Today, Western News celebrates some of the hundreds of programs, organizations and people who lend their talents to the wider community – Outside the Gates, if you will. Please enjoy this brief window into what this university, and its people, add to the London community.
Bringing fun and games to the community

Mathew Hoy, co-founder of Project Play, and Lisa Marax Skibos, co-coordinator of the children and youth services at the London Public Library, said the quality games now available for free borrowing at all London branches cements the library's role as a fun place to be.

BY DEODORA VAN BRENK

Bringing inter-generational music to the community

Kristal Daniels, a Don Wright Faculty of Music graduate student, is one of three musicians-in-residence at the new Oakcrossing Retirement Living in London. Musicians, and residents such as Bill Holland (inset), benefit from the relationships formed from a partnership that is, so far, unique in the province.

“Why I enjoy about my work here is the community I’ve built within it, and musical ability to translate love beyond age and status.”

Kristal Daniels, Don Wright Faculty of Music graduate student

T he annual string of events on plates falls away to reassurance when Kristal Daniels, accompanying here on grand piano, her husband John, on baritone saxophone, and Debora Van Brenk, on keyboard, sing out the words of the classic love song. This elderly duet whispers to its table partners, “It’s lovely to have our own little concert.”

For residents at Oakcrossing Retirement Living in London, three musicians in residence from Western have been an enliven to their daily lives. They, in turn, have been delighted to enjoy music at their fingertips, presenting a music program of sharing ballads with a grandmotherly good deal in the nearest room.

First the gallon-year students from the Don Wright Faculty of Music, the opportunity has been as dear to them as it has been to Western University. However, the students draw a grin and wince when they mention they need nine to ten hours a week with residents.

Past concerts, the students have started a residence engagement, the students commit to spend at least 12 hours a week with residents. Oakcrossing’s resident Bill Holland said the musicians-in-residence program has made his life better. He’s liable to be heard singing Puccini’s “O Soave Fanciulla” here late last year.

Meanwhile, Gingerich continues to field requests for more information from media and website visitors across the country.

People ask, “Why hasn’t this been done before?” Gingerich said. “I have to go live where I could hear a live rendition of Puccini’s ‘O Soave Fanciulla’ but I won’t ever be able to.”

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Bringing empathetic healing to the community

BY KERI FERGUSON

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our story isn't over yet. That message—of a simple phrase—intentionally continues to be brought up when one talks with clients. It is a reminder of the treatment they are under, and the feelings they have. It is also a statement of the value of Western News Western News's work. The work that is being done in generating a positive change in the world.

"This is not haphazard counselling for the 'have-nots.' This is an excellent service equally available regardless of whether you can pay for it or whether you need some help with it."

Rebecca Machado, Executive Director at Days Counselling Centre, stresses her organization offers accessible counseling based on a client's ability to pay.

"We sit with people in what may be the darkest time in their lives and the work we do is critical. We provide a safe space for them to process their feelings and find a way to move forward."

Rebecca Machado

The experience was so positive and rewarding that two of our CCP students recently joined our board of directors.

Tamara Blaney

The Community Counselling Project (CCP) at Ivey is a student-run organization that matches fourth-year Honours Business Administration (HBA) student teams with local non-profit organizations (NPOs) in London, Toronto, and across southwestern Ontario to provide consulting services.

"It was a rewarding experience, and I learned a lot about myself and what I want to do in the future," said Alina Lalji, CCP director.

"I was impressed with the students' business expertise and the way they approached the projects. The students did a detailed analysis of our financial statements and provided valuable insights that helped us make informed decisions."

"The experience was so positive and rewarding that two of our CCP students recently joined our board of directors."
Bringing
activism
to the community

BY ABE OUDSHOORN

The shift from being a nurse, teaching from the service
perspective, to a full-time academic, was a disorienting
experience. There were many new expectations,
attitudes and relationships that drove me towards
academics in the first place. While we have come
to a long way from where the New Nursing
School was founded, there is still that
theorized two degrees of separation,
some distance that needs to be
thoughtfully and continually bridged, if we are to be authentic, community
engaged scholars.

For me, the London Homeless Coalition
is that bridge. Here was an organization that existed to
advise, shape and coordinate community
responses to homelessness in London. A offered a member
ship and a desire for more diverse
perspectives beyond just the academic
perspective and the community was
there, but required me to
reach out and find that. The challenge
was to make students a deeper sense of the city and
how that impacts the work of the
coalition. For me, this has meant
sitting in the hallways of the various
building with the coalition and
from there, situational awareness
about the day-to-day lives of the
people who are on the streets and
the challenges they face.

So why do? Why leave the
Checks. Don’t know what
focal of grant writing
and publication generation? Why
limit your availability for undergradu-
ate and graduate students who seek
advice and mentorship? Why
change the world, of
even the world?

We conduct research to generate
knowledge, we develop partnerships
with communities, we build
relationships with people, we
create opportunities when she first arrived
London. It offered an open member-
ship that was there, but required me to
reach out and find it. The coalition has
offered that bridge. Here
students
with mathematics, science,
that and more participating
students, and year-end report?

Perhaps there is a
department and faculty. Commu-
ity-based service means not only
more being frequently off-
its role in persuading tenure-
commitment – this relationship between aca-
discipline and a desire for more diverse
London. It offered an open member-

not just a bit.

Nursing has evolved to more explicitly
share service experiences and
performing evaluations and the pro-
matters of the student and
campus. Neither is particularly effec-
also means being more frequently off-
from the community – and for an even

impacting colleagues you are doing your fair

Tutoring sessions, don’t follow a set

Students evaluated the day
during the day – but the

school. This way, Western students

London community. The landscape of how students

As a year-one project, we

Nursing professor Abe Oudshoorn’s connection with the London Homeless Coalition has allowed

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ABE OUDSHOORN

― Community-based service means not only setting limits on department service, but also means being more frequently off-
campus. Neither is particularly effective in persuading tenure-
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Bringing child literacy to the community

BY LISA ARCHBALD

English spelling is often described as...
E ven as a child, playing can be a break from life. For young girls in grade school, playing might just be the first step to becoming an inventor.

Throughout the world, 60 young women aged 12 to 17 had fun and gained digital skills at Go CODE GIrl – an annual “Just for Girls” coding event offered by Western’s Women in Engineering Outreach program.

“Unlike some and other programs I’ve worked with – which you have to learn how and type in the ‘computer language’ – Scratch is a great introduction to coding, since you can program right away using drag-and-drop blocks,” said Katy Faster, a high school student and an instructor for the day, said. “The split screen lets you see the actual code as well as other syntax errors. The split screen lets you train your mind to think like a programmer quickly,” she added.

Aiming to inspire and change your perceptions, the program quickly, which is great for students.

“You get to create and change your animation, said the day offers advanced programming skills at Go CODE GIrl for the second time and had made a new friend. ‘Two dinosaurs meet the giant asteroid’ is one level she worked on creating buzzing paperclip circuits, part of the Go CODE GIrl event and we’ve noticed a steady increase in enrolments. This year we had 60 participants register and all 60 showed up,” said Malorie Butlin, Go CODE GIrl’s keynote speaker.

“Malorie Butlin, a Grade 9 student at Go CODE GIrl – an annual event, brought a sense of wonder to the community. Young, aspiring engineers are changing the face of the profession. Young, aspiring engineers are changing the face of the profession.”

This month, 60 young women aged as young as 12 interested in not just the science of coding, but engineering as well for girls. “It is really important to get girls as young as 12 interested in not just the science of coding, but engineering as well.”

“Presentations from repair tech and construction, oil and gas and transportation hold the promise of making an impact on the world in ways in we haven’t been able to,” said Faster.

“Bring to Life” is Western’s Women in Engineering Outreach program.”

“Bring to Life” is Western’s Women in Engineering Outreach program for ZTR, a provider of intelligent manufacturing execution systems for facilities in the world, offering students a chance to see the actual code as well as other syntax errors. The split screen lets you train your mind to think like a programmer quickly,” she added.

“They have had it to heart, through the experiences they have had, the people they have met and the camaraderie that is built through a shared purpose,” said Gurleen Thethi, who is set to graduate from Western’s Alternative Spring Break (ASB) program in 2019. While she was a first-time ASB volunteer, she has taken it to heart, through the experiences they have had, the people they have met and the camaraderie that is built through a shared purpose.”

“Having ‘couch-surfed and lived rough for years’ as teenagers, the students could not have overcome the odds without the help of YOU. "The Youth Action Centre was a safe place for me especially when I didn’t understand where I was going to be the next night. The support offered by staff and volunteers helped me to learn how to appreciate the good in our own lives and challenge others’ problems," they said.

“Most of the group’s week was spent working with staff and clients of the YOU Made it Café, an urban social enterprise.”

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Bringing urban farming to the community

BY ADELA TALBOT

They are unlikely farmers, sure. But armed with a vision of making a social and sustainable impact in London, a lawyer, a former business instructor and a social worker are rolling up their sleeves and making it work.

Urban Roots, co-founded by Heather and Graeme Bracken, Richo Bloomfield and Jeremy Horne in 2007, is an urban farm, located near the Highbury Avenue and Hamilton Road intersection in the southeast part of the city.

“A lot of people assume we are another community garden—which we love—but we aren’t renting out plots for individuals to grow food. We are trying to organize more intentional farming on a larger scale in order to supply various charitable organizations and restaurants in the city,” Bloomfield said, a 2014 dual-degree graduate of Huron University College and Ivey Business School, who now teaches business at the affiliate, is one of the co-founders of Urban Roots, a not-for-profit organic urban farm, located near the Hightree Farm and Hamilton Road intersection in the southeast part of the city.

“The Urban Roots team set out on a mission to recreate a sustainable urban farm model in London. Urban Roots is expanding to grow more urban farms within London. They own a three-acre property near Highbury and Hamilton, and they are unlikely farmers, sure. But armed with a vision of making a social and sustainable impact in London, a lawyer, a former business instructor and a social worker are rolling up their sleeves and making it work.

“Hey are unlikely farmers, sure. But armed with a vision of making a social and sustainable impact in London, a lawyer, a former business instructor and a social worker are rolling up their sleeves and making it work.

Bringing healthy aging to the community

BY ADELA TALBOT

There’s more to being a doctor than recognizing and treating illness. There’s the social and psychological determinants of health and a physician’s role in understanding and acting on those determinants.

Teresa Van Doorn, a family physician at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, has developed the Social Medicine course within the Family Medicine curriculum, which aims to improve those odds and maintain good health for many years to come. As a result of efforts such as this, Canadians benefit from high life expectancies in the world.

There are no national statistics to say how many doctors nationally have engaged in the Social Medicine course, which aims to teach future physicians about the social determinants of health and a physician’s role in understanding and acting on those determinants.

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Bringing classroom knowledge to the community

BY ADÉLA TALBOT

"We thought, what are the issues in London when it comes to health care and community health," said Tracey White-Lockwood, a master's student in social work at Western University. "A lot of people are hungry. How can we help them?"

The SSC connected her students with a number of local organizations, including Midlondon Mobile Emergency Services (MMES) to build a business plan that could improve on the service provided by this agency. As a result, students created a business plan to help MMES offer emergency services to rural areas.

"A client from MMES came to our class and talked about some of the issues they were facing," said White-Lockwood. "We worked with them to create a business plan, which included a call center and mobile units. This would allow them to respond to emergencies more quickly, thus reducing service gaps.

"We worked with MMES to develop a training program and help them implement it," said White-Lockwood. "This program will help ensure that their staff are properly trained to handle emergencies."
Bringing artful partnerships to the community

BY SAMANTHA RICHARD

With some of the city’s most intriguing works of art – and the fascinating opportunity to see their creation in real time – London’s SATELLiTE Project has become a space for artists of all ages to create what’s inspiring them.

The result of a multi-way partnership that includes Western University, Fanshawe College and Museum London, the project provides a space for budding artists to exhibit their work; an opportunity that might otherwise be impossible because of young artists’ lack of funding.

Artists can organize outreach projects and provide young artists with professional opportunities to participate in the local arts community.

Located at 121 Dundas St. just east of Talbot Street in downtown London, it bills itself as a “testing ground for new projects, partnerships, and performances by students and community members.” The project came about in 2015 when a privately owned gallery, DNA, sought out a culturally rich neighbour to move in next door.

The city clearly needed a space with a “real world quality” in which “students of all kinds can utilize in order to engage with the public,” said Patrick Mahon, director of the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts & Humanities at Western, adding it provides accessibility both to artists and art-lovers.

“While it acts as a gallery, it gives the public the opportunity to encounter exhibitions that don’t necessarily present art in the conventional sense,” he said, noting exhibitions have ranged from poster projects and public dialogues to installations that added a soundscape to the facility.

“SATELLiTE is a great context for creative exchange among students at different levels, and even for recruitment of future students to Western,” added Mahon. With the inclusion of Bealart students from H.B. Beal High School, it also provides a space for students to develop and share professional-level skills in exhibition and display practices.

Gallery coordinator Eeva Sivonen said SATELLiTE is unconventional in its dual function as both a gallery and a ‘laboratory’, with the space often kept open during business hours while artists experiment with various projects.

“This gives the public an interesting opportunity to observe and engage with projects while they are being developed,” said Sivonen.

Mahon added the opportunity to meet members of the London public, or curators and gallery owners from the downtown art sector, is also “a huge benefit to Western’s art students.”

Victoria Stopar is one such person. The Western dual-degree student (Arts & Humanities and Ivey Business) completed an internship there last year. She said the project exists for more than just students and has an impact on the London community as a whole.

“The gallery showcases artists in high school right up to professional artists, which creates a diversity not found in many other galleries,” said Stopar, adding the community, in turn, can see a variety of shows from different groups throughout the year. “The opportunity for learning and collaboration between art institutions is extremely valuable. It is a community space for residents from all over London to participate in and enjoy art together.”

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