for this purpose, and at least three confidential letters of reference. The letters of reference, at least one of which must address teaching and one at least of which must address research, should be from arm’s length individuals who are recognized authorities in the nominee’s fields of scholarship, and who can speak to the nominee’s achievement in teaching, research or service. Original nominations, plus 6 copies should be sent to:

The Office of the Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy & Faculty)
Room 138, Stevenson-Lawson Building
The University of Western Ontario

The deadline for receipt of nominations is January 31, 2008.

Rescue And Release

What began with discovery of an injured red-tailed hawk in the Dental Sciences parking lot soared to a happy ending as the young female bird was released last week. The saga began Sept. 26 when the Department of Animal Care and Veterinary Services received a number of calls regarding the injured bird. Brian Salt, Director of Salthaven Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre, rescued the bird and following a few days of rest and rehabilitation the hawk, having been named Carol, was back in tip-top shape as it flew to a high branch just outside the Dental Sciences Building.

Paul Mayne, Western News
Community invited to ‘classes without quizzes’

By Marcia Stewart

Beginning today, The University of Western Ontario is offering free classes with no tests and only one prerequisite: a thirst for knowledge.

Classes without Quizzes is a new community lecture series with topical monthly talks by some of Western’s leading faculty. The free series takes place in various London locations October 2007 - April 2008.

Lectures for the first semester include:

Risky Business on the Web Thursday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m., London Chamber of Commerce
Web technologies such as Facebook, YouTube, blogs, and others evolve at a rapid pace. Darren Meister, Faculty Director of the HBA Program at the Richard Ivey School of Business, explains the opportunities they provide people, in business and in life. Presented in partnership with the London Chamber of Commerce.

War and Remembrance Thursday, Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.,
The Royal Canadian Regiment Museum, Wolseley Barracks Since it was first observed in 1919, Remembrance Day has meant different things to different generations. As our world has been re-shaped by war, the 11th of November has changed with it. What did it mean in the wake of the Second World War, during the era of the Vietnam War, or in the post-9/11 world? How does it reveal the impact of war on our lives? And what can it tell us about the way a society commemorates its history? Presented by Jonathan Vance, History Professor and Canada Research Chair in Conflict and Culture.

Olympic Proportions Thursday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m., YMCA of London, 382 Waterloo St. Kevin Wamsley, one of the world’s leading experts on the Olympic Games, is Associate Dean (Programs) of Health Sciences and former Director of Western’s International Centre for Olympic Studies. He will discuss how politics and commercialization have made the Olympics a multi-billion dollar enterprise and the most significant cultural festival in modern society.

Second semester classes will be announced later this year. Community members interested in attending the complimentary lectures should RSVP by calling 519-661-2111 ext. 85739 or sending an email to programs@uwo.ca. Visit http://communications.uwo.ca/WV.
Hong Kong convolution recognizes golfing giant

More than 70 graduates received degrees at the international component of The University of Western Ontario’s 290th Convocation.

The Oct. 7 ceremony, held at the Hong Kong Convocation and Exhibition Centre, was attended by Western Chancellor Arthur Labatt, President Paul Davenport, Ivey Dean Carol Stephenson and other Western officials.

It was the third annual convocation to be held in Hong Kong.

Graduates consisted of 40 Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA), Masters of Business Administration (MBA) and Honours Business Administration (HBA) graduates from the Richard Ivey School of Business, Asia and 30 additional undergraduates.

An honorary degree was awarded to Ken Chu, whose work with Mission Hills Group has earned him a reputation as a major player on the international golf stage.

In his citation, Brian Timney, dean of the Faculty of Social Science, spoke of Chu’s creation of the Mission Hills Golf Club as recognition of the sport’s value as a business language and social networking tool.

“It is where clients are entertained,” Timney said. “It is where business deals are made.”

The Mission Hills Group is Hong Kong’s largest tourism and hospitality group.

Chu and his father turned a rural district into 12 world championship golf courses designed by 12 noted golfers.

The facility also has a convention and exhibition centre, hotels, a commercial complex, tennis and golf academies and a residential community, amenities that have earned it the informal title as the ‘Beverley Hills of China’.

NOMINATIONS INVITED

SENATE COMMITTEES

The Senate Nominating Committee submits to Senate for its consideration nominations for membership on Committees, Subcommittees, Councils and Boards. The Nominating Committee invites the submission of names of members of the University community who are either personally interested in serving on these committees or who are known to be particularly qualified for membership. On the work of Senate committees please refer to: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate/cteeterms.

Nominations for the committees should be sent by email to nmartine@uwo.ca. In making nominations for membership, nominators are required to seek the agreement of the candidate to serve on the committee prior to suggesting the individual for membership.

Upcoming Nominating Committee Agenda Items (plus additional notes) may be found on the following website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate/newnoms.pdf

NOTICE TO JOIN THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

290th CONVOCATION - AUTUMN 2007

Autumn Convocation takes place at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 18 and at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Friday, October 19. Members of Faculty, Senate, the Board of Governors and Emeritus Professors are invited to take part in the Academic Procession. Full information on joining the academic procession (including order of ceremony, honorary degree recipients, assembly and regalia) may be found on the Senate Website: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate/academic_procession.pdf

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Don Wright Faculty of Music

Feature performance

UWO Symphony Orchestra’s opening extravaganza features soprano soloist Sonja Gustafson singing Mozart’s Exsultate Jubilate. Overture to Midsummer Night’s Dream by Mendelssohn and Brahms’ Symphony No. 2 complete the program.

Tickets $15/910 in advance at Orchestra London.
Call 519-679-8778.

Sunday, October 14 at 3 p.m.
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For concert information, visit www.music.uwo.ca

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND
- NEW RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INITIATIVES AWARD
MAJOR GRANT COMPETITION

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for applications to the 2008-2009 Academic Development Fund - New Research and Scholarly Initiatives Award (Major Grant Competition) is 4:30 p.m., Thursday, November 15, 2007. This deadline will be strictly enforced. Completed applications are to be submitted to the University Secretariat, Room 290, Stevenson-Lawson Building.

Applications may be obtained from the University Secretariat website (www.uwo.ca/univsec/senate) and at the University Secretariat, Room 290, Stevenson-Lawson Building, 519-661-2055.

Based on the University of Western Ontario’s 290th Convocation, President Paul Davenport and honorary degree recipient Ken Chu took part in the third annual convocation last weekend in Hong Kong.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TEXT BOOKS COST TOO MUCH

You know a new school year has begun when you see a large crowd of students in the bookstore collecting the vastly overpriced textbooks that their professors have deemed as necessary. This year alone I had to spend about $1,000 on textbooks required for my courses. Even though you can buy second-hand textbooks, you are not always lucky enough to find them in the used bookstore. The cost of textbooks has always been a big issue for university students. Some even refuse to buy the textbooks, and instead sacrifice the convenience of having their own by reading the limited number of textbooks reserved in the library.

Some of the textbooks are updated, with the new edition containing often little change. In such a case one would think a supplement would be more logical instead of creating an entirely new edition allowing students the ability to buy the used books for a few more years. As resourceful as students are at reducing the expense, when publishers release a new edition of textbooks so frequently, it leaves students with no option but to sell or buy used books. As Ontario tuition rates are among the highest in Canada, we, the students, should demand to be given a discount on this outrageous extra cost.

Ashley DeAbreu
Brescia

FROSH BULGE
UNIVERSITY’S RESPONSIBILITY

Regarding Julie Rochefort’s column, Avoiding the Frosh 15, in Western News Sept. 13, I was pleased to see she gave us some tricks to prevent 15 pounds of weight gain in the first year. As a second-year Foods and Nutrition student, I was also suffering from Frosh 15 during my first year. Having experienced Frosh 15 myself, I realize that many personal reasons attributed to an unhealthy lifestyle. Time, budget and nutrition awareness are the three main concerns for most students. Most students are so busy that they find it difficult to balance time. There is no doubt they consume low-nutrient-dense meals for energy, like fat and carbohydrates. Students need to take a step towards eating well and be physically active everyday. However, is it just the direct responsibility of student’s own actions? Clearly, the huge attraction at campus is Tim Hortons, now it says “open 24 hours a day.” When the mid-term or final exam came, this would be big threat to healthy body weight because of the sugar. I have always heard of “double cream double sugar” but not “double milk no sugar”. Many students didn’t like to wait in a long line to get healthier choices.

The university should pay more attention to students’ health. School should lower the cost, or have a food fee included in tuition like the bus pass. Furthermore, school should provide a variety of food including more whole wheat, white meat, lower-fat dressings and dairy in every food court. If one credit physical activity course is required in our school system, it will make a big difference on individual student’s overall healthy plan.

What if campus is full of ads and handouts containing Canadian food guide or other related personal healthy plan materials besides newspapers? What if school opens Nutrition court 24 hours providing Weight Watcher products instead of Tim Hortons? What if the vending machines are filled with low-fat soymilk and fruit package instead of cola, ice cream and candy? If this were to happen, we can suspect that healthy students will make more achievement in studying.

Why doesn’t the university make a campaign about the Frosh 15 for students’ ideal body weight?

Rui Jiang
Brescia

THE WAY WE WERE: 1956

Contributed by Alan Noon (anoon@uwo.ca)   London Free Press Collection/Western Archives

As resourceful as students are at reducing the expense, when publishers release a new edition of textbooks so frequently, it leaves students with no option but to sell or buy used books. As Ontario tuition rates are among the highest in Canada, we, the students, should demand to be given a discount on this outrageous extra cost.

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What if campus is full of ads and handouts containing Canadian food guide or other related personal healthy plan materials besides newspapers? What if school opens Nutrition court 24 hours providing Weight Watcher products instead of Tim Hortons? What if the vending machines are filled with low-fat soymilk and fruit package instead of cola, ice cream and candy? If this were to happen, we can suspect that healthy students will make more achievement in studying.

Why doesn’t the university make a campaign about the Frosh 15 for students’ ideal body weight?

Rui Jiang
Brescia

Several decades have passed since the contraceptive pill has been approved for women’s use and we’re still learning about its effects. Yet, Gardasil; the new vaccine designed to protect against the two most prevalent strains (16 and 18) of the human papillomavirus has only endured a clinical trial of five years. In addition, of those who were enrolled in the clinical trials of Gardasil only 1,200 were of the target age group (9-15 years) to receive the free vaccine.

Nevertheless, somehow we find ourselves in the midst of a mass inoculation. Laura Koutsky, an epidemiologist who helped design and supervise the clinical trials of Gardasil at the University of Washington, claims that in the vaccination of girls as young as nine, a clinical trial of 20 to 30 years is warranted.

How many girls have been studied? What were the methods used? You will find nothing of that nature on www.hpvontario.ca, a website, regarding Ontario’s Grade 8 HPV vaccination program which is supposed to affirm your daughter’s safety upon injection.

So, what are the facts? They are something parents and daughters are entitled to know and cannot be summarized in a mere five-year study. Before parents sign that waiver, learn all sides of the issue, and not just the pleasant facts the government wants you to hear.

Ashley DeAbreu
Brescia

As a second-year Foods and Nutrition student, I was also suffering from Frosh 15 during my first year. Having experienced Frosh 15 myself, I realize that many personal reasons attributed to an unhealthy lifestyle. Time, budget and nutrition awareness are the three main concerns for most students. Most students are so busy that they find it difficult to balance time. There is no doubt they consume low-nutrient-dense meals for energy, like fat and carbohydrates. Students need to take a step towards eating well and be physically active everyday. However, is it just the direct responsibility of student’s own actions? Clearly, the huge attraction at campus is Tim Hortons, now it says “open 24 hours a day.” When the mid-term or final exam came, this would be big threat to healthy body weight because of the sugar. I have always heard of “double cream double sugar” but not “double milk no sugar”. Many students didn’t like to wait in a long line to get healthier choices.

The university should pay more attention to students’ health. School should lower the cost, or have a food fee included in tuition like the bus pass. Furthermore, school should provide a variety of food including more whole wheat, white meat, lower-fat dressings and dairy in every food court. If one credit physical activity course is required in our school system, it will make a big difference on individual student’s overall healthy plan.

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A team of specialists from The University of Western Ontario launched a program of medical, educational and scientific cooperation in early June 2007 at Yakutsk State University in distant Siberia.

Members of the team included interventional cardiologist Patrick J. Teefy, cardiology nurse Heather Hern, radiologist Karen Geier and occupational therapist Sandra Hobson. History professor Charles Ruud organized the trip and signing of an agreement between Western and Yakutsk State University.

The university is located in Yakutsk, capital of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), one of the “subject” territories of the Russian Federation. It is the largest of all Russian subjects and occupies about 20 per cent of the land area of Russia. Yakutsk is located 180 kilometers south of the Arctic Circle and is built on permafrost.

The population of Yakutia, only about one million persons spread over a huge territory, consists of 40 per cent Russian, 40 per cent Yakut and 20 per cent smaller indigenous groups, some numbering little more than 1,000 persons. An institute at the university conducts research on the indigenous peoples of Yakutia. Another institute conducts research on permafrost.

Winter cold and its effects on the people are a dominant concern. Temperatures in Yakutia can vary by nearly 100 degrees from summer to winter. The university cautions new students, “The temperature might fall below -50c during the coldest months (December, January, February).”

Children are required to stay indoors if the temperature drops below -50c. Exceptionally dry air helps to offset extremes in temperature. Because of the layer of permafrost (up to 1,500 meters deep) under the city, construction and maintenance of buildings, streets, roads, and highways require special methods. Most buildings are erected on piles to isolate them from the underlying permafrost. Roads deteriorate quickly from frost heave and, in spring and summer, water from melting. Most travel takes place by air or on the extensive system of rivers. In winter, the rivers become ice roads.

A major objective of the Western team was to demonstrate the advanced procedures for treating patients suffering from heart disease in a remote region of Russia where patients have limited access to such care. Such procedures, especially with long-term support, can strengthen the capacity of the medical profession in Yakutia to treat heart disease.

Teefy and his nursing colleagues performed eight percutaneous coronary procedures with equipment brought from Canada and donated by medical supply companies. Yakutia is in serious need of such assistance to improve the delivery of medical care. Teefy explains, “Basic techniques and disposable equipment for procedures are either absent or in short supply forcing physicians to limit use or even re-use equipment which ordinarily should be for single use/exposure.”

Canadians, Teefy believes, are well placed to assist people with physical characteristics and cultural traditions similar to the Inuit of Canada. Canada and Yakutia also share similar northern geographical territories. Teefy foresees a “valuable collaboration with medical personnel from Northwest Territories; the Yukon and Nunavut, particularly aboriginal medical personnel, given the complexities of practicing medicine in isolated regions.”

Hobson, in lectures and consultations focused on another serious problem — rehabilitation of patients following strokes and heart attacks. In Yakutia, she reports, “The typical age of first stroke is 52-58 years, some 20 years sooner than is the case in Canada.”

The Yakuts found the Canadian experience in rehabilitation useful. “Of particular interest to them was the Canadian emphasis on individual treatment for stroke rather than the group/class approach often used in Yakutia. In addition, they were unfamiliar with the concept of defining precisely the stage of recovery after stroke”.

A large share of medical problems in Yakutia result from the cold. “The rehabilitation centre there treats an average of 20 patients a year with double amputation due to frost bite and two a year with quadruple amputation. These numbers are staggering, and to my knowledge, the Canadian far north does not experience a similar level of disability.”

Hobson noted a special problem for invalids in Yakutia, the necessity of using stairs to access buildings “because of above-ground construction. As a person with a disability myself, I was particularly struck by the energy expenditure necessary to enterexit buildings not to mention the hazard relating to falls. Social inclusion of individuals with disability is fundamentally tied to the physical accessibility of places where people gather.”

The Western team intends to continue its collaboration with Yakutsk State University and the Yakutsk Medical Academy, especially by extending telecommunications through the Reach Southwestern Ontario project located at the Research Park. The signed agreement between Western and Yakutia opens the way for students, instructors, medical specialists, and researchers to visit Yakutia.

The writer is a professor emeritus in the Department of History.

By Charles Ruud
Climate change essential planning factor

BY PAUL MAYNE

Communities along the upper Thames River need to begin planning for the impact that climate change will have on the watershed, says Faculty of Engineering professor Slobodan Simonovic. “The time to act is now,” Simonovic told a climate change workshop last week.

Simonovic says high river flows or flooding — as well as the magnitude of the events — can be expected to be grow, with extreme events during the summer months.

With drought, he doesn’t see a major change, but “it doesn’t mean it’s not already critical and affecting us now.”

Simonovic used what he refers to as the global equation model and focused it on a local scale to assess what action needs to be done locally to prepare for different weather patterns as the Earth’s average temperature warms.

“The basis for his assessment is a recently completed four-year study, conducted with researchers from the University of Waterloo, that used the Upper Thames River basin to examine the impact of climate change on a broad array of water management issues.

As global temperatures continue to rise and extremes in weather become more frequent and less predictable, Simonovic says local communities need to recognize the risk that climate change represents to future development.

He adds the implications are serious for the management and regulation of cities.

“Those who develop land use will benefit from this study,” says Simonovic, noting population and housing growth, along with business growth, are factors that need to be part of the equation.

“The extent of the climate change will help the decision makers in determining the use of land. It will have some implications.”

As an example, Simonovic outlined the possible impact on the campus of The University of Western Ontario, focusing on the south portion. The projected 100-year flood line — the line most often used when determining where new construction will be permitted — would include the former rugby field and potential location of the proposed new Ivey building across from the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building within the area vulnerable to flooding.

Simonovic said the 250-year flood line (marking events likely to occur only once in 250 years) would bring such extreme flooding events to the door of the Health Sciences Building.

Environmental planning will become increasingly important, however Simonovic says immediate concerns, including budgetary matters, can’t be neglected by looking too far into the future.

“Budgets need to be reviewed to ensure for the safe operation of existing maintenance of flood management infrastructure, as well as future levels of investment,” he says.

“Climate change can’t be neglected. This should be seen as a time of opportunity to push economic, social and environmental agendas.”

IN MEMORIAM

Retired Physical Plant employee Bert Kristoferson, 78, died October 3. Kristoferson, a resident of Tobermory, retired in 1989 with 19 years of service. He is survived by Bernice Kristoferson, his wife. A celebration of life service will be held at Tobermory United Church on Saturday, October 13 at 1 p.m.
Building networks priority for education dean

By Paul Mayne

As the longest serving dean of education in Ontario, Julia O'Sullivan brings not only experience to her new position heading Western's Faculty of Education but the confidence that she is the right person to lead the faculty at this time.

"The context for teacher education in Ontario I am very familiar with - also around the country and around the world," says O'Sullivan, who came to Western this past summer from Lakehead University.

"What's new for me is context, the Western context. It's a research-intensive university; it's a bigger faculty. I think as faculty members who work in that area and we have a centre for research and policy for children with special needs. We have a number of factors that the people here, our faculty, are linked and networked around that the people here, our faculty, are linked and networked around the world because that will help our work."

O'Sullivan says the first couple of months at Western have been "even better than I thought it would be."

She adds the strong relationship the faculty has with local school boards and provincial ministries is proof of the faculty's continued success.

While many see an education faculty as a producer of teachers, O'Sullivan says that is just a small portion of what is done.

"Sometimes people equate faculties of education with teacher education only. We are comprehensive and do a lot more. It goes well beyond, and so it should," she says. "The research done here informs policy at a provincial level. We need to be pushing this."

In terms of teacher education, O'Sullivan anticipates a lot of change from the ministry of education, depending on the minister and government of the day and their interest and support of education.

"You can have a sudden change in themes and we have to respond. We have to prepare the best possible teachers for Ontario," she says. "We are not a faculty that responds only. We are a faculty that is out there."

As O'Sullivan continues to learn during her first year at Western, the one thing she is certain about was the decision to come to London.

"Whenever you accept a new position it's very hectic and everyone always thinks 'did I do the right thing' or 'is this the best match', and I thought that too. But after two or three days, and as days go on, absolutely it was a great move for me."

New Dean of Education Julia O'Sullivan brings a strong record of research and advocacy to Western. She is the longest serving education dean in Ontario, coming from Lakehead University.

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Cracking the mystery of space dust

Adjunct research professor and soon-to-be Western physics and astronomy assistant professor Sarah Gallagher may have helped to solve one of the universe’s important unsolved mysteries.

As co-author of a research paper appearing in an upcoming issue of the Astrophysical Journal Letters, Gallagher says new findings from NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope suggests that space dust – the same stuff that makes up living creatures and planets – was manufactured in large quantities in the winds of black holes that populated our early universe.

In identifying what appears to be freshly made dust in the winds that blow away from super massive black holes, Gallagher, along with co-author Ciska Markwick-Kemper of the University of Manchester, U.K., adds this could explain where the dust came from that populated our early universe.

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Space dust is essential to the formation of planets, stars and galaxies.

While theorists have long-suggested that short-lived, massive exploding stars, or supernovae, might be the source of this mysterious dust, others have proposed that a type of energetic, growing super massive black hole, called a quasar, could be a contributing factor.

A quasar consists of a super massive black hole surrounded by a dusty doughnut-shaped cloud that feeds it. Theoretically, dust could form in the outer portion of the winds that slowly blow away from this doughnut cloud. “Quasars are like the Cookie Monster,” says Gallagher, currently an assistant research astronomer at UCLA. “They can consume less matter than they spit out in the form of winds.”

Yet, nobody has found conclusive proof that either quasar winds or supernovae can create enough dust to explain what is observed in the early universe.

Gallagher and Markwick-Kemper decided to investigate a quasar located in the centre of a galaxy about eight billion light-years way.

Although this particular quasar is not located in the early universe, because it is closer, it is an easier target for addressing the question of whether quasars can make dust. The team used an infrared spectograph instrument to split apart infrared light from the quasar and look for signs of various minerals.

What they found was a mix of the ingredients that make up glass, sand, marble and even rubies and sapphires. While the mineral constituting glass was expected, the minerals for sand, marble and rubies were a surprise. Why? These minerals are not typically detected floating around galaxies, suggesting they could have been freshly formed in the winds rushing away from the quasar.

While this observation opens up some interesting questions and potential scientific leads, the case of the missing dust is not yet closed.

Gallagher says they hope to study more quasars for further evidence of their dust-making abilities. Also, according to the astronomers, quasars might not be the only source of dust in the early universe.

“Supernovae might have been more important for creating dust in some environments, while quasars were more important in others,” said Markwick-Kemper. “For now, we are very excited to have identified the different species of dust in a quasar billions of light-years away.”
Rwandan internship was a life-changing experience

By Bob Klanac

Faculty of Education PhD student Claudine Bonner saw an announcement about international summer internships in early May of this year. A month and a half later, she and fellow student Carissa Maclenman were en route to Rwanda to work at the national university doing development work.

Bonner and Maclenman were assigned to capacity-building work at the governance level at the National University of Rwanda, a project sponsored by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Both students were apprehensive. After all, genocide took place in Rwanda a scant 14 years ago.

“We both thought it was about doing development work internationally,” Bonner says. “For me, it was my first time in Africa, so it was an opportunity that was handed to me to see if it was something I could do long term.”

Bonner and Maclenman were working in the office of the rector of the university looking at long-term planning, equity issues, increasing student numbers, attracting donor nations and related development issues.

“We also got involved in student-initiated projects,” says Bonner. “The medical students at the national university had a community project that was geared toward HIV/AIDS prevention.”

She says that although they worked hard and made an impact, the two women “probably gained more than they did.”

“We got more of an understanding of a culture; we made friends and got to travel while we worked in the senior administration of the university for three months.”

Bonner says that she and colleague Maclenman were an odd couple walking down the street. Bonner’s dark skin and hair and Maclenman’s white skin and blond hair stood out.

“From the day we got there to the day we left we were stared at the street,” Bonner says.

“There was that friendly greeting of foreigners,” she says. “It was wonderful. It was so not like our experiences here where you may or may not know the person next door.

“But of course being academics we analyze everything. What are they thinking?”

It prompted a lot of soul searching for Bonner because the Rwandan skin colour matched her own.

“There were lots of things as an African-Canadian that I had to deal with,” she says. “(There were) things on a personal level in terms of trying to figure out where I fit in the whole African Diaspora.”

“I was experiencing things like being in Africa and dealing with people who did not understand that there were people of African descent in Canada. They understood that there were African-Americans in the U.S. but didn’t know about Canada.”

“If I wasn’t African then I was American and if I wasn’t American then who was I?”

Their constant contact with people working hard to put time between their country’s genocidal past and a more hopeful future hit Bonner and Maclenman hard.

“We started to realize that we do have more than we think,” she says. “Relative to their experiences we do have more. But in other ways I don’t know that we do.”

“It’s the whole western obsession with the material. Yes they may have less than we do materially; but the kids we saw were happy.”

“After seeing the kind of resilience and spirit that people have, I don’t know if I can talk about poverty the same way anymore.”

Since returning to their studies – Bonner is a fourth-year PhD student and Maclennan about to defend her master’s thesis – the experience has remained top of mind. Bonner is considering returning to Rwanda.

“To be totally honest I didn’t want to come back.”

How can Western prepare you for a career?

Sabrina Radia-Bramwell
Political Science III

I’m thinking more about graduate studies than a career. Coming out of graduate school I guess I would like to see organizations and companies on campus that are looking for entry positions or services for graduate students trying to set up at a school.

Hillary Buchan-Terrell
Biology III

Maybe more info sessions on graduate studies and that sort of thing. People from medical schools, law schools would be helpful in terms of trying to prepare for that.

Sara Robinson
International Development Studies III / Huron University College

I plan to take a masters but not at this particular institution. For me it would be to make sure that I have all my prerequisites while I’m still here instead of applying and finding out that I didn’t take such and such a course in first year. I’ve gone to the university office and they say their hands are tied when it comes to whether they accept you or not based on what you’ve taken in your four years here.

Diego Velasquez
Graduate Studies I

Internship and co-ops would be the best way to train people out of school. You can get real experience from work better than you get here at the university.

Melanie Peters
Law II

I’m actually a member of the law school so my transition is different than undergrads. They hook up with different law firms and give us the information we need.