New rules further extinguish smoking in Ontario

BY JASON WINDERS

CHANGES ANNOUNCED LAST week to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act will further extinguish smoking in many public places across the province. And while Western smokers won’t see much difference from current restrictions, changes in the law should serve as an opportunity to re-engage the university community in a conversation about smoking on campus, said Ann Hutchison, senior HR adviser.

Starting Jan. 1, it will be illegal to smoke on bar and restaurant patios, playgrounds and public sports fields and surfaces, as well as sell tobacco on university and college campuses. These steps are part of the government’s plan to limit smoking in public places, reduce exposure to smoking and make it more difficult for young people to buy tobacco, said Dipika Damerla, associate minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

“If we prevent youth from taking up smoking in the first place, that will mean fewer smokers and healthier Ontarians,” Damerla said. “We need to do everything we can to protect all Ontarians from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.”

On Western’s campus, these changes won’t have a huge impact, said Hutchison, who works on campuswide wellness initiatives including working with Health and Safety on smoking issues. Many of the restrictions are already in place. For instance, TD Stadium already bans smoking inside. Currently, cigarettes are only sold on campus at the Grad Club.

“Western’s current policy bans smoking in university buildings, as well as within 10 metres of building entrances, loading docks and fresh air intakes. Building entrances, especially those outside the D.B. Weldon Library and Support Services Building, remain the biggest point of contention between smokers and nonsmokers, Hutchison said.

“That means for some folks, they have to walk through an area where the smoke is rather intense,” she continued. “Those points of contact are where 85 per cent of our complaints come from.”

Smoking on university campuses has become a battleground in the last decade. According to the Americans for Nonsmokers Rights, a leading antismoking lobbying organization, nearly 1,500 U.S. universities have gone smoke-free. That number has grown from less than 500 just four years ago. Last week, the University of Alabama, home to 36,000 students, approved a smoke-free campus policy to start Jan. 1.

Major Canadian universities have yet to buy into smoke-free campus policies. The exception, Dalhouse, instituted a smoke-free campus in 2003, the first major university in Canada to implement such a ban. More than 82 per cent of Dalhouse community members who responded to a 2003 survey supported the policy’s adoption.

Western has no plans to consider a smoke-free policy at this time. However, times do change.

“I think Western, and all universities in Canada, may have to consider a smoke-free campus at some point in the future,” Hutchison said. “In the States, some legislative changes have forced U.S. universities to take action – not all the changes are

UP IN SMOKE // CONTINUED ON PAGE 5
13 // THURSDAY

MEN’S HOCKEY
Nipissing at Western.
7 p.m.

MCINTOSH GALLERY
Runs until Dec. 6.

STAFF AND FACULTY IMMUNIZATION CLINIC
These clinics do not require an appointment. Please bring your health card in order to get the flu shot.
9 a.m.-3 p.m. UCC, Health Services Resource Centre.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE WORKSHOP
Thinking About Going Abroad? Advice for anyone considering going abroad to study, volunteer, intern, teach, travel or work. Learn about international careers from best-selling author Jean-Marc Hachey and his website MyWorldAbroad.com. Register at westerncasercentral.ca/9-10:30 a.m. UCC 315, Council Chambers.

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM
Asif ud-Doula, Department of Physics, Penn State Worthington Scranton. Magnetoospheres of Massive Stars. 1:30 p.m. PBA 100.

MIGRATION AND ETHNIC RELATIONS COLLOQUIUM SERIES
International Week Event. Collaborative LMUP & MER event. Journeys of Migration. Register at eventbrite.ca under Journeys of Migration. 3:30-6 p.m. UCC 315, Council Chambers.

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Symphony orchestra.
8 p.m. Paul Davenport Theatre.

14 // FRIDAY

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Javier Zaba, special performance by one of Cuba’s most prominent musicians.
12:30 p.m. von Kuster hall.

CONSULT THE EXPERTS SESSIONS
Offers support to students who are writing research proposals for external scholarship competitions. 1-3 p.m. IGAB 1N05.

MEN’S HOCKEY
Laurentian at Western.
7 p.m.

15 // SATURDAY

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL
Lakehead at Western.
7 p.m.
Western News launches into a new era

More than ‘just a new look,’ our new Western News website will allow readers on campus and around the world to consume university news, views and information in a way tailored to their personal needs. Launched this week, the site, news.westernu.ca, represents this 42-year-old publication’s first dedicated webpage in the paper’s history.

The in-house project was led by Creative Services team members Gulnara Shafikova and Jamieson Roberts, in association with colleagues from Communications and Public Affairs and Information Technology Services.

Going forward, all we ask is that you use the site. This is a living, breathing creation where we depend on you, the reader, to make the most of the experience.

Drop a line to newseditor@uwo.ca with any comments, bugs or Easter eggs you may find.

Below is a print tour of Western News’ new digital home.

RESPONSIVE DESIGN. Constructed with a comfortable reading experience in mind, the homepage responds dynamically to a reader’s device of choice. Be it a smart phone, tablet or desktop, the site automatically optimizes itself for your reading ease.

TOUCH-FRIENDLY INTERFACE. Let your fingers do the walking without fear of flubs, as the new touch-friendly interface makes tapping on tablets and smart phones more responsive.

READ NEWS ABOUT YOU. Site has been organized using the publication’s traditional print categories – Campus and Community, Research, Student Life, etc. – as well as new tagging methods to make sorting by faculty, departments and units easier.

INCREASED AUTOMATION. Specialized feeds have been designed for Western’s homepage and Faculty/Staff page to pull the latest news in as quickly as possible.

YOUR NEWS. YOUR WAY. Construct a specialized feed for your faculty, department or unit to get the news you want delivered to your digital doorstep.

IN THE HEADLINES. The site features not only a live news feed, but also a ‘Popular This Week’ feature showcasing what our readers deem must-reads.

ENHANCED SEARCH. Search accuracy was perhaps the top complaint of Western News users in the past. That has been addressed in a new search function, which allows for more targeted research of Western News files exclusively.

Each month, we are adding additional archived years going back to 2005.

STORY DISPLAY. Each story is now designed to tell to be presented in the clearest, most attractive way possible. Larger photos and videos allow for increased visual storytelling, while the font size of the story itself has been bumped up in size and clarity.

IMPROVED ANALYTICS. Real-time analytics not only allows us to track what stories are being read, but how readers are reading them. This allows us to focus resources into emerging applications we may have previously ignored.
Editor's Letter

Talk of basements mars important advice about job market survival

JASON WINDERS
Western News Editor

Stephen Poloz understands the problem. He just didn’t articulate the solution well.

Last week, the Governor of the Bank of Canada sparked his first public kerfuffle when he suggested recent university grads struggling to find full-time employment in their field should avoid the “scaring effect” of long-term unemployment and consider gaining experience by doing “something for free” in the short run.

“Get some real life experience even though you’re discouraged, even if it’s for free,” he said. “If your parents are letting you in the basement, you might as well go out and do something for free to put the experience on your CV.”

Admittedly, his message set the wrong tone. Using language dismissive of youth (the old ‘parents’ basement’ trope), he conjured up images of a lay-off generation avoiding the real world by playing video games and leeching off mom and dad.

That said, the ensuing media avalanche has been a joke – knee-jerk snarks at Stephen Poloz, MA’79, PhD’82 (Economics), on his rise to the top banker post. During the conversation, we strayed into discussing his advice for the current generation of university graduates. The chunk never made publication, but his words came to mind last week.

Here’s what he had to say:

I am old enough now to look and see what really helped me. I exposed myself to as many different things as I could. Everybody wants to specialize in something they like. They should always do that – invest in something they like – that will become their strength. But do the minimum amount to specialize, and then let the rest run free.

As I said to my kids, it’s about doing things that maximize the number of choices you can make in the future. You never know when one of those extra choices will make the difference for you.

It might only make you a better conversation partner at a dinner, but it could also mean when things go a little off the beaten track for you, you have other avenues that, with a bit more investment, you can open up for yourself.

Everything is always changing. The percentage of things you see outside your window that are new are so much higher now than when I was a kid. What that means is, in order to appreciate, or even capitalize on, what you see you have to have a bit more preparation.

And university is the place to do that.

We’ve come through an intense period of restructuring in the Canadian economy. And it’s not done yet. If you are a graduate today, when you looked out the window four years ago, your forecast of what were the job growth categories was way off. Even the products and services we use on a daily basis have changed a lot during your time as an undergraduate.

You cannot really plan for that or forecast it. Instead, you need to take a risk-based approach to your education. Say to yourself, I need to be ready for more things. I am going to invest in these one or two things I like the most, but I am going to do lots of other things, too. So when I get an interview, someone will say, ‘Wow, it looks like you could adapt to many things. That’s great.’

You’ll have the ability to grow, as opposed to being in a specific channel and maybe feeling less and less meaningful in your work as the world changes.

By avoiding certain wording, Poloz’s point becomes palatable, almost inspirational – diversify and keep learning. Not bad advice for anyone.

Too bad all the noise over a few words drowned out that important larger discussion.

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MUSTANG MEMORIES

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY THE JOHN P. METRAS MUSEUM

Cheerleading at Western began in 1929 with ‘Doc Thompson and his Rollicking Rooters’ at football games, as an all-male activity, including the pictured squad from 1933-34. Doris Eagles joined the squad in 1939 becoming the first woman. Her body movements were much more restricted than present day cheerleaders and she had to wear a longer skirt than present day. Women were not quickly accepted, but by the 1950s, Western boasted a completely co-ed squad.

Visit John P. Metras Museum on Instagram and Twitter for more photos.
USC president brings town, gown priorities into focus

On Tuesday, University Students’ Council president Matt Helfand delivered the annual State of the USC Address, during which he identified three major areas the student government has prioritized during its term – community relations, student wellness and transparency and fairness.

What follows is the community relations portion of his address.

**THE FIRST PRINCIPLE** I wish to highlight is the fact we, as students, want to live in a city that cares about us and meets our needs, and we want a police force that serves us and keeps us safe.

In order to achieve this, we recognized the importance in building relationships with police and the city. Before we were elected, Vice-President External Jen Carter, Vice-President Internal Emily Addison and I prioritized building a good relationship with the London Police Service (LPS).

During our campaign, we went on a ride-along, where we had the opportunity to have a conversation with some of the leaders of the LPS. This was a very interesting experience for a number of reasons, as it placed a bit of perspective on what is, quite frankly, a challenge to any city, and that is the influx of around 50,000 students, between Fanshawe and Western, coming to London every September.

Though I may be biased, I know students are the intellectual, social and economic drivers of London and deserve respect because of that. I also know the police have a job to do in keeping our community – a community that includes students – safe. I believe a collaborative, proactive approach to community safety is an effective approach to community safety, and we have been working with the LPS to enable just such an approach, while at the same time working to make sure at the same time that programs such as Project LEARN (Liquor Enforcement and Reduction of Noise) are administered in a way that is not unfairly punitive to Western students.

I do want to take a moment to acknowledge the recent attack on a member of the London Police Service in the Fleming Drive area. Assaulting an officer is never OK, and I want to reiterate our commitment to building strong, positive relationships between Western students and the London police based on education and mutual respect.

Homecoming serves as an excellent case study to highlight the trilateral relationship between the USC, London Police Service and Western.

Over at our sister institution, Queen’s University, we saw homecoming celebrations being cancelled only a few years ago for over-the-top behaviour. Cancelling homecoming is an unacceptable outcome for Western and for London.

However, last year on Homecoming, we saw the peculiar circumstance of our cheerleaders being ticketed for cheering, and we have seen enough community response to Homecoming to merit a Ward 6 candidate, Western’s city council ward, make public statements that Homecoming ought to be cancelled.

This candidate was unsuccessful, though only narrowly. I would like to give a shoutout to Phil Squire, our new Ward 6 councillor-elect, who has come out strongly in favour of Homecoming, recently having tweeted, and I quote, “LOL, I love Homecoming.” Thank you, Phil.

It should go without saying, but I’ll say it anyway, the USC will never let Homecoming be cancelled.

But as much as we love Homecoming, for the last three years on Broughdale, we have seen the street shut down by revelers, inaccessible to emergency service, while people are drinking alcohol on rooftops. Needless to say, this is a dangerous combination. The Broughdale street party hasn’t always been a tradition and need not be one.

Trust me, I have been here for quite a few years. What we do need is a new tradition.

Together with university administration and police services, we were able to get the ball rolling on a Homecoming celebration on campus, a celebration that brought nearly 2,000 students, clad in purple and white, to join us in celebrating all that is Western. We didn’t quite draw the same numbers as Broughdale, but I am hopeful to see a new, better Homecoming tradition establish itself and supplant off-campus locations as the place to share Mustang pride.

Another very significant interface the USC has with the city is around transit, as we broker the LTC and it is partly up to us to make that a reality. I have had the opportunity to meet with, and of a thriving economy. We know the city has made student retention a goal and one element of making that happen is the opportunity and mobility that a strong transit system brings. Every Western student is a major stakeholder in the LTC and it is partly up to us to make that a reality. I have had the opportunity to meet with, on several occasions, the senior administration of the LTC, and I can assure you they know what it takes to run a good transit system.

We now have a new city council, and I have had the chance to meet many of our new representatives. I know they will serve London with great diligence and pride. Still, though, when it comes to the LTC, there is much work to be done. I hope transit becomes a city priority, and you should hope that, too.

As we move forward, I am excited continue to work with the LTC, and City Hall to make a better transit system for students and for London.

"Though I may be biased, I know students are the intellectual, social and economic drivers of London and deserve respect because of that. I also know the police have a job to do in keeping our community – a community that includes students – safe.”

- Matt Helfand
Western Law alumni Jennifer Foster has returned to campus to run the family law portion of Community Legal Services, which will be helping low-income Londoners with family legal issues such as custody, access and child or spousal support.

BY PAUL MAYNE

WESTERN LAW STUDENTS can now put their legal skills to the test for Londoners facing issues such as custody, access and child or spousal support.

Western’s Community Legal Services (CLS) recently received $303,000 in funding from Legal Aid Ontario to reestablish its family law practice, which provides representation for low-income London area clients. The funds, part of $6 million in Legal Aid grants provided to six university-operated legal clinics, will also be used to train students in family law.

“About 60-70 per cent of parties in London’s Family Court being self-represented, we have hoped for many years to add family law to our clinic,” said Faculty of Law lecturer Doug Ferguson, who serves as CLS director. “This grant will allow us to help low-income persons, speed up the court process and train students how to be good lawyers.”

For years, CLS has focused on areas such as criminal law, provincial offences, landlord/tenant issues and small claims court. Now, after an absence of almost two decades, family law is back in the mix.

“I had always said that some day I was going to come back and bring family law with me. But I didn’t think it would happen this soon,” said Jennifer Foster, a Western Law alumna, who has been named to head up family law at CLS.

Foster, who arrived at Western after working at Lerners law firm, hopes her passion for family law will rub off on the 18 students who are currently part of the program. That group is already tackling the 30 or so cases which came in during the first month.

“It’s the reason I went to law school — to help people who cannot afford representation. I joke with my husband that I don’t want to have to charge people money, so I’ll do it for free, if I’m able to, because I just want to help people,” Foster said. “I know it sounds really trite, but I legitimately do.”

Family law covers a host of areas, including divorce and separation, child custody, spousal and child support, division of property, child protection and adoption.

London’s unified Family Court system — the Ontario Court of Justice (provincial judges) and Superior Court (federal judges) — acts as one unit. Students are not allowed to represent clients in front of federal judges, unless the judge makes a special exception.

Nevertheless, there is plenty to learn outside the courtroom as well.

“The students can still provide services, as not everything is in court,” she said. “Even the files we have currently, I would say 75 per cent aren’t in court yet. So, the objective is to try and negotiate a settlement.”

“Part of the learning experience is teaching the students to be settlement oriented because the courts are so clogged, with 275-300 trials currently on the list for Family Court in London.”

Third-year Law student Hilary Jenkins, a student supervisor, said family lawyers are in a special position to help.

“There are a large number of under-represented litigants in the Family Court system and, hopefully, our team can help fill the void,” Jenkins said. “I will begin my career with practical experience in managing real files and working with real clients.

“Family law has allowed more students the opportunity to gain practical experience. They are learning important skills in legal drafting, how to navigate through the judicial system and how to manage client expectations. The students have the opportunity to see first hand the challenges self-represented litigants face, which highlights to them the importance of access to justice.”

Foster said Western’s family law service falls under Legal Aid Ontario guidelines for financial eligibility, which has a maximum income level, depending on how many dependents a client has. An individual with an income lower than $19,080, or a family of five with an income lower than $45,580, would qualify for the new service at the university.

Western’s University Students’ Council provides funding to the program to assist all undergraduate and graduate students, except MBA students, due to their particular fee structure.

While the new service is less than two months old, early feedback from the legal community, as well as from participating Law students, has been positive, Foster said.

“A couple (students) have said that even if they end up not being interested in family law, it’s the client-management side, it’s the legal writing, it’s dealing with people on the other side, some who have lawyers and some who don’t,” she said. “It’s learning to negotiate using the right approach, managing people through what, for most, is the most difficult time in their life.”
Mummy’s song, identity return after millennia

Excavated in the early 1900s, ‘Justine’ has only recently been identified by Western researchers as Nefret-Mut, a ‘chantress’ or a singer-musician of the Temple of Amun-Re in the city of Thebes in ancient Egypt, 3,000 years ago.

BY ADELA TALBOT

FOR NEARLY A century, ‘Justine’ lay dormant in the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM). But last month, thanks to Western researcher Andrew Nelson, the Egyptian mummy came to life – as a singer named Nefret-Mut.

“When we work with a mummy or skeleton, we are interested in telling a story of that person’s life – we call it their ‘osteobiography,’” said Nelson, an Anthropology professor and associate dean of research and operations in the Faculty of Social Science.

“Normally, we start looking at the bones, asking are they male? Female? Adult? Kid? How old? Did they have diseases? Trauma? We can get a broader picture of what their life was like, and, by extension, say what life was like for people around them, so we can put the physical person into a social context,” he continued.

Getting acquainted with mummys over the years has likewise included attempts at facial reconstruction, but knowing a mummy’s name or profession would be the best of clues and allow for the greatest extrapolations, Nelson continued.

“If we know, like in this case, that she’s a chantress in the Temple of Amun-Re, it is another sort of level of bringing her to life, which is what we are trying to do,” he noted.

Excavated in the early 1900s, Justine came to the ROM, by way of Charles Trick Currelly, its first curator. The mummy is part of the museum’s world-renowned Egypt collection.

Some of Justine’s past had previously been uncovered by computerized tomography (CT) scans. Her internal organs had been removed, and she had been mummiﬁed. Her tongue had also been taken – a practice not consistent with mummiﬁcation. Early Egyptians believed they would need their tongue to introduce themselves in the after life.

At the time of her excavation, two coffins and at least one mummy were found at the site, Nelson explained. The coffins and mummy were brought to the ROM by Trick Currelly, and placed on display – though not together. It was not clear which coffin belonged to the mummy.

“In 2007, I borrowed the mummy and two child mummys (from the ROM) for an extended CT project and we initiated the osteobiography. At that point, it was assumed one of the mummies belonged to a priest, so it would have been a male, because that would have been a traditionally male role,” Nelson continued.

A closer look, however, revealed the mummy was female, probably in her late 20s or early 30s at the time of death. She had no obvious ailments and was shorter than average for ancient Egyptians, standing just under 5 feet.

“All of our expectations were gone. We started anew,” Nelson said.

It wasn’t until Nelson was getting ready to give a talk last month at THEMUSEUM in Kitchener, where Justine is on display until February, that her real name and former identity came to light. And that happened by chance.

In some back-and-forth emails with colleague Gayle Gibson, an Egyptologist who teaches at the ROM, Nelson prodded to see if there were any clues linking Justine to one of the coffins that were part of her excavation.

Gibson went back to take a closer look. With the help of a ROM technician, who photographed the coffins, Gibson discovered one featured scrawled messy hieroglyphics, which revealed the name Nefret-Mut, which means, “beautiful one of the goddess Mut.”

Justine, it was revealed, was a ‘chantress’ or a singer-musician of the Temple of Amun-Re in the city of Thebes in ancient Egypt, 3,000 years ago.

Knowing all this makes her a special mummy, Nelson noted.

“We now had the actual name,” he said, noting of the hundreds of mummys sitting in museums, only 20 per cent have an identity and a story to go with.

This discovery is part of Nelson’s work on a worldwide database of mummy studies, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council’s Digging into Data Challenge.

Research

The Western Humanitarian Award program has been established by the Office of the Vice-President (Research) to recognize faculty, students and/or staff at Western who are engaged in a range of efforts directed towards improving the quality of life for individuals and communities around the world. Preference will be given to the recognition of humanitarian activities undertaken by the candidate(s) that have current or potential international impact. Individuals or groups may apply or be nominated by third parties.

Award Amount:
$5,000 maximum

Deadlines:
December 1, 2014 (for online application form)

For more information on this award and other internal funding opportunities, please visit uwo.ca/research/funding/internal/.

Contact:
Florence Lourdes
Internal Grants Coordinator
Research Development & Services
internalgrants@uwo.ca
519.661.2111 x64500
Why The Victorians may understand us better than anyone in history

This week, Western hosts the North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA) annual conference, bringing in nearly 350 scholars from around the world together under the theme Victorian Classes and Classifications. Established in 2002, NAVSA provides a continental forum for a discussion of the Victorian period, encourages a wide variety of theoretical and disciplinary approaches to the field and furthers the interests of scholars of the period. Its goal is to provide a more visible forum for Victorianists in the profession.

In celebration of this event, Western News sat down with English and Writing Studies professor Christopher Keep to discuss the continued fascination with the Victorians and why they may understand what we are going through better than anyone else in history.

Why are we seemingly re-connecting with the Victorians again? What exactly happened?

Keep: People are coming back to the period now, more so than they had previously, because there is a sense the Victorians experienced the same kind of wonder and excitement, also the same sense of terror, when confronted by a substantial change in the ways by which they communicated and the amount of information that was being channeled through these modes of communications.

The steam-powered train. The telegraph. The telephone. The cinematograph. These were all new ways for people to communicate with one another.

And this was concrete change?

Keep: Yes. One of the distinctive things about the Victorian period – that perhaps differentiates it from our current period – is these new modes of technology did not dematerialize the world. Even something like a telegraph was still delivered to your door.

And when you think about the new modes of transportation, things like the steam-powered train, those things were physically imposing. They had a certain sense of magnitude that was impressive in its own right. One of the things appealing to people today, in an information-oriented world, is the physical substrate of activities seem to be disappearing, getting smaller and smaller as our iPhones are on the verge of disappearing into their thinness.

The Victorians, by contrast, experienced a world that was substantial, that was physical, that engaged them emotionally and physically in these new modes of communications.

You see this play out somewhat in things like the steam punk movement, correct? It’s a real longing for stuff.

Keep: Steam punk is fascinating because it is a way of imagining a technologically oriented world, driven by computer technology, yet it is also a world that has a ‘thinginess’ to it. There is physicality, a certain kind of substantiality that forces us to rethink the world outside of this immateriality we experience today.

It forces us to think outside ‘The Cloud,’ so to speak.

Keep: Exactly. The Cloud is a perfect instance where all of our books, all our records, all our DVDs are on the verge of disappearing into that Cloud. Our technologies are encouraging us to offload the thinginess of our lives so we can live in these perfectly unburdened existences of pure mind.

The Victorians experienced something that is almost the full reverse. Their lives became increasingly crowded – with paper, with machines, with technological apparatuses that they acquired and begin to clump up in the world.

OUT OF THE PAST

Why The Victorians may understand us better than anyone in history

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The steam-powered train. The telegraph. The telephone. The cinematograph. These were all new ways for people to communicate with one another.

Take the telegraph – this was a kind of Victorian Internet. It was a way for people, who weren’t physically before each other, to communicate in ‘real time.’ That introduced a whole new way of thinking about how communication could occur. The sense one could communicate mind-to-mind, rather than body-to-body or face-to-face, changed people’s attitudes toward one another.

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JOIN THE CONFERENCE

The public is invited to attend keynote lectures from two internationally known Victorianists. Tim Barringer, Paul Mellon Professor of the History of Art and Director of Graduate Studies at Yale University, will present In Search of An English Folk: Art and Music c. 1900 at 4:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at The London Hilton, 300 King Street. Dame Gillian Beer, King Edward VII Professor of English Literature Emeritus at the University of Cambridge, will present Are you animal – or vegetable – or mineral? Alice and Others at 5 p.m. Saturday.
And this longing for ‘thinginess’ is playing out today?

Keep: One of the obvious ways is the fascination people have now with typewriters. People are going back to their typewriters, playing with them again, even developing applications to turn their tablets into proto-typewriters.

Why is that? The typewriter gave you instantaneous biofeedback – you hit the keys, it made a sound and then a physical impression on the paper. You had this sense of connection between your thinking and the act of communication. There was a loop. We have lost that now. Our technologies see our thoughts disappearing into that Cloud, and people are trying to compensate for that, for example, through apps on iPads that introduce a click each time you press a key. It gives that satisfying sense of a body relation to our expressions.

Perhaps more than anywhere, the Victorians seem to be dominating popular culture currently.

Keep: Look at all the Sherlock Holmes franchises. Right now, there are three versions – one in feature films, one on the BBC and one on American television. That’s an awful lot of Holmes out there in the world. So what’s the appeal? The Holmesian world offers the figure of the detective as a version of the new forensic scientists, somebody who can read the thinginess of the world and still, somehow, disinter from it some kind of order and meaning that escapes us. Because there are the Holmestes of the world, who can somehow see things we cannot, there is a comfort to us to know there are people who can make sense of this world which seems increasingly opaque and complex.

The pop culture side seems healthy, but what is the state of the academic side of the discipline?

Keep: Our association (NAVS) has added 200 members each year since it began. We’re now up to 1,200 members. And that’s a lot, a lot of academics pursuing a single field of study. And the fact it is growing, particularly while other fields in the arts and humanities are experiencing certain types of pressures, whereas the Victorians seem to multiply in numbers, it speaks to the way people are drawn to the field and to the vitality of the field in the university. These courses are getting taught, the books are getting read. And people want to read these books, otherwise, I don’t think you would see the same sense of vibrancy around the field.

“People are coming back to the period now, more so than they had previously, because there is a sense the Victorians experienced the same kind of wonder and excitement, also the same sense of terror, when confronted by a substantial change in the ways by which they communicated and the amount of information that was being channeled through these modes of communications.”

- Christopher Keep
Entrepreneurship

Seed of an idea sprouts Pod for young entrepreneurs

BY ADELA TALBOT

ALMOST OVERNIGHT, AND totally unexpectedly, four Western students have turned a project meant to streamline the 40-hour volunteer requirement for high school students into a successful enterprise.

Pod is an online organization tool for clubs, causes and teams, created by Western grads Luke Swanek, BA'11 (Globalization Studies), and Bryn Jones, BA'11 (Globalization Studies), as well as current students Jonathan Mendes (Computer Science) and Neil Chudleigh (Engineering and Computer Science).

When the team first got together, the idea was to facilitate a connection between non-profits in the community and high school students looking for volunteer opportunities. They created an online platform – similar to Facebook – where organizations and non-profits, as well as students, could create profiles. The site then acted as a matchmaker and tally keeper – connecting a person to a task, keeping track of what had been accomplished.

In the process of figuring out this platform, the team realized its potential.

“We had hundreds of conversations with many non-profits on campus, student clubs, varsity teams and ad hoc groups. We met with executives on campus for months and we would get feedback and adjust around their feedback,” Swanek explained. “And just like that, Pod came together.”

“The best way to think of it is, kind of like a Facebook group, but with added functionality,” Swanek continued. “Facebook groups are great for communicating, but they are poor at getting things done if you have an objective or a project. That is where we excel.”

“People can participate in multiple groups and subgroups from one platform. And within those groups you can create a ‘pod’ that is part of your team within the larger group.”

For instance, Western’s varsity swim team could have a group page with separate pods for the men’s and women’s teams, fundraising groups and any other necessary subgroups.

Schedules could be posted and managed as a community; tasks could be assigned and monitored for progress; projects could be managed together.

University of Guelph student Benjamin Bates joined the Pod team, and they launched a public beta version online in September. In three weeks, more than 1,000 people were on the site. There are more than 1,500 users today, and the numbers keep growing.

“It’s flying out the door, which is fun. We’re seeing significant success,” Swanek said. “We’re not charging anyone to use it right now, just putting it to the wind to see how people use it.”

Pod, joinpod.com, is currently being used by a large number of Western clubs, London non-profits, sports teams across North America, parent-teacher associations and even the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto.

Because of its networking ability, the Pod team has raised more than $130,000 in funds in the last eight months alone, without doing any marketing, Swanek added. They are working closely with Western’s Student Entrepreneurship Centre to continue their success, he said.

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Young doctor carries on passion of mentor, advocate

Editor’s note: In celebration of National Philanthropy Day on Nov. 15, Western News features the story of one student who benefitted from one donor, a story repeated thousands of times across this campus.

BY FRED DEVRIES

TALK TO DR. ALISON Fine, MD’13, and it’s no wonder she’s humbled to have received an award named for an exceptional mentor.

“During my family medicine clerkship, I observed the way Dr. Winterburn was so amazing in being present and available to her patients,” said Fine, who completed her medical training in WINTERBURN

BY FRED DEVRIES

After graduating from Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, Dr. Alison Fine, MD’13, started her medical residency through the Northern Remote Program, a two-year program focused on family medicine and Aboriginal health. She is the first recipient of the Dr. Dana Winterburn Memorial Award.

was killed in a car accident in April 2012. Her sudden death prompted an outpouring of grief from family, friends, patients and colleagues – but also a tremendous wave of generosity.

“When I heard the news of her death, like everyone else, I was completely shocked to lose such an exceptional doctor and friend,” says Dr. John Sangster, a physician at BFMC, who had known Winterburn since 1994. “She was one of those rare individuals who integrated the art and science of medicine.”

For Sangster and his colleagues, they wanted to honour her memory in some way. With the support of Winterburn’s family, they helped establish a memorial fund at Western. In the days and weeks after the tragedy, family members, patients and friends contributed to the fund, each one giving as a tribute to what Winterburn had given to them.

More than 100 donors contributed a total of $26,000 to the endowed fund (enough to present a $1,000 memorial award every year in perpetuity). The following May, Fine was named the first recipient.

“Our team lost an exceptional colleague and wonderful physician, but we’re pleased that promising doctors, like Alison, will continue Dana’s passion for family and Aboriginal health,” Sangster said.

Fine is doing just that. She is completing a two-year medical residency focused on Aboriginal health. During her first year, she received training in Winnipeg hospitals, all in preparation for going to remote and fly-in communities in northern Manitoba, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. Over the next 12 months, she will be spending a week or up to three months providing medical care for the people in these isolated areas, sometimes being the only resident in the community.

“My hope,” she said, “is to approach everyone I meet in these isolated communities with patience and understanding.”

“I want to take that legacy – of respect, compassion and care – with me into my future medical practice.”

- Dr. Alison Fine

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Academics

Graduate program migrates across disciplines

BY PAUL MAYNE

“I DEFY ANYBODY to look through any random newspaper these days without reading something to do about migration, immigration or integration. It’s a daily lived experience.”

For Stephanie Bangarth, director of Western’s Collaborative Graduate Program in Migration and Ethnic Relations (MER), bringing together graduate students and faculty from various social science disciplines to study questions of ethnic relations, cultural diversity, conflict, acculturation and more, allows for intriguing and collaborative perspectives to be born.

This collaborative experience, created in 2007 with just 11 students, has since blossomed to a record high 48 students this year. It is an add-on to existing graduate programs in Anthropology, Geography, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, Hispanic Studies and Women’s Studies and Feminist Research.

“We all need to be concerned about migration because it has always been a worldwide phenomenon. On top of that, in order to sustain us as a country, we need immigration,” said Bangarth, a professor of History at King’s University College. “It’s wonderful to be part of such a program where we all have the same interests with a very collegial, interdisciplinary group.

“I think one of the problems with academia, in general, is we don’t tend to collaborate with each other outside our own home interest. This is a program that does just that, so it fits into the vision of my own research interests.”

Bangarth works hand-in-hand with Western’s Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations, led by Sociology professor Victoria Esses. The centre informs public policy and practice that facilitate the well-being of immigrants and ethnic minorities in Canada and internationally.

Bangarth added the combination of disciplinary and advanced interdisciplinary training provides students with the tools necessary to better understand and conduct research in the area of migration and ethnic relations. Upon graduation, students receive a graduate degree in their home discipline, as well as a specialization in Migration and Ethnic Relations.

Bangarth said moving forward she would like to see the program expand its reach across campus and in the London community.

“In the next five years, I’d love to branch out into as many faculties as we can on campus,” she said, adding faculties such as Law and Health Sciences would add an interesting perspective to the program. “There is always room for more growth; the issue is whether we can incorporate the program requirement of the other faculties within the MER program.”

Bangarth added a strong relationship already exists with groups in the London community such as the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership – and collaborations with other academic institutions, such as the Ryerson Centre for Immigration and Settlement, are currently in the works.

“It’s MER given me such great opportunities, such as the inspiration to develop a third book project,” she said. “MER has been wonderful for me in invigorating my own research interests.”

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

The Western Collaborative Graduate Program and the Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations, in conjunction with the Inclusion and Civic Engagement and Settlement Sub-councils of the London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership, are holding a symposium, Journeys of Migration, during Western’s International Week.

The event will be held at 3:30 p.m. today (Thursday) in the University Community Centre, Room 315 (Council Chambers).

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Study shows probiotic yogurt reduces toxic risks

Western graduate student Jordan Bisanz recently led a study providing the first clinical evidence that a probiotic yogurt can be used to reduce the deadly health risks associated with mercury and arsenic.

BY PAUL MAYNE

NEW WESTERN-LED research showing probiotic yogurt’s ability to reduce the uptake of certain heavy metals and environmental toxins could significantly reduce the risk for developmental issues in children.

Western graduate student Jordan Bisanz said the study provides the first clinical evidence that a probiotic yogurt can be used to reduce deadly health risks associated with mercury and arsenic.

Bisanz, along with fellow graduate student Megan Enos, was first author on the paper, Randomized Open-Label Pilot Study of the Influence of Probiotics and the Gut Microbiome on Toxic Metal Levels in Tanzanian Pregnant Women and School Children, recently published in mBio, the journal of the American Society for Microbiology. Gregor Reid, Western professor and Lawson Health Research Institute scientist, was senior author.

In the study, the group assessed 44 school-aged children and 60 pregnant women living in Mwanza, Tanzania, near Lake Victoria, an area known for having particularly high environmental pollution. The area is also home to a network of community yogurt kitchens set up through the Western Heads East program, providing a locally sourced, low-cost source of nutrition.

The goal of the research was to assess existing metal levels in the environment and participants’ bodies, map their natural bacteria to identify any potential links to metal absorption, and determine whether the probiotic-supplemented yogurt could influence metal absorption.

Thanks to the consumption of silver cyprinids, a small fish found widely in Tanzania’s Lake Victoria region, mercury and lead levels in children are up to seven times higher than what is typically found in Canadian children.

“Seeing the children, you would never think they were walking around with such high levels of toxins,” Bisanz said. “I hate to think of the consequences for them as they age. The children and pregnant women all loved the yogurt. If we could only scale up these yogurt kitchen concepts, the impact on quality of life could be massive.”

After consuming the yogurt, the children showed some positive results, but it was pregnant women who showed the more dramatic outcomes. That group was protected from further uptake of mercury by up to 36 per cent and arsenic by up to 78 per cent.

Research suggests some naturally occurring bacteria in the body can influence toxic metal levels. Bisanz said DNA sequencing identified two bacteria present in children with the highest concentrations of heavy metals, suggesting the presence of these bacteria may be linked to the metal absorption.

He added it’s possible to use the concept of bioremediation – a treatment that uses naturally occurring organisms to break down hazardous substances into less toxic or non-toxic substances – in dealing with the heavy metals, but just apply them in a different setting, which is in the gastrointestinal tract.

“We’re not reinventing the wheel. We’re trying to use the wheel differently – a new application of it,” Bisanz said. “We’ve all evolved with bacteria and they’ve always been there influencing us. It’s about how we can take the good aspect and make them better. It’s doing a good job, but not a good enough job.”

Bisanz said the probiotic yogurt benefits can be easily replicated in our own backyard, where exposure to these toxins occurs daily.

“In Tanzania, on the shore of Lake Victoria, it’s about as bad as Lake Erie. Let’s not kid ourselves; Lake Erie is horrible,” he said. “Depending on where you live in London, your water supply is drawn from Lake Erie. It’s (mercury) out there.

“The fact is a lot of these toxins end up in the food supply, and people are always trying to remove them from the food, which is not always possible, especially with the metals. They are part of the environment and I don’t see any point in the near future how we’re going to magically undo that.”

Even at low levels, chronic exposure to heavy metals has been linked to certain cancers and delayed neurological and cognitive development in children. In Canada, 15 per cent of reproductive-aged women possess mercury levels that pose a high risk for neurodevelopmental abnormalities in their children.
Western's Employment Resource Centre (WERC) Need resume, cover letter or CV help? Get into WERC and talk to a career lead- er today. WERC's e-person, drop-in ser- vice is available in The Student Success Centre, UCC 210. It is open every day when classes are held, current schedule is 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday.

Undergraduate Course Registration Dates
Nov. 30: Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course (on campus day and evening and Distance Studies) without academic penalty.

Dec. 3: Fall/Winter Term classes end.
Dec. 4-5: Study Days.
Dec. 6-17: Mid-year examination peri- od.

For more information, please visit us on the web at studentservices.uwo.ca and follow us on Twitter @Western_WSS.

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Campus Digest

Western nudges up a spot in Maclean’s rankings

BY JASON WINDERS

WESTERN NUDGED UP one spot, landing at No. 8 in the 24th annual Maclean’s University Rankings issue, released Nov. 10.

For the 10th year in a row, the self-proclaimed “holy book for anyone planning their education in Canada” ranked McGill University first in the Medical Doctoral category, which boasts 13 schools, including Western. The University of Toronto, University of British Columbia (UBC), Queen’s University and University of Alberta rounded out the Top Five. In fact, only Toronto and UBC switching spots reflected any change in the Top 7.

At No. 8, Western was tied with the University of Ottawa, one spot ahead of Laval University.

Western peaked in the Maclean’s rankings at No. 3, where it sat for four straight years (2002-5). It has been no higher than No. 5 (2008) since.

This year, the Medical Doctoral category-by-category breakdown told a variety of stories.

Western ranked highest in library acquisitions, No. 2; students services, scholarships and bursaries and medical science grants, all at No. 5. Western ranked lowest in students awards, total research dollars, student/faculty ratio, faculty awards and social science and humanities grants, all at No. 11.

In a survey of high school guidance counselors, university officials and heads of organizations, as well as CEOs and recruiters at corporations across the country, Western was ranked No. 9 in national reputation against all schools. That is one spot down from last year. Waterloo, UBC, Toronto, McGill and Alberta topped that list.

Western was one spot ahead of Simon Fraser.

That same group ranked Western No. 8 in quality, No. 10 in innovation and No. 12 in its ability to produce the leaders of tomorrow.

Among all universities, Western boasted the second highest entering average (89.3 per cent), third-highest first-year student retention rate (93.2 per cent) and third-highest graduation rate (84 per cent). Western was ranked No. 21 for percentage of graduate students from outside of Canada (20.7 per cent), No. 27 for first-year students from outside of the province (8.7 per cent) and No. 17 for first-year students from outside of Canada (11 per cent).

Also as part of the Maclean’s rankings, the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) portion yielded further interesting numbers for Western – although limited only to its affiliates, as the university itself did not participate in the survey.

When asked to evaluate their entire educational experience at their institution, 41 per cent of Brescia University College first-year students replied ‘excellent,’ 49 per cent ‘good.’ King’s University College followed at 36 per cent/49 per cent and Huron University College with 34 per cent/51 per cent.

NSSE average was 40 per cent responding ‘excellent,’ 48 per cent ‘good.’

Those numbers changed somewhat when the same question was asked of senior-year students.

Brescia again tops the affiliate list as 66 per cent of senior-year students replied ‘excellent,’ 23 per cent replied ‘good.’ Huron followed with 64 per cent/28 per cent, followed by King’s 45 per cent/47 per cent.

NSSE average was 44 per cent responding ‘excellent,’ 43 per cent ‘good.’

When asked if they would attend their current institution again if they had it to do all over again, Brescia saw 51 per cent of first-year students and 61 per cent of senior-year students say they would definitely return, followed by Huron at 43 per cent/65 per cent and King’s at 43 per cent/50 per cent.

NEWS AND NOTES

Western President Amit Chakma has been named to EXECUTIWA, a booster program of 100 senior executives from across Ontario lending their support to the 2015 Pan Am/Parapan Am Games in Toronto.

The Games will welcome 10,000 athletes, officials and fans from 41 countries to locations around the Greater Toronto Area next summer.

Twelve members of the Western community have been named to Business London magazine’s Top 20 Under 40 list for 2014. Those named include: Kevin Aarts, BA’03, Bsc’09; Stephanie Ciccarelli, BMus’06; Colin Dombroski, PhD’12; BHSc’03; Corey Dubreau, BMOS’11; Amer Ebied, MEd’04, BESc’02; Larry Lau, BA’09; Laura Emmett, BACS’04; Adam Jean, BA’00; Pamela Laughland; Bianca Lopes, BMCS’13; Michael Moffatt, PhD’12, BA’99; and Richard Santos, BACS’02.

Pamela Laughland; Bianca Lopes, BMOS’13; Michael Moffatt, PhD’12, BA’99; and Richard Santos, BACS’02.

PAUL MAYNE // WESTERN NEWS

It was – literally – a day at the spa for Western President Amit Chakma last week. As a kick-off to the Shine the Light on Women’s Abuse month-long awareness campaign, Artistic Esthetic Spa’s Jody Delaney gave Chakma the perfect purple manicure. Purple is seen as a symbol of courage, survival and honour, and has come to symbolize the fight to end woman abuse. Western will continue its support by illuminating Alumni Hall in purple for the rest of the month. For more, visit lawc.on.ca/shinethelight.

Western Faculty and Staff are invited to two free lunchtime workshops during Financial Literacy Week.

Financial Literacy is about having the knowledge, skill and confidence to make responsible financial decisions. During Financial Literacy Week Human Resources will be hosting two sessions to help you build these important skills. Come and bring your lunch, to one or both of these sessions:

Investing 101: Your Western Pension
Monday November 17th 12:05-12:55
Social Science Centre Room 3026

When you retire what happens to your accumulated pension funds? Come and learn about the different options that are available for you to start your retirement income. This session will be most relevant to members planning on retiring within the next 10 years.

Investing 101: Converting your pension into a retirement income
Thursday November 20th 12:05-12:55
University College Room 142

Financial Literacy Workshops
Western Retirement Plans
With the temperatures set to take a drastic dip this week, second-year Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry student Stephanie Wu decided to take advantage of one of the last warm weather days on campus. The long-range forecast has the cold hanging around for quite a while, with temperatures not getting above 4 degrees for the next couple of weeks.

Through the generosity of our donors, we are preparing our students for a promising future. Thank you to all of our supporters for opening doors to student success.

In celebration of National Philanthropy Day on November 15, we enlisted the help of some of our students to deliver a personal thank you to a few of our donors – with a Western surprise.

Visit extraordinary.westernu.ca to see what happened.