Harness the computer within

**By Dahlia Reich**

You may not know it but within each of us lurks a super computer.

Hidden within our tiniest structures, it intricately calculates and computes massive amounts of information at tremendous speed without the push of a single button.

This natural nano-computer is DNA, the material from which our genes are made. And at the University of Western Ontario, researchers are attempting to harness its power and revolutionize information technology.

BIOcomputing describes scientific research that is looking at how biology does computation and to what extent DNA can be used to devise a new kind of computer. But the burgeoning field promises to do much more than that, says world-renown researcher Lila Kari, associate professor of Computer Science at Western where she holds a Canada Research Chair in biocomputing.

“What’s emerging, she says, is the exciting potential for biocomputing to develop “smart drugs” that would target disease and change the practise of medicine. "The main contribution of bioinformatics research is to point out the fact that computer science and biology -- or life and computation -- are interrelated. You can do computation biologically. It’s a phenomenal breakthrough that may lead to revolutionary changes which, frankly, I cannot even envisage because of the scope of possibility."

Put simply, DNA is a chemical found primarily in the nucleus of cells that forms strands of beads and carries massive amounts of information necessary for making all the structures and materials the body needs to function. Through research, scientists have learned to synthesize DNA and encode genetic information, which is done routinely.

In biocomputing, scientists - instead of encoding genetic information – are experimenting with encoding DNA with numerical information. The DNA is then manipulated using various enzymes which act to “cut and paste” the strands, explains Kari. There is no mechanical device. It all happens in a test tube.

“One can prove, and we have done it here, that you can simulate any operation that is performed by an electronic computer using a combination of cut and paste operations,” says Kari, who collaborates with Western researchers in biology, computer science, biochemistry and biochemical engineering.

So far, DNA has been used to solve only rudimentary mathematical problems, but if a DNA computer can be developed, it would be capable of storing billions of times more data than a personal computer, says Kari. “If you want to encode the same amount of information that can be put into five grams of DNA in a litre of water, you would need something like 150 hectares of the latest hard disk technology. It’s a completely different ball game.”

In June, Kari brought 150 experts from around the world to Western to share the latest research on DNA computing. “The most important thing is not that we can possibly build a smaller, faster or more powerful computer. In my mind, the most important thing is that we can do DNA computing at all. The main thing is that it’s biological and therefore it can interact with the biological entity that is your body. That is the key feature and that, to me, is where the excitement lies.”

Western's largest fall convocation is set for today and tomorrow. The 285th convocation will see almost 1,800 students cross the stage in Alumni Hall to be hooded and receive their degrees.

Three ceremonies will take place over the two days and Western will confer honorary degrees on Shanthi Radecliffe, Richard Monette and Ronald Logan. Earlier this month Hong Kong business leader Simon Leung received an honorary degree at the first all-faculty convocation held in Hong Kong.

Among those graduating today are two individuals who have both excelled in academics while also excelling in activities. For their stories, see pages 8 & 9.
Ivey incentive helping UW campaign ‘step it up’

By Paul Mayne

With about $72,000 raised towards Western’s $400,000 United Way campaign goal, and an Ivey family financial incentive for individuals to further boost contributions, campus fundraisers should hit a fever pitch over the next few weeks.

There are still two days left for pledge-signers who want a shot at Early Bird prizes on campus. Pledge forms submitted by the end of Friday (Oct. 28) will be entered into a draw for items such as lunch at Michael’s, an overnight stay at Windermere Manor and numerous gift certificates.

Just around the corner is one of the largest fundraisers for the United Way, in which many Western representatives will be taking part. The 2005 Incredible StairClimb is set for November 3 at One London Place, London’s tallest building. President Paul Davenport, campaign chair for the London & Middlesex campaign, has been ‘stepping it up’ the last few weeks in preparation for lacing up his running shoes to make the trek to the top of One London Place. He encourages everyone from Western to come out and help raise much needed funds for the London community.

A unique incentive in this year’s United Way campaign is a Leadership Challenge Grant made possible by London philanthropists Richard and Beryl Ivey. To increase the number of leadership gifts — $1,000 or more — the Ivey’s enticement will provide up to an additional $100,000 in matching funds.

A new personal gift of $1,000 or more will be matched dollar-for-dollar, and for existing leaders the grant will match the portion of an increase exceeding 10 per cent over the previous year’s gift.

For more information on Western’s United Way campaign, visit http://unitedway.uwo.ca.

For downloadable pledge forms for the general campaign and the Incredible StairClimb, go to www.uwlondon.on.ca.

FLU SHOT CLINIC: It’s flu season once again and Western’s Workplace Health and the Staff/Faculty Family Practice Clinic are offering immunization clinics for staff and faculty in the Health Services Resource Centre (Room 32, UCC). Clinics are scheduled for Nov. 4, 10, 18 and 25 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Appointments are not required but you must bring your health card. Additional days will be added as needed.

LAST CHANCE: The university plans to publish a paper version of the telephone directory in December. To do so, it will use the database from which the online directory is derived. So, is your information correct? Faculty and staff are encouraged to check the online directory to ensure all personal, office and other information is correct and to report any required changes. The deadline for changes is only one week away.

ANNIVERSARY: The Western Faculty Association is marking its 50th anniversary with a special symposium on Nov. 4. Speakers include Training, Colleges and Universities Minister Christ Bentley, President Paul Davenport, Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations President Michael Doucet, Canadian Association of University Teachers President Loretta Czerni and others. The event is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 1R40 of Ivey School of Business.

OPEN HOUSE: The PMA is holding an open house Nov. 3. Members are encouraged to drop by Room 351, UCC, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to visit with members of the executive or committee. Check out the Web site at www.uwo.ca/pma for more details.

OUA TITLES: For the first time, the men’s baseball team and the women’s golf team squads have won OUA championships. The Mustangs swept the OUA baseball championship over Brock Bulldogs at Labatt Park with catcher and OUA MVP, Ben Rich being named the OUA Championship Series MVP. Women’s golfers won the inaugural 2005 OUA women’s golf championship by a comfortable 20 strokes over second place Toronto. Sue Gleeson, who was the Gold Medalist and made the First All Star Team, led the Mustangs charge on the greens.

SHARIA LAW: Former Ontario Attorney General Marion Boyd will present the next lecture in Western Law’s Distinguished Speaker Series. Boyd, author of the report, “Dispute Resolution in Family Law: Protecting Choice, Promoting Inclusion,” will present the topic: “Sharia Law and Private Religious-Based Arbitration in Ontario” on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at 12:30 p.m. in the Moot Court Room.

BOBBLEHEAD: It didn’t take long. An autographed Andy Fantuz bobblehead doll distributed at Saturday’s football game where Fantuz set a CIS record for receptions has made it to eBay. Last we looked it had reached $49 (U.S.). Fantuz, who was the Gold Medalist and made the First All Star Team, led the Mustangs charge on the greens in preparation for lacing up his running shoes to make the trek to the top of One London Place. He encourages everyone from Western to come out and help raise much needed funds for the London community.

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Western apologizes for privacy breach

By Karren Dowling

Western deeply regrets an invasion of privacy for 1,000 graduate students and will assist students encountering difficulties on a case-by-case basis, Provost and Vice President (Academic) Fred Longstaffe told Senate last week.

The breach happened when documents containing names, social insurance numbers and Ontario Graduate Scholarship results were posted on an unsecured part of the Faculty of Graduate Studies website.

The data was removed from the site after being up from September 23 to October 7 and it remained in a cached version through Google until October 15.

A letter had been sent to the students saying the school cannot identify the 14 different users who accessed the information. Service Canada was contacted but informed the school that they do not grant new SIN numbers unless this is fraud. Western’s legal counsel says the school has done what it can to minimize damage.

Service Canada recommends those students contact the two major credit reporting agencies, Equifax (1-800-465-7166) and TransUnion (1-877-525-3823) to discuss whether a fraud alert should be placed on the credit file and what other steps are required. Other safety measures and advice can be found at the Privacy Commissioner’s Web site at www.pcp.on.ca.

Society of Graduate Students President, Patricia Dalton, says this is a serious matter and they have explored every avenue.

“While it has been a difficult situation, there have been no incidents of fraud that we know of,” says Dalton. “The university has handled it quite fairly and has given us access to information we needed. Western Legal Counsel, Stephen Jarrett, will be attending the SOGS meeting (Oct. 27) at 6 p.m. to address concerns. And we may have a separate forum with him another time, if people still feel there is a need after the session.”

Longstaffe told Senate that Western, with the help of its legal counsel, will deal with any issues that arise on a case-by-case basis.

“We won’t stand aside and let these students deal with this on their own,” stressed Longstaffe.

Meanwhile, Western is formally requesting that the Ontario Graduate Scholarship program stop using social insurance numbers for student identification in the future.

FEMALES STRUGGLE WITH FAMILY ISSUES

The proportion of female faculty has increased more than 40 per cent at Western in the last three years, Alan Weeoden, Vice-Provost (Policy, Planning and Faculty), told Senate members.

However, he says Western is still significantly behind other G-10 universities.

Of concern is that women are more likely to resign than men – the biggest reason being family issues.

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Dean Carol Herbert raised a related concern – that large numbers of women leave for family reasons between graduate studies and their first faculty position.

“There is much data nationally and internationally about the drop-off after PhD and PDP by women,” says Herbert. “I know in Science/Medicine we are very concerned about this.”

She suggests the lack of flexibility in early career that discourages childbearing for those who choose ‘dual careers’ appears to dissuade entry into academic careers, as well as a perceived “chilly climate” in some medical specialties.

Weeoden acknowledged the concern.

“I think the University community needs to reflect on why this is and what might be done about it,” says Weeoden. “A year and a half ago there was a university-wide symposium that considered what the barriers were to women wishing to pursue academic careers in science and engineering. A report on that symposium, along with a series of recommendations can be found at www.uwo.ca/wcws/conference/index.htm.”

Weeoden adds that his office continues to look for ways to encourage and facilitate implementation of the recommendations.

NEW COURSE NUMBERING

In the next few weeks, Western faculties, schools, affiliated university colleges and Continuing Studies will prepare lists with new course numbering to be introduced in December 2006.

“Some subject areas don’t have enough numbers available to use the range of course numbers effectively or to add new courses,” says Jeff Tennant, Chair of the Senate Committee on Academic Policy and Awards (SCAPA). “Another gain by doing this is the new system will come in line with other universities where first year courses begin with the number 1.”

Tennant says Western’s use of 100-level course numbering for second year courses is often puzzling, so the change will eliminate confusion.

Departments and programs are expected to decide on thorough renumbering of courses based on the specified format:

- 0001-9999 Pre-university level introductory courses
- 1000-1999 Year 1 courses
- 2000-4999 Senior-level undergraduate courses
- 5000-5999 Professional degree courses in Dentistry, Education, Law and Medicine
- 6000-6999 Courses offered by Continuing Studies
- 7000-8999 Not yet designated
- 9000-9999 Graduate Studies courses

Tennant notes a default for departments that don’t want to completely change numbering is to add one extra number (such as 1, 2, 3, or 4) in front of the old number. By spring 2006, the suggestions will be available to be checked prior to final approval. The number changes will likely be fully implemented, on the system (i.e. PeopleSoft), in the calendar and on student transcripts for the 2008/09 school year.

Know some great staff?

By Alison Ford

Nominations are being accepted for a new staff award: the Western Award of Excellence.

Western has a new award designed to recognize the tremendous work staff perform each and every day in support of providing the best student experience.

The Western Award of Excellence recognizes exemplary service by both individuals and teams of staff who demonstrate creativity and innovation, share their knowledge and expertise and foster the values of integrity and respect. Now is your opportunity to express gratitude and appreciation for these staff member’s hard work and to nominate them for Western’s highest form of campus-wide recognition.

To submit a nomination for The Western Award of Excellence, download a form at www.uwo.ca/pvpr/recognition/nomination.htm.

Please note that staff, faculty, students, alumni and the community may make a nomination by the deadline of December 2, 2005.

The awards will be presented at a recognition event being held in February, 2006.

This award was developed through a consultative process initiated by the Staff Recognition Task Force that started work in September of 2004. Membership of the newly formed Western Award of Excellence Selection Committee can be seen at www.uwo.ca/pvpr/recognition/selection_committee.htm.

For further information please contact Monica Pease, Staff Recognition office at ext. 82727.

Are you getting a flu shot this year?

Ashley Thompson Third-year, Ivey

“I’ve never gotten a flu shot before, even though my mom always says I should. I just never seem to get around to it. Perhaps this year I’ll finally get it.”

Ryan Bradshaw Third-year, ECS

“I normally do. I have asthma so if I get a cold or the flu it tends to be a lot worse than normal. I’ll probably get it again this year.”

Lionel Nkureunziza First-year, Political Science

“It’s really not a big concern to me. I used to get them way back in elementary school, but not lately. I think I’m pretty immune, plus I’m more concerned about my mid-terms right now.”

Mallory Crozier Second-year, ACS

“I probably won’t get it because I’m too lazy. I really don’t get the flu but I’m sure I’ll never do it. I’ll be yelling at myself for not getting the shot.”

Claire Watts Second year, Food & Nutrition (Brescia)

“I don’t get it. I see the flu shot as something for those in the higher risk groups, such as the elderly or children. So, I won’t be getting one this year.”
VIEWPOINT

Helping girls become computer scientists

Falling female enrolment in Computer Science can be turned around by mentoring girls before they leave elementary school, says Maia Hoeberechts, a PhD candidate in Computer Science.

The Computer Science department is proud to be involved with IBM to run a Women in Technology Chapter. The purpose of this program is to visit elementary schools and provide a web page design workshop for grade 7 and 8 girls.

Started in 2003-2004, the response to the school visits has been overwhelmingly positive. The motivation stems from an alarming trend observed in recent years concerning enrolment of female students in computer science programs at Western and other North American universities.

Despite widespread efforts to encourage girls to study math and science in high school, and to encourage young women to choose science, math and technology related disciplines in university, the proportion of women graduating from computer science has been decreasing over the past 20 years.

At Western, in 2004, 14.7 per cent of the computer science graduates were female, which dropped from 24.4 per cent in 2002. We have been making a concerted effort to increase the number of women in our programs through outreach activities and by addressing the needs of our existing female students.

However, a major problem is that by the time girls reach high school, they are already opting out of some math and science courses. It is not uncommon for a high school computer science class of 25 students to have only one or two girls in it. When choosing a study area at university, the majority of young women are not considering computer science as an option.

Canada, in its efforts to become a world leader in technology, could benefit greatly from adding many more women to its pool of skilled technology workers. The dilemma facing universities and colleges is how to attract more women to information technology related programs when girls are already opting out in high school?

The roots of the problem lie in the socialization of young girls, and their experiences in elementary schools with computers and gender roles. Most kids gain their first computer experience through playing games.

A recent study reports that in a sample of 100 video arcade games, 92 per cent did not include any female roles, six per cent had “damsel in distress” roles, and only two per cent had active female roles. The authors discuss a study in which high school girls were asked the question “Why are girls less likely to pursue computer science careers?”

The top three answers, in order of significance, were:

- Not enough role models
- Women have other interests
- Didn’t know about the industry

The problem of sparking girls’ interest in computer science is challenging and widespread, but one thing is clear - reaching girls before they make course choices in high school is very important so that they can be encouraged to leave doors open to a career in information technology.

In 1999, IBM established the Women in Technology local chapters. The purpose is to visit local elementary schools and run a half-day web page design workshop with all the grade 7 and 8 girls.

There are over 100 chapters around the world and, since 1999, IBM and its university partners have reached over 250,000 young women. Western’s chapter is a collaborative effort between IBM London and the Western computer science department.

Workshops begin with a short presentation about careers in information technology and discussion of women in the history of computer science, and then everyone participates in a trivia game. The girls then work in groups of four or five with a volunteer from Western or IBM to create a website. This activity is designed to achieve several goals: to give girls a chance to meet a woman working in an IT related job or studying computer science; to have them succeed at a computer related task; to show them that working with computers can be fun; and to illustrate that working with computers involves teamwork. At the end of the workshop, each group presents their website using a data projector.

To participate as a volunteer is an amazing experience. The girls are enthusiastic and quickly learn how to complete the web page. A secondary function of this program is that it has given Western’s female students and staff a chance to meet each other and women from IBM and to work together. This is also a mentoring opportunity for our students since undergraduates work alongside graduate students and women in industry careers.

There are 11 volunteers from IBM and 29 volunteers from Western in the program. So far, we have visited six elementary schools in the London area: Parkview (Komoka), Jack Chambers, Tweedsmuir, Orchard Park, Riverside and Oxbow (Ilderton).

The girls complete an evaluation which helps us gauge the impact of the program. The response has been extremely positive – for example, one girl from a recent visit commented “I never knew mostly all jobs use computers. And how easy it was to make a website! Tracy was awesome. I had a wonderful time.”

At Parkview, before the workshop, girls responded to the question: “Are you considering a career in technology?” in the following proportions:

Yes: 19 No: 20 Maybe: 2 I don’t know: 2

After the workshop (just three hours later) here is how they answered the question “Will you now consider a career in technology?”

Yes: 40 No: 20 Maybe: 2 I don’t know: 2

We are hoping that in the coming years, when girls we have met on our trips reach university, we will have helped open the possibility of a career in computer science. In the meantime, the volunteers are looking forward to meeting more enthusiastic young people who have the potential to be tomorrow’s technology leaders.

This article, which first appeared in Interface, a journal of the Department of Computer Science, is reprinted with permission. For information about Women in Technology, or to ask about setting up a school visit, please contact Maia Hoeberechts, Department of Computer Science, hoebere@csd.uwo.ca
More than a cocktail party

BY RICK LIVINGSTON

In any introductory humanities course, there is an elephant-in-the-room question. I try to wait at least three weeks into the term before asking my students to face it squarely: Why study the humanities?

The students’ first response, of course, is because they have to. Most of my courses fulfill one of the general-education requirements and I usually have a healthy mix of precocious freshmen and procrastinating seniors.

If I go on to ask why the students think the university has such requirements, they are initially baffled. After trying out a few wiseracres responses (“Because they want our tuition money!”), they almost always say – wait for it – that the humanities help you make small talk at cocktail parties.

With luck we go on to talk seriously about common knowledge and cultural expectations. But the cocktail party comment tends to hang in the air like secondhand smoke, clouding the intellectual atmosphere. It suggests that our primary subject is petty snobbery and chitchat. The comment is a cliché, obviously, but one I have to confront every year.

Thinking about the cliché sent me back to T.S. Eliot’s 1950 play, The Cocktail Party. Eliot portrays social life as a series of hypocrisy, deceptions and embarrassments, redeemable only by religious conversion. Theological insight alone, the play suggests, can help us endure the unending demands and obligations. It is to give us a vocabulary for talking about the times when, as in the dialogue of individuals, the times don’t match their convictions. It is to give us a vocabulary of conversation that is capable of expressing the twins: a philosopher, a historian, a sociologist, and a judge. Then students talked about personal experiences with evil, ranging from anger to sexual abuse, and about evil in the world – including terrorism and the Holocaust. Nothing was resolved, of course, but the students got a clearer sense of the necessity - and the difficulty - of making such distinctions.

In our course on cities, we began by talking about the places where we had grown up, and how they had changed over our lifetimes. We met with an architect to talk about high rises and skylines. We asked our economics professor about sustainability became the focus of a class with an urban planner, and a sociologist talked with us about the effects of globalization on the shape of cities. Students learned a vocabulary for talking about the changes they see happening in their neighborhoods as well as in the world at large.

Inevitably, there is a certain amount of overlap among the sessions; predictably, discussions sometimes meander and lose the topic altogether. But most of the sessions include a moment when some of the students catch fire and carry the rest of us forward, or when someone gets the idea of dialogical inquiry and asks more, and better, questions. Sometimes students discover that their intuitions don’t match their convictions. Most interesting, however, are the times when, as in the discussion of war and peace during the run-up to the invasion of Iraq, we find ourselves trying hard to make sense of the world together.

I’ve thought a lot about what makes the courses work. The topics belong to no one field. Different disciplines may contribute perspectives to the issues we cover, but when faced with the problem of evil, for instance, we are all amateurs. We use no body of material, and students’ own experiences and examples often become common points of reference.

Each course is for one academic credit – enough to make the students take the class seriously; but the grade is pass or fail, so students don’t need to demonstrate mastery of the subject. To keep the intellectual atmosphere open, we meet in a dining hall rather than a classroom. And mixing up faculty members with outside guests shows that ideas can live off campus, too.

Maybe the most unexpected lesson of Big Ideas, however is that professors appreciate making conversation, too. It can be tough to step out of the comfort zones of our expertise, to let go of disciplinary jargon. But the opportunity to share our work as professionals to novices, but as a citizen with other (albeit younger) citizen than we become liberating.

It’s not just a cocktail party and that, I think, is the main point.

... they almost always say – wait for it – that the humanities help you make small talk at cocktail parties.

about ideas. What’s wrong with these kids?

But conversation about ideas seldom happens naturally, and nowadays it is rarer than ever. As historians of talk like Theodore Zeldin and Peter Burke have observed, conversation is no spontaneous outpouring of well-formed sentences. It is a specific form of social behavior, with its own settings, tacit rules, and strategies. Like any social skill, it improves with practice.

Students today have few chances to practice serious talking. Our most visible examples of conversation come from TV: the political debate that is little more than a shouting match, and the celebrity interview. What students lack is experience with grown-up conversation, in which curiosity and respect can lead to self-discovery and mutual illumination.

At their best, the Big Ideas classes get students involved in such conversations. Our course on evil, for instance, picked up on President Bush’s use of a morally charged vocabulary (the “axis of evil”) to orient U.S. foreign policy. We brought in four guest speakers: a philosopher, a historian of religion, a theologian, and a judge. Then students talked about personal experiences with evil, ranging from anger to sexual abuse, and about evil in the world – including terrorism and the Holocaust. Nothing was resolved, of course, but the students got a clearer sense of the necessity - and the difficulty - of making such distinctions.

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Positive force in the Faculty of Engineering

By Karmen Dowling

Ion Inculet has been having positive and, for that matter, negative effects in the Faculty of Engineering at Western for more than 40 years. The 84 year-old Director of the Applied Electrostatics Research Centre is the resident electrostatics guru with 27 patents to his name. He is in his second year of a four-year appointment and hands-down master of using positive and negative electrical charges to improve industrial and personal environments.

Inculet retired from teaching at 75 but refused Professor Emeritus status, which allows professors to apply for special grants. He says through his post-retirement research, he continues to be supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) which has helped to fund his work since arriving at Western in 1964.

“When I joined the Faculty of Engineering at the time, there were about 11 professors and hardly any research,” says Inculet. “A professor in Chemical Engineering submitted a project to the Department of Health to study the Electrostatic Properties of particle matter. I got a very substantial grant. He was looking for some help and I didn’t know much about it other than the basics. I was interested and started to work with him.”

Soon after, the lead researcher left Western and the Inculet took over the project. A key conference in France at the time produced a book that changed Inculet’s perspective and became the basis of a lot of the work in electrostatics. “The Physics of Electrostatic Forces” laid the foundation of possibilities for electrostatics, says Inculet, who refers to it as the research bible.

At the time, Inculet did not have graduate students. He put an ad in the paper and got an answer from Peter Castle, an engineer at Northern Electric in Ottawa. Inculet says Castle made exceptional contributions to this field. He retired last year but continues to work with Inculet.

Inculet’s research, development and consulting work has reached into agriculture, mining, environment (air, water and soil) and space applications.

More than 15 years ago, Inculet’s work made it to the automobile industry. Before electrostatics, automobiles were painted with a mechanical sprayer, with a transfer efficiency of about 30 per cent—meaning 70 per cent of the paint didn’t get on the car.

Inculet found if the paint particles were charged they would adhere to the automobile. The efficiency increased to about 90 per cent, delivering tremendous savings. It could cost more to paint the car than build its engine.

The same technology can ‘paint’ trees. By charging particles, coverage efficiency is improved for spraying in orchards, wheat fields and forests.

A London company, Plasep, was born from the research of Inculet and his team. Electrostatics allows workers to separate different plastics for recycling. Inculet says 99 per cent separation can be achieved. Plasep is managed by former faculty member and researcher James Brown.

A major project is Ozone generation, and working with Trojan Technologies in London. The process involves sterilization of water using ozone gases, rather than chlorine. There is concern chlorine may react with a tar used to connect waterlines, generating a potential carcinogenic. In Europe the preferred system is ozone, an oxidant that kills bacteria as effectively as chlorine.

Currently, ozone is created in an ozone generator then transported to a water tower that has to be sterilized. Ozone bubbles at the bottom of the tower and those gas bubbles go up through the tower and come in contact with bacteria and kills it. Inculet has developed a new process so ozone does not need to bubble through the water.

The centre is multi-disciplinary, including individuals from chemical, electrical, mechanical and materials science and geotechnical engineering.

While Inculet has performed research work for and worked with more than 26 companies around the world, was a NASA consultant on lunar and Martian explorations and has published more than 100 articles in journals, he finds time for family—although many of them have strong Western connections. He is married with three children and six grandchildren. His daughter Diana is an assistant professor in Civil Engineering and her husband is a professor at the Ivey School of Business. Son Richard’s Chair of the Division of Thoracic Surgery. Richard’s son Clayton is in second year in Civil Engineering.

Inculet credits his zest for science to “my genes” and the folks in Engineering can expect to see him reporting to his lab for a long time yet.

Karmen Dowling, Western News

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Little Frosty Fridge Rentals

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Science in wings as acclaimed play opens

People were talking about the end of physics. Relativity and quantum looked as if they were going to clean out the whole problem between them. A theory of everything. But they only explained the very big and the very small. The universe, the elementary particles. The ordinary-sized stuff which is our lives, the things people write poetry about—clouds—daffodils—waterfalls—and what happens in a cup of coffee when the cream goes in—these things are full of mystery, as mysterious to us as the heavens were to the Greeks.

Come early for a unique helping hand with the science behind Arcadia

BY MITCHELL ZIMMER

What do you get when you combine two centuries of science with Lord Byron, a precocious 13-year-old math genius, the second law of thermodynamics, at least one love triangle, a battle between classicism and romanticism, landscape gardening and late 20th century sleuthing?

You get Tom Stoppard’s play Arcadia.

From October 28 to November 5 this play, which is often considered Stoppard’s best, will be performed in the Talbot College Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the door.

Jo Devereux of Western’s English Department is taking care that the production of her second directorial effort will throw light on some complex themes that blend the past with the present and examines issues in science and art among other things.

The play takes place in one room but alternates between the beginning of the nineteenth century with one set of characters and the end of the twentieth century with another set of characters who are trying to piece together what happened nearly two centuries ago.

In addition to the complex interpersonal relationships within the play there are certain mathematical and scientific concepts that demonstrate parallels within the various characters’ lives.

Devereux admits that Arcadia does offer challenges to an audience. For example, few people would be familiar with both the work and life of Byron as well as chaos theory.

In order to help bridge that gap, Devereux is enlisting the help of various faculty to help explain some of the mathematical and scientific concepts that are mentioned in the play.

Starting a half hour before each performance there will be a short talk focusing on such topics as Fermat’s Last theorem, chaos theory and fractals or the second law of thermodynamics. The play can be appreciated without this background knowledge, but the mathematical and scientific concepts enrich the appreciation of the characters’ actions and dialogue, even the set is integral to the whole.

Even so, Stoppard’s take on how these concepts, along with the changing philosophies and mores as time goes by is done with wit and humor and should be well worth watching.
Calm perseverance overcomes incredible obstacles

By Karmen Dowling

Muhammad Kamran Khan has confronted personal and academic challenges that might have driven many others to quit. But not Khan, who has persevered, and today will receive his Masters degree in Geotechnical Engineering Science.

The 38-year-old, currently in his second semester of the PhD program, came from Pakistan as a teacher in Northern Nigeria and Malaysia and as a Research Associate at the Faculty of Economics, University of Wisconsin in Madison. She entered Canada in 1969 and worked at the Office of International Education at Western.

Khan has earned a professional. He completed an undergraduate degree in Pakistan in 1990, working in the government sector for almost 11 years. During that time he completed his Masters degree in Computer Science.

Still, Khan wanted to come to Canada to pursue his academic dreams at Western.

Upon arriving in 2001, Khan learned that his mother was dying back home so he chose to defer admission and worked for a year in Canada while dealing with family obligations including the death of his mother. In September 2002, Khan began his studies at Western.

Shortly after starting the program, Khan’s father-in-law fell seriously ill and passed away. Just over a month later his father died. And Khan’s wife, Saima, was told she had a deadly disease. Khan took his wife and son Abrah- ham, now 6, back to Pakistan to properly grieve, missing his April 2003 exams. He opted to write them when he returned in June.

After six months of uncertain- tainty, Saima received a clean bill of health. She and Khan decided to have another baby.

Fatima was born in June 2004. After bringing their baby home, Saima complained of pain in her arm and leg. Both she and Fatima were determined to have pneumonia. In addition, Saima learned she had a hole in her heart and would need surgery.

“I initially when we got news of heart surgery, I was a little bit emotionally disturbed,” concedes Khan. “But I never thought that if I did not compose myself what would happen to my wife? So I told her we should compose ourselves and let’s face it.”

Just two weeks ago, Saima had open heart surgery. Although still on the mend, Saima is proud of her husband’s accomplishments and even plans to attend the ceremony, not wanting to miss seeing him receive his degree.

His academic accomplishments have not come about without setback.

While doing an experiment, two 30,000-pound beams came together, crushing his left hand. He received 14 stitches and returned to his experiment the next day, not wanting to miss his schedule. Then he sprained an ankle while trying to do the experiments one-handed, and got an infection in his arm requiring repeated treatments before healing.

“At that time I was thinking, I have bad luck,” admits Khan. “But then I thought I had to persevere. The one thing that is inbuilt in me is that I’m a religious person, I believe in God and I believe in fate as well. That gives me a lot of confidence. I’m a practicing Muslim and so I pray regularly.”

Khan’s work in his Masters program was highly praised. His research was innovative and original contributions to the field of geotechnical engineering. His work led to three journal papers, an accomplishment when many Masters students graduate without contributing to one.

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“What comes my way I feel I should do it to perfection and I should excel in that,” he says.

In addition to academics, Khan was heavily involved in extra-curricular activities, most notably as President of the Society for Graduate Students (SOGS) from 2004-05.

He participated as a member of the Hellmuth Prize committee, Fergusson Award committee, editor and reviewer with the Western Journal of Graduate Research, member of the Senate committee on University planning and executive member in different committees at the Faculty of Engineering.

“If I didn’t involve myself in those academic and extracurricular activities, I would have been bogged down by my family situation,” says Khan. “Right now, the academic involvement is on a flexible schedule, so I can devote time to my family and to the academic activities.

These days, Khan is working on the investigation of three-dimensional behaviour of deep excavations in Sarnia Clay. He is awaiting approval on his application for an Industrial Postgraduate Scholarship (IPS). The sponsoring partner in the project is Soil-Vision in Saskatchewan. Khan expects to complete his PhD program by 2009.

“I have taken a one-credit course this semester along with the mandatory teaching assistance- ship,” explains Khan. “Recently, I was nominated for a position on the Board of Governors at Western but I stepped down because of the illness of my wife. However, when my wife recovers, then I will be active again in community participation.”

Meanwhile, Khan doesn’t complain about the challenges he’s faced over the last five years. He’s happy with the decision to come to Canada, a country he says has given them a lot.

Few who know him are aware of the extent of his personal obstacles, yet Khan says if what he and his family have gone through can encourage others to endure, then it will have been worth telling his story.

SHANTI RADCCLIFFE

Thursday, October 27, 3:30 p.m.

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (L.L.D.)

Shanti Radcliffe founded the London InterCommunity Health Centre in London in 1988. Until 2002 she was Executive Director of the organization, which provides varied social and medical programs to approximately 3,000 people a year.

Born in Sri Lanka, Radcliffe attended the University of Ceylon and went on to receive an honours degree in Economics from the University of Cambridge in 1958 and a Masters degree in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as a teacher in Northern Nigeria and Malaysia and as a Research Associate at the Faculty of Economics, University of Wisconsin in Madison. She entered Canada in 1969 and worked at the Office of International Education at Western.

Radcliffe has served on numerous boards and task forces, locally, provincially and nationally. She is past recipient of the Queen’s Jubilee Medal from the Government of Canada, the Woman of Distinction Award by the London YMCA/YWCA and the Mayor’s New Year’s Honour List, 2005.

Friday, October 28, 10 a.m.

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (L.L.D.)

Since 1994, Richard Monette has been Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival, making him its longest serving artistic director. His long association with the Festival began in 1965. Since then, he has directed and played more than 40 roles at the Festival and has performed throughout Canada, Britain and the United States.

Monette has also directed for Young People’s Theatre, Tarragon Theatre, Theatre Plus, the Grand Theatre, the Citadel Theatre, the Canadian Opera Company and CBC’s Glenn Gould Studio.

A 1967 graduate of Concordia University (formerly Loyola College), Monette has received an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, as well as the University of Windsor.

He received a Dora Mavor Moore Award for outstanding direction, a Eugene O’Neill medallion, Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal, Queen’s Silver Jubilee Medal and junior artist’s grant from The Canada Council and in January 1998, Monette was named a Member of the Order of Canada.

Friday, October 28, 3:30 p.m.

Doctor of Laws, honoris causa (L.L.D.)

Ronald J. Logan is respected in London and area as a business leader, advisor and mentor. For more than 35 years he has been a consummate volunteer who has raised millions of dollars for a broad spectrum of non-profit organizations.

Born and educated in Toronto, he started his business career with the Frigidaire Division of General Motors of Canada. In 1958 he began a business partnership in London with Gordon Patton, which became Southwestern Ontario’s largest independent retailer of fine furniture and appliances. Logan and Patton retired in 1997.

Throughout Logan’s career and into retirement he has devoted much time to the better care and well-being of many organizations in health, the arts and science.

In recognition of his success, he has been awarded London Retailer of the Year, has been inducted into the London Business Hall of Fame, and was recipient of the Ivey Award of Excellence.
Top scholar-athlete mastered life balance

BY CHRISTINE ROULSTON

Amarpreet (Preet) Atwal’s strategy in sport is reflective of his strategy in life. Atwal competes in the pentathlon, a sport that involves completing five different events, such as shot put and hurdles. The competitor needs to balance each, trying to complete each event perfectly while not spending too much time doing it.

“It’s about focusing on your strengths and improving on your weaknesses,” Atwal says. “And you learn to prioritize.”

The 25-year-old St. Thomas native has spent the past six years at Western trying to do just that. He has managed to balance varsity athletics training with a rigorous academic program and extensive volunteer work.

His efforts have paid off. At convocation today, Atwal will receive his Master’s Degree in Electrical Engineering and has a full university career to look back on.

As an athlete, he competed five years provincially and nationally for Western’s track and field team, placing 6th in the pentathlon at the 2005 Canadian Inter-University Sport Track and Field Championships in Winnipeg. He also received a second all time pentathlon score for Western and was a four-time “Top 5” finisher at the Ontario University Athletic Track and Field Championship. Academically, he earned his place on the Dean’s Honour List and ranked as an Academic All-Canadian (athlete with average above 80 per cent) most years. He worked as a TA and made time for a variety of volunteer work including counseling students outside of school and volunteering to officiate at local track and field meets.

He admits that it wasn’t easy to balance all aspects of his university life. “At first I wasn’t aware of all the work I needed to put into engineering,” he says “But I managed to get into a routine that worked.”

In his last two years, during his Master’s, he said his thesis supervisor R. K. Rao, understood his demanding schedule. He thinks it is important for students to get involved at university. “It’s nice to be an all-around person and that’s what they’re looking for in the workforce,” he says.

Atwal, who specialized in wireless communications at Western, already has his mind on life after university. He has started applying for jobs and ideally would like to work designing communications systems for a telecommunications company.

He says once he settles into a career he would like to start coaching track and field and give back to the St. Thomas Legion Track and Field team - where he started at age 12.

Everyday heroes.

Do you work with a staff member or team that makes a difference? Now you can nominate these everyday heroes for The Western Award of Excellence, an award recognizing exemplary service by Western staff who demonstrate creativity and innovation, share their knowledge and foster values of integrity and respect. Anyone can nominate.

Deadline for nominations is December 2, 2005.
www.uwo.ca/pvp/recognition/nomination.htm

Susan, Stjepan, Mira and Cheryl are four of the thousands of Western staff who each day through their actions help create the best student experience in one of Canada’s leading research-intensive universities.

The Western Award of Excellence
Revitalized Pride Library moves to D. B. Weldon

By Karmen Dowling

The Pride Library at D.B. Weldon opens on November 1. Initially the library will be open only for a couple of hours each day during the week as a reading and reference room, until the stacks are ready for circulation. Housing approximately 5,500 items, Canada’s only university gay and lesbian library has moved from cramped quarters in University College to a newly renovated room on the main floor of D.B. Weldon. The new space will allow for a doubling of the collection.

James Miller, Modern Languages and Literatures Professor, founded the Pride Library eight years ago. He says the new home offering greater prominence to the collection is thanks to a forward-thinking administration, which included Joyce Garnett, Roma Harris, Angela Estherhammer and Kathleen Okruhlak whose efforts secured space, a construction grant and some donated items from the D.B. Weldon. For the first time, the Pride library will have a small budget.

In addition, a donation of approximately $20,000 from the recently dissolved HALO (Homophile Association of London Ontario) will allow the library to honour HALO’s work in several ways. The past will be honoured with the Vern Hearn cornerstone. Hearn, a former staff member at D.B. Weldon Library, left a bequest in his will to HALO which allowed them to purchase the Colborne Street building they occupied. This cornerstone is now in the Pride Library. As well, formal HALO documents are archived in the new library, signifying HALO’s contributions.

The future is represented through an annual bursary to a student enrolled in the Gender, Sexuality and Culture program at Western.

“We’re now embedded in the university both literally and figuratively,” says Miller. “Our new location is really going to let not only Western but all of London know that the Pride Library is and will continue to be an integral part of society.”

An official grand opening is expected in January. For hours beginning November 1, visit: www.uwo.ca/pridelib

James Miller, Modern Languages and Literatures Professor, is readying space in the D.B. Weldon Library for the expanded Pride Library set to open Nov. 1. Miller is founder of Canada’s only university gay and lesbian library.

‘Grand’ breakfast with Outlander author

By Karmen Dowling

Londoners will be transported into Diana Gabaldon’s historical fiction Outlander saga, as she takes to the Grand Theatre stage on October 29 at 10 a.m., for Western’s ninth annual Autumn Writes series.

A Breath of Snow and Ashes is the sixth novel in Gabaldon’s bestselling Outlander series and continues the story of 18th-century Scotsman Jamie Fraser and his 20th-century wife, Claire. The year is 1772 and on the eve of the American Revolution.

 Doors will open at 9 a.m. at The Grand, so that fans can enjoy some breakfast first,” explains Lynn Wilbur, Books Manager at The Book Store at Western. “Shortly before 10, Ms. Gabaldon will join us and then, everyone will go into the theatre where Ms. Gabaldon will read from her new book and share her experiences about writing.”

Carolyn Young, Communications Manager at the Book Store, says Autumn Writes has become London’s literary festival, bringing well-known authors to the community during the fall, a peak time for book-tours.

“We never get tired of learning from authors about their books and their perspectives on life. Londoners will hear stimulating observations,” says Young.

Londoners will hear stimulating observations.

Carolyn Young, Communications Manager Western Book Store

Gabaldon tends to bring out readers in droves, so organizers chose to present the event at the Grand Theatre. They are anticipating a lot of interest, since hundreds of fans turned out the last time Gabaldon was in London.

Since the initial publication of Outlander 15 years ago, the New York Times bestselling saga has sold more than 12 million books. Tickets are $10 and available at The Book Store at Western, Books Plus and The Grand Theatre. Breakfast is included.

Beginning in 1997, Autumn Writes was developed as a way to demonstrate that the Book Store is about more than textbooks. Young says having events in different locations on and off campus has been a great way for Western to reach out to the community.

Last month, Joan Barfoot and Lori Lansens were at the Wolf Performance Hall. Mary Gordon will be at Althouse Auditorium in the Faculty of Education on November 17. Gordon is known for her involvement in the movement about teaching children about empathy. John Raltson Saul is also expected on campus although the date and time have not been confirmed.

For more information about author events, visit www.bookstore.wwo.ca or call 661-3520 ext. 86251.

Volunteers Needed!!!!

We are in need of volunteers for our Volunteer Companion Program. Volunteer Companions offer 2 hours per week to develop and foster a relationship with someone who is affected by the early stages of Alzheimer disease. During the “Companion Time” the caregiver receives a break. This may be the only opportunity to pay the bills, get groceries or visit friends. Matches are made between individuals who share common interests and similar personality traits. Spend some time getting to know a new friend and gain valuable and practical experience!

For this or other volunteer opportunities, please contact Heather Cabral @ 519.680.2404 ext. 226 or hcabral@alzheimerlondon.ca

IN MEMORIAM

Donald Harris, Professor Emeritus from the Faculty of Education, died at the St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on October 16 at the age of 84. Harris was father of James, William, Martha and Laura, and grandfather of Tony, Robert, Joanna, Joshua, Luke, Mark, Elizabeth, Hannah and Ryan.

A resident of St. Thomas for the last 20 years, Harris retired from Western in 1983, after 19 years of service, which included a period as Associate Dean.

A private family service was held at Williams Funeral Home, St. Thomas. Donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Subscribe to Western News! Call 661-2045
$13.6M boost trims maintenance backlog

BY PAUL MAYNE

Improvements to plumbing, heating and wiring may not sound glamorous, but for Fleming Galberg, Director of Facilities Engineering at Western, it’s welcome news.

And with a pledge of $13.6 million from the province, these and other projects can be undertaken to nibble away at a long list of deferred maintenance and improvements in the university’s buildings and facilities.

“These less glamorous projects are often forgotten so it’s quite reassuring that the province recognizes this and provides funding for that purpose,” says Galberg, adding the funds will be used for more than 100 projects such as steam safety valves, energy efficient lighting, fire alarm upgrades, compressors and chillers.

“All of these are very critical to the learning, teaching and research experience at the university,” he says.

The total funding package for London’s post-secondary institutions was $20.8 million, with Fanshawe College receiving $7.2 million. London West MPP and Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities Chris Bentley, says the infrastructure investment will ensure Western remains competitive.

“This is not the sexy stuff, this is about the plumbing, the heating, the wiring, the chillers — the stuff you never cut ribbons on,” says Bentley. “The fact of the matter is when that works you save money that can go back into the classroom.”

The money, received in the spring, will permit completion of a number of deferred maintenance projects, including replacement of 50-year-old air compressors and cooling equipment in the power plant, which services the entire campus.

“Our mission is the best student experience in Canada and one of those components is having facilities on campus that are up-to-date,” says Western President Paul Davenport.

“Upon graduation, our students make an enormous contribution to our knowledge economy, so this is not just about what is good for Western and our students, it is what is good for the province and our country.”

Under the Facilities Renewal Program, the provincial government invests $40 million annually in maintenance at post-secondary institutions across the province. This one-time investment to modernize buildings tops $250 million.

Call for Applications
The Alan Blizzard Award

The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) invites applications for The Alan Blizzard Award; the deadline for applications is January 13, 2006.

The Alan Blizzard Award is designed to stimulate and reward collaboration in teaching, and encourage and disseminate scholarship in teaching. The award is given to collaborative projects that increase the effectiveness of student learning.

The award is open to groups of two or more individuals, at least one of whom must be currently teaching at a Canadian university, regardless of discipline or level of appointment. The winning team will give the Alan Blizzard Plenary at the annual STLHE conference to be held at the University of Toronto, June 14 – 17, 2006.

For more information and guidelines for submitting a nomination, contact the Teaching Support Centre at ext. 84622 or visit:

http://www.stlhe.ca

Call for Nominations
3M TEACHING FELLOWSHIPS

The Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) and 3M Canada are pleased to announce the continuation of the 3M Fellows Program with up to 10 awards for 2006.

Awards are open to all individuals currently teaching at a Canadian university, regardless of discipline or level of appointment. The selection committee will look for independent evidence of excellence in teaching over a number of years, as well as commitment to the improvement of university teaching with particular emphasis to contributions beyond the nominee’s discipline or profession.

A letter of support from the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) must accompany the nomination documentation. Deadline for submission to the Provost’s Office: February 17, 2006.

Nomination information is available from the Teaching Support Centre (ext. 84622) or online at www.mcmaster.ca/3Mteachingfellowships
You’re not the only one concerned about your retirement plans

“I work with many of your colleagues from The University of Western Ontario, specializing in Life Income Funds (LIFs). Upon retirement, financial planning decisions can be overwhelming, but together we have worked on practical retirement investment strategies.

My focus is on risk management.

The result is your peace of mind.”

Brian R. McGorman
Investment Advisor
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Western 3M Teaching Fellows joined President Paul Davenport at his home for the 20th anniversary of the 3M Teaching Fellowship program, Canada’s top university teaching award. Eleven of the 19 Western recipients attended. Western is second in Canada in number of 3M Fellows.

Front row L-R: Harry Murray (Psychology), Madeline Lennon (Visual Arts) and Anton Allahar (Sociology). Second row L-R: Tom Hauff (Biology), Allan Gedalof (Film Studies) and Mike Atkinson (Psychology). Third row L-R: Wayne Weston (Medicine), Colin Baird (Chemistry), David Bentley (English), Donald Cartwright (Geography), Paul Mercer (Physiology) attended but is not in the photograph. Fellows not in attendance include Marilyn Robinson (deceased), Paul Sills (deceased), Bertha Garcia, Francis Chan, T.D. Gally, Peter Rosati, James Erskine and Eileen Gilles. Brock Fenton received his award while at another institution.

Top Teachers

Karmen Dowling, Western News

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Engineers building new image

By Paul Mayne

Changing the public perception of engineers from being number-crunchers to being social crusaders is what Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is all about.

Co-founder and President George Roter emphasized this and more while visiting Western Tuesday, where he spoke to first-year engineering students about being conscious of the social implications their work can have on others.

“We’re kind of a behind-the-scenes bunch,” says the 29-year-old Roter, who co-founded EWB in 2000 while an undergraduate student at the University of Waterloo. “We’re trying to establish ourselves much more broadly than the narrow and short term focus some of our peers may have had years ago.”

Roter says forming EWB may have initially been “a mix of doctor envy about saving the world and using my skills for the betterment of mankind” but has evolved to demonstrate how technology can drive extraordinary improvements in the lives of the poorest people in the world.

Five years later, EWB has more than 14,000 members and almost 150 volunteers on projects in 25 countries “making an impact and a name for engineers.”

Western’s EWB chapter was created in the summer of 2004 and more than 30 students are actively involved through awareness programs, high school outreach and fundraisers.

Roter, recently named one of Canada’s Top 40 Under 40, believes good engineering can improve the quality of life and he likes what he sees here at Western -- in particular the first-year students major design project. Having students think beyond the technical to include the social aspects of their work can only be a good thing.

“The students have a unique opportunity to do something here at Western,” says Roter. “Engineering has always been so technically formal but that is starting to change and Western is leading the way in Canada. The students here are thinking in a broader and more long-term way.”

For more information, visit www.ewb.ca

Campus police want to remain police

By Paul Mayne

An attempt by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services to have Western’s Campus Community Police Service (CCPS) drop the word ‘police’ from their name to avoid confusion has done just the opposite, says CCPS Director Elgin Austen.

“There is no confusion,” says Austen. “The only confusion is why this was brought up in the first place.”

In what has been an ongoing issue for years, Austen says the move by the ministry also affects campus police at the University of Toronto, University of Waterloo, University of Guelph and University of Windsor.

Ministry spokesperson Tony Brown says the decision to have universities stop referring to themselves as ‘police’ is to avoid confusion in the general public—that they are not police officers.

“The confusion is to citizens or even the campuses themselves,” says Brown. “They refer to themselves as campus police but their roles and responsibilities are different.”

Brown says the ministry has heard all the arguments from universities and hopes to resolve the matter soon, while respecting the name used has been for so long.

Austen says with cruisers adorned with Western purple markings and officers wearing patches that clearly say ‘University Police,’ he is unsure why after 25 years of serving the campus that confusion would now set in.

Austen has support of the City of London and London Police Service and says the relationship with city police couldn’t be better.

“We have the same duties as police when it comes to making arrests or pursuing investigations, but we also have the same level of resources because we are able to tap into those of the city police,” says Austen. “This would be going from a win-win situation to a lose-lose situation.”

He adds dropping the ‘police’ name would also lessen the perceived authority of officers on campus, potentially lowering the safety levels for staff and faculty receive at Western.

“We have some degree of optimism that the university and the ministry can work towards some sort of resolution,” says Austen. “But like the old adage says ‘if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.’”
University of Regina president former Western prof

BY KARMEN DOWLING

Former Western Law professor and current adjunct professor, Robert Hawkins, has hit the ground running in his new job as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Regina.

Officially installed this month as the University of Regina’s fifth President, Hawkins came from Nipissing University in North Bay, where he was vice-president (academic and research). Wasting no time, he has already raised the

U of R campaign goal an additional $25 million. The Building Dreams and Futures fundraising campaign is now set at $100 million.

In addition to his time at Nipissing University which began in 2003, Hawkins was on faculty at Western from 1992 to 2000, where he received the Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching as well as the Faculty of Law’s Professor of the Year award. In 2000, Hawkins went to St. Francis Xavier University, where he was dean of arts, and taught at Queen’s University Faculty of Law.

Originally from Manitoba, Hawkins is an active researcher, and has been recognized for his teaching and scholarship. His expertise is in the areas of constitutional, administrative, and contract law, and in negotiation and mediation. His scholarly activities include published articles, chapters in books, conference presentations, case comment and book reviews, as well as nine unpublished legal casebooks. Recently, he spoke to newly appointed judges of the Ontario Court of Justice about criminal pre-trial conference proceedings.

Married to Marie-France Menc, they have three sons, Nicolas (15), Pierre (14) and François (10). Hawkins took over from Dr. David T. Barnard, who had been President and Vice-Chancellor since July 1998, and completed his seventh year in a 10-year mandate.

Geophysicist Mereu wins JSA award

Bob Mereu, professor emeritus in Geophysics, has received the 7th Jesuit Seismological Association award.

The prize, awarded earlier this month by the eastern section of the Seismological Association of America, recognizes contributions to observational seismology.

Mereu has been cited for contributions to research in crustal and upper mantle seismology, shallow and applied seismology, seismicity, instrumentation, time-series analysis and theoretical studies involving the scattering of seismic waves through laterally heterogeneous structures.

CAREERS

The University has a central Web site displaying complete advertisements for all vacant academic positions. The following academic positions are among those being advertised currently on the Website at www.uwo.ca/pvp/acad. Please review the Web site for complete details, including application requirements, or contact the faculty, school or department directly.

FULL-TIME ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA STUDIES - applications are invited for a Limited-Term appointment at the rank of Lecturer or Assistant Professor in radio journalism, effective July 1, 2006. Closing date: January 15, 2006 or until position is filled.

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA STUDIES - applications are invited for a Limited-Term appointment at the rank of Lecturer or Assistant Professor in information and media studies, effective September 1, 2006. Closing date: January 15, 2006 or until position is filled.

All positions are subject to budgetary approval. Applicants should have fluent written and oral communication skills in English. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Western Ontario is committed to employment equity and welcomes applications from all qualified women and men, including visible minorities, Aboriginal people and persons with disabilities.

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**REGISTRAR’S BULLETIN**

**Need-Based Awards Deadline**

The application deadline for Need Based Awards is October 31. Please visit www.registrar.uwo.ca for information and the online application.

A minimum 70 per cent average for last year, and a full course load for last year and the current academic year, are required. One application provides consideration for all awards. See the Need Based Awards table located at www.registrar.uwo.ca/FinancialServices/NeedBasedAwards.html for a complete list of awards and additional documentation that may be required for specific awards.

The online application and all supporting documentation, if required, must be received by Student Financial Services in Stevenson-Lawson, Room 190, by October 31.

**Mid-Year Examination Timetable, December 2005**

The preliminary mid-year examination schedule is posted on the Registrar’s Web site. The final schedule will be posted Nov. 17 on the site. Students booking flights for the holidays are advised to book a flight date of December 22 or later.

**Academic**

Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Lars Konermann.

Cosmin Oancea: A Computer Science PhD public lecture will be held Nov. 1 at 9:30 a.m. in Room 320, Middlesex College. Title of thesis: “Parametric Polymorphism for Software Component Architectures and Related Optimizations”. A thesis examination will follow at 10:30 a.m. in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Stephen Wall.

Gholamreza Akbarpour: An Electrical and Computer Engineering PhD public lecture will be held Nov. 1 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 234, Thompson Engineering Building. Title of thesis: “Tropospheric Microwave Propagation Modeling”. A thesis examination will follow at 2:30 p.m. in Room 142, Stevenson-Lawson Building. Supervisor: Dr. Alan Webster.

Faculty & Staff

Robert Hegele has been appointed Jacob J. Wolfe Distinguished Medical Research Chair in Human Gene Function for the period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2010.

Tom Carmichael has been appointed Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of Health Sciences, for the period July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008.

Linda Miller has been appointed Associate Dean (Scholarship), Faculty of Health Sciences, for the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2009.

Kevin Walsmey has been appointed Associate Dean (Academic Programs), Faculty of Health Sciences, for the period of July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2008.

Anita Kothari, BHSc Program, Faculty of Health Sciences, has been awarded a 2005 Open Provincial Career Scientist Award under the Health Research Personnel Development Program. Her program of research: “Fostering Interaction and Understanding Networks for Knowledge Translation” was supported because of its importance to healthcare.


**Post-Degree Diploma Information Day**

Wednesday November 9th
11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
University Centre
Continuing Studies at Western
Post-Degree Diploma Programs
Galleria London

519 661 3658
uwou.ca/cstudies

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**Western News**

Western’s exchange programs in order to have sessions to obtain more information about the programs. Students must attend one of eight information sessions to obtain more information about the programs. One application provides for information and the online application.

A minimum 70 per cent average for last year, and a full course load for last year and have some of their questions answered. Students will be able to answer many of their questions. Sessions last about one hour. Students will be able to meet Western students who were on exchange last year and have some of their questions answered. Students must attend an information session before they can apply for one of the programs.

Sessions will be held throughout October and November at various campus locations. Students should visit the exchange website at www.registrar.uwo.ca/exchange in order to view the dates, times and locations of the sessions.

**Hours of Operation**

Information Services Room 190 - Regular Hours
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Wednesdays – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Telephone Help Line: (519) 661-2100
Regular hours – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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October 27


Western Retirement Plan presents “Investing Your Pension” Thames Hall, Rm. 310. 12:30 - 1:30 pm

2005 Joanne Goodman Lectures — Janice MacKinnon, University of Saskatchewan, “A Powerful Engine and No Brakes? Gridlock in the Canadian Health Care System and the Supreme Court Decision”, McKellar Room, UCC. Public lectures are open to all. 4:30 pm

Men’s Hockey — versus Waterloo @ Western (John Labatt Centre) 7 pm

October 28

Linguistic Talks @ Western — The French Dept. presents “Statistics for Linguists: a workshop of applied statistics with Patrick Brown, Psychology Dept. The session will be in English, everyone welcome. UC 180a 1:30 - 3 pm

Teaching Support Centre Workshop — Tom Haffie on “Using Clicker Technology in the Classroom”, Room 122, Weldon Library. 12:30 - 1:30 pm

Astronomy Seminar, Ian Short, St. Mary’s University. “Stellar atmospheric models and the problem of chemical composition”. Physics and Astronomy Bldg. Rm. 123, 1:30 pm

Geography Speaker Series, Tobi Gardner: “The significance of Confluences to Braided River Sedimentology”. SSC, Rm. 2322, 2 pm

Psychology Colloquium Series — Keith Payne, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. “Attitudes and the unintended: Revealing subtle race biases through action slips” — SSC, Rm. 2028, 3 pm

Western’s Joseph Ho is a musician who admires the work in musical instruments. The fourth-year ACS student took this photograph at the Don Wright Faculty of Music for an Engineering in Society photographic competition at Queen’s University. This was one of three photos submitted, all winning honourable mentions. “I have a lot of respect and appreciation for the engineering that goes behind musical instruments and the fine tuning and sensitivity of them. Art is something that is not made with stone and steel.” Ho has donated use of the photo to the Faculty of Music.

Philosophy Colloquium Series — Kirstin Andrews, York University. “The Nature of Folk Psychological Prediction” Tabol College, Rm. 346, 4:10 pm

Epidemiology & Biostatistics Seminar — Vladimir Hachinski, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, Western “Stroke and Alzheimer’s Disease: Fellow travelers or partners in crime?” MSB, Rm. 148, 12:30 - 1:10 pm

October 29

Autumn Writes — Breakfast with Diana Gabaldon, Grand Theatre, Tickets $10, available at The Book Store, Books Plus and Grand Theatre, includes breakfast. For more info visit www.bookstore.uwo.ca

Men’s Water Polo — versus Toronto @ Western, 12 pm; versus York @ Western, 6:30 pm

November 1

Senior Alumni, How to Prevent a Stroke — Find out what you and your doctor can do to reduce your risk for stroke. David Spence, Neurology and Clinical Pharmacology, Western. McKellar Room, UCC, 9:30 – 11 am

Department of Modern Languages and Literatures — “LA TERTULIA” (Spanish Conversation) opportunity to enhance Spanish skills by meeting people from different Spanish-speaking countries. UC 117, 12 - 1 pm

November 2

Speaking Skills Practiced Weekly — Campus Communicators/Toastmasters meets every Wed., 12 noon, Rm. 310, SLB. Visitors welcome. For more information, Chandev Abhayaratne, cabhayar@uwo.ca or call ext. 85466

Take Our Kids To Work Day — Bring your Grade 9 student to Western Register for interesting tours of several faculties. For more on tour times contact: Scott May at smay5@uwo.ca or call ext. 85466

Western’s Graduate & Professional School Fair — Educational Recruiters at 96 exhibits (48 each day) represent a wide array of graduate and professional schools and programs (including Western’s) from Canada and abroad. Available to discuss post-graduate options and opportunities. To view participants by day and category, visit: www.sdc.uwo.ca/career/students/path.html?GradStudent

November 3

PMA Open House — Drop in to Room 351 UCC between 9:30 and 3:30 to meet with the executive and committee convenors. Visit www.uwo.ca/pma/ for details.

Dept. of Philosophy — Ethics and New Technologies, Chris MacDonald, St. Mary’s University, Halifax. “Novel Technologies and Shifting Social Values” Central Library, 7 – 9 pm

Please submit items for Coming Events to comingevents@uwo.ca

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