Imagine having your own reserved parking space in a lot of your choice on campus. It’s yours – that is, if you choose to carpool with a campus colleague or two, on your way to work. The reserved parking space is just one incentive offered through a new carpool program at Western, aiming to support environmentally and economically feasible means of transportation.

While Western did previously offer a carpool program for staff, faculty and students, it wasn’t widely used, said Beverley Ayeni, Western’s sustainability manager.

“We have a better understanding of our staff, faculty and students and there are some great benefits available now.”

The three key incentives offered to members of the Western community through the new carpool program are:

• A reserved parking space, chosen by a carpool group, in a lot accessible with a current pass and transponder;
• A guaranteed ride home, offered to registered carpool members in the event of an emergency, including a limited refund for taxi fare; and
• Four complimentary parking vouchers, per term, offered to each registered carpool member as a one-day parking pass.

Here’s how it works:

As you prepare to renew your parking permit for the following term, consider forming a carpool. To get the benefits of the new program, you must be carpooling with other members of the Western community, Ayeni noted.

To register, first sign up as a carpooler with the City of London via www.regionalrideshare.ca. Western doesn’t have its own carpool database, so this is the best way to find someone else heading to Western. You are also able to pick a colleague of your own, though you still need to register with the city, Ayeni added.

The program is open to staff, faculty and students at Western. Carpool groups must include two or more members. Interested groups need to then schedule an appointment with Parking & Visitor Services by either visiting the office in person (Support Services Building 4150) or emailing parking@uwo.ca.

Once the carpool group is formed, only one transponder will be used for that group. So, if there are three people in the group, two will have to return their transponders. But, that means the cost of the transponder is split three ways.

To learn more about or sign up for Western’s new carpool program, visit the Parking & Visitor Services website: uwo.ca/parking.
THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
La Tertulia. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Email tertulia@uwo.ca. 4:30 p.m. StvH 3101.

BIOMEDICAL IMAGING RESEARCH CENTRE AND ENGINEERING IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY SOCIETY SEMINAR
Brian Rutt, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, Calif. Ultra High Field MRI at Stanford 5:30 p.m. LHSU-1, Auditorium A.

28 // THURSDAY
FACULTY OF EDUCATION’S RESEARCH OFFICE
Icy Lee, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Feedback in L2 writing: Issues, challenges and future directions. RSVP to tbeiyan@uwo.ca. 3 p.m. FEB 1139.

2 // TUESDAY
CAMPUS GARDEN TOURS
A lunch-hour tour of our award-winning campus grounds given by horticultural experts from Western’s Facilities Management team. Open to all faculty, staff and students looking to learn more about what makes Western Canada’s most beautiful campus. Contact livingwell@uwo.ca. 12:05-12:50 p.m. SSB lobby.

ONGOING GRAND ROUNDS
Todd Stevens, London Regional Cancer Program. The expanding role of MRI in Radiotherapy. 12:1 p.m. 790 Commissioners Rd. E., Rooms A3-92A/8.

27 // WEDNESDAY
TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS
Build your confidence in public speaking. Visit 9119.toastmastersclubs.org. Contact Donna Moore at dmoore@uwo.ca or 85159. 12-1 p.m. UCC 147B.

22 // FRIDAY
MCINTOSH GALLERY
Janice Gurney: All the Spaces. Curated by Julian Haladyn. mcintoshgallery.ca. Runs until June 27. Opening reception at 5 p.m.

DR. MAUD L. MENTEN MEMORIAL SPRING SYMPOSIUM
Stefan Knapp, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. Selective Targeting of Epigenetic Effectors Domains of the Bromodomain Family in Cancer. Contact david.litchfield@schulich.uwo.ca for details.

9 a.m.-1 p.m. DSB 1002.

26 // TUESDAY
CAMPUS GARDEN TOURS
A lunch-hour tour of our award-winning campus grounds given by horticultural experts from Western’s Facilities Management team. Open to all faculty, staff and students looking to learn more about what makes Western Canada’s most beautiful campus. Contact livingwell@uwo.ca. 12:05-12:50 p.m. SSB lobby.

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VISITING SPEAKER IN CHEMISTRY

THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
La Tertulia. Anyone wishing to speak Spanish and meet people from different Spanish-speaking countries is welcome. Email tertulia@uwo.ca. 4:30 p.m. StvH 3101.

For more info and to register visit: www.lingpharm.ca. Lamplighter Inn, 591 Wellington Rd.

TOASTMASTER’S CAMPUS COMMUNICATORS
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For information or a personal tour, call 519-660-8731 or email: gibbonsparkmontessori@hotmail.com

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For a personal consultation to discuss the benefits of independent financial advice, call 519-204-4647

www.gibbonsparkmontessori.com

In the recently approved 2015-16 University budget a fund of $4 million is established in support of the Interdisciplinary Initiatives Program, to be expended over the 2015-16 through 2018-19 four-year budget planning period. Up to $1 million will be allocated in 2015-16.

The Interdisciplinary Initiatives Program provides up to three years of seed funding for projects that support graduate education, undergraduate education, and research, and involve interdisciplinary collaborations that cross Department, School or Faculty boundaries.

Proposals for projects may be submitted by faculty members via the Deans of the Faculty, School or Department. Proposals include descriptions of objectives, expected outcomes, and the methods to be used. Deadlines and forms for submission of proposals, host the project. Details of the program, including eligible categories, are available at: uwo.ca/facultyrelations/idi/interdisciplinary_initiatives.html
Chakma to Senate: Listening tour to continue into fall

By Paul Mayne

Western President Amit Chakma said his initial meetings with groups and individuals, part of his listening tour to engage the campus community, have been filled with “tone and substance” and he remains “very optimistic” about the ability to resolve the challenges facing the university.

“I feel energized because of the level of engagement – not necessarily because of the concrete ideas we have been able to come up with, but with the level of engagement, which is very, very rewarding to me personally,” Chakma told university Senate members May 8.

“When I announced the 100-day plan, the intent was to focus my attention on the next several months. The feedback I got was that it (timetable) would not be sufficient. I accept that. So, this consultation process will continue well into the fall and beyond. In fact, some of it should be ongoing.”

At the end of the initial 100-day period, Chakma will report back to Senate in July with ideas related to how to move forward, and, hopefully, offer concrete action items that need to be dealt with quickly. The president also said a review of senior salaries will be undertaken as soon as the Goudge Review is complete.

On April 1, Western’s Board of Governors announced an “independent and impartial review of the university’s presidential compensation practices,” led by Stephen T. Goudge, former Justice of the Court of Appeal of Ontario. Chakma said the review is anticipated to take at least 90 days.

“Once we launch that, I will advise Senate and the results will be made public,” he said. Alison Hearn, University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) president, said a review of senior salaries is a positive step, but one which may be better served externally.

“Trust takes time to rebuild. I think an independent review would be more likely to garner the support of the majority of, at least, UWOFA’s members,” she said. “I believe in Senate, possibly more than I believe in the union,” Hearn said. “The Senate is the governing body of the academic mission of this university and its needs to be enlivened and lively, and have lively debates, and one of the major concerns I’ve heard from members is it tends to, in its makeup, over represent administration, associate deans and deans. It’s felt too many of those are placed in a conflict between their administrative obligations and, possibly, their obligations to their colleagues and to the faculty at large.”

Chakma said while some on campus want immediate results, he cautions any substantive changes will take a collective effort and won’t be instant.

“Take the budget issue. Hindsight is always 20/20, as you reflect on what it is we have done well and what it is we have not done well,” he said. “Maybe what we do is keep SCUP (Senate Committee on University Planning) in the loop, and bring the budget development process to its attention, on a more frequent basis. There are opportunities for engagement with SCUP and I hope that will be a positive step we can take.

“We can’t change budget models overnight, but it doesn’t mean we can’t improve what we do along the way.”

Chakma added there are opportunities to engage the university research board more broadly in various activities and, on the academic side, work on the challenges in supporting more interdisciplinary initiatives.

“We are impressed with the various initiatives underway at Western. This list is very impressive, but there is a desire to do more. One can always do better,” he said. “These are areas where collective reflection and decision-making are required to remove some of these barriers that exist at faculty levels or at administrative levels.”

Other topics discussed included Senate make-up, in particular the over-representation of administration.

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Chakma said while some on campus want immediate results, he cautions any substantive changes will take a collective effort and won’t be instant.

“One thing I’ve learned, in spite of your good intentions and good will, it is dangerous for you to come too quickly to a conclusion on anything,” he said. “The key message is it is a work in progress.”

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Alison Hearn
Letters to the Editor

// Proposing a solution to suffering from ‘other’

I would like to add my congratulations to Western News for the stance adopted in the silent controversy — it was well balanced ("Reporting has lived up to ‘delicate challenge,’ Western News, May 7"). Since the tradition of publishing letters somewhat critical of administrative practices at Western seems to be in good health, I would like to raise an issue concerning our interpretation of Ontario’s Privacy Act.

As a course advisor, I receive web-based requests to acknowledge students’ academic accommodations for class attendance, exams, etc. These have already been granted by academic counselors and my task is merely to indicate this. The categories which I am permitted to know are the student has been granted accommodation for “religious, medical or other” reasons.

When so informed, my task is to click a button indicating that “OK, I understand” or “I do not understand.” One is then left with the Kafkaesque decision to “understand” that a student is suffering from “other.”

Recently I received this exact communication and decided to not “understand” and I pursued a telephone hierarchy until someone, finally, agreed to inform me the matter was one of compassion and I was, of course, immediately satisfied with the rationale for the accommodation.

How much better then if the three choices might be “religious, medical or compassionate” and leave “other” by the wayside where it belongs.

In the spirit of complete privacy, and having suffered from “other” for many years, I ask that this be published over my nom-de-plume.

MICHAEL COOK

PROFESSOR EMERITUS

PHYSIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY

// Some more big ideas on Big Ideas

I wish to broaden the philosophical language that we have adopted. “Big ideas” special issue (Western News, May 7).

Probably the most important thing to understand about philosophy is its remarkably unique character as a discipline because of its absence of “common ground” — which actually defines the fields of science and the humanities.

Since philosophy deals in lofty, abstract concepts and not in the concrete realities of all human ideas, philosophy must be perspective; there is nothing that all philosophers need to commonly accept to “do philosophy,” even the idea of truth itself.

For instance, the opening article ("Better we understand science, better we understand ourselves," Western News, May 7) makes a "common ground" claim but the author’s quote that the world is not "a human creation." Many subjectivists disagree, especially those who borrow from Immanuel Kant’s epistemology.

For example, most people believe that human beings hold bias in how they perceive the world, including that we see the world through human faculties (our eyes, for one), and organize perception data via human consciousness.

While many philosophers wrestle with Kant’s dictum of whether we can know anything ‘in itself’, the more pertinent question is whether this human perception of the world limits us in any way. Since we know about the bias, can we not account for this bias? Success or failure in this can be determined by how predictive we can be in our actions in reality — can we consistently build successful bridges, or will we reach a limit and become victims of an unresolvable, malevolent force?

Some of the articles ("Placing a proper value on parenting" and "Engaging in debate about future food systems," Western News, May 7) fail to account for their political roots.

For instance, Parenting does not ask whether procreation or children should be political footballs, but assumes this political stance as ‘common ground.’ The more essential question is the nature of our rights. If they are granted by the government, then we lose rights to the government. The alternative is a natural rights view, where individuals are sovereign and not speaking of the biological issue but their being. Medicine already wrestles with Kant’s dictum of whether humans can be answerable by a child? What one needs is mindfulness awareness of experiences in action and the agency and knowledge of alternative reactions to answer to.

For the article on mental illness ("Knowing yourself — and your mental state — in new ways, Western News, May 7), I only wish to echo its main thesis: Our conceptual framework matters, always and forever. To determine mental illness requires an organization of proper and improper behavior, but even more importantly, how this is determined. For instance, a subjectivist conceptual framework would make ‘society’ an arbiter of behaviour, attributing deviations from a ‘code of living’ as mental illness (or sin as has been historically ubiquitous). An objectivist framework would ground mental illness in the individual’s success in perceiving and thus surviving in what is commonly experienced in reality, physical and social. Is mental health merely a medical phenomenon, or does it also include proportioned agency and thus moralism (choice)?

ANDREW D. COLGAN

PHD CANDIDATE, EDUCATION MED, B Ed, BSC

// Presidential presence could answer many questions

It’s been a few weeks since the ‘double-payment’ controversy.

Those standing by President Chakma, and those claiming for his resignation, have made their positions well-known. Professors have expressed their opinions; alumni have weighed in. However, one of Chakma’s main constituents has remained relatively silent — students. On campus, the whole, have been relatively mute.

Some grad students have expressed their opinions on the pay inequality issue since many grad students are left to live on minimal TA money, whereas the president made nearly a million dollars in 2014. But what about undergrads?

As this whole episode unfolded, the timing could not have been worse for student engagement. Most students had more important things to deal with such as final exams, studying for important final exams and completing projects, than coming to conclusions about an issue that, frankly, isn’t proximate to the ‘here and now’ for most students.

My general sense of the student stance on this issue was one of shoulder shrugging. Yeah, it’s a university issue, but, really, what can students do to change this situation anyways?

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Taking learning outside the classroom

Editor’s note: This story first appeared in spring 2015 edition of Reflections, The Teaching Support Centre newsletter. It is reprinted here with permission of the author.

BY ANNE-MARIE E. FISCHER

WHEN YOU THINK about the most important learning experiences of your life, where did they take place? Were they in a traditional classroom setting? Did they happen when you were sitting in a library pouring over a journal article?

My guess is your most pivotal learning experiences were sitting in a library pouring over a journal article? Were they in a traditional classroom, and even outside the classroom, while you were interacting with your peers, your professors and the community in which you lived.

I invite you to imagine a classroom without walls. Imagine a curriculum that allows you to respond to the emerging needs and trends of our society. Imagine inviting experts outside the Western Gates to bridge academic theory with practice. Imagine designing a course where students are able to simultaneously obtain knowledge, build transferable skills and develop a keen sense of civic engagement.

This is community engaged learning (CEL), and The Student Success Centre at Western is ready to assist faculty members, as well as faculties, departments and units, in integrating this innovative approach into their current teaching activities.

Through community engaged learning experiences at Western, students in a Psychology course have helped addictions recovery organizations manage a strategy for wait lists. Students in a Health Studies course worked in community centres recently deceased members of the Western community. Students in a Political Science course worked on a restoration plan for lands that had ecological complications due to human interventions. Students in a Biology course worked on a restorative justice project for students with learning disabilities who entered the prison system. Students in a Music course worked on a restoration project for a local music hall to be transformed into a community center. Students in a Sociology course worked on a restoration project for a local music hall to be transformed into a community center.

The Teaching Support Centre has partnered with more than 30 faculty members from a variety of disciplines to design effective community engaged learning courses. We have worked with almost 200 community organizations who share our passion for helping to educate our future leaders and value the meaningful contributions students make towards the mission of their organization. More than 2,500 students have benefited from this innovative form of teaching and learning.

Our support includes helping faculty to design course syllabi with CEL in mind, identifying community partnerships and projects, facilitating in-class reflections and assisting in the assessment of student learning and community outcomes. Regardless of discipline, we are able to provide customized support for the development of a new course, or the enhancement of existing courses.

You are invited to meet with the Experiential Learning Team in The Student Success Centre to explore community engaged learning in your own teaching practice. Together, we can transform learning, contribute to our community, and provide students with meaningful opportunities to ground their learning in real-world experience.

Anne-Marie E. Fischer is the community engaged learning coordinator for The Student Success Centre.

“The concept of experiential learning hinges on the idea that learning is not an outcome, but rather a process.”

MAKE A CONNECTION

Contact the Experiential Learning Team in The Student Success Centre at cel@uwo.ca for more information on incorporating community engaged learning into your work.

COMMENTARY POLICY

• Western News applies a commentary label to any article written in an author’s own opinion.
• Western News accepts opinion pieces on research, conference topics, student life and/or international experiences from faculty and staff. Limit is 600 words.
• Western News accepts “in memoriam” pieces about recently deceased members of the Western community penned by other members of the Western community.
• Western News accepts opinion pieces on current events that showcase research or academic expertise of the author.
• Western News accepts letters to the editor. Limit is 250 words maximum, and accepted only from members of the Western community — faculty, staff, students and alumni. Writers may only submit once a semester.
• As an academic institution, Western News encourages lively debate, but reserves the right to edit, ask for rewrite or reject any submission, and will outright reject those based on personal attacks or covering subjects too removed from the university community.
• Western News will offer rebuttal space on any topic, and may actively pursue a counterpoint to arguments the editor feels would benefit from a dissenting opinion published simultaneously.
• All submissions become property of Western News for print and online use in perpetuity.
Sleep apnea cutting lives short, researcher argues

**Research**

**BY PAUL MAYNE**

**PHYSIOLOGY AND PHARMACOLOGY**

Professor John Ciriello’s research shows pregnant women suffering from sleep apnea may actually be putting their unborn children at risk for metabolic diseases as adults.

Sleep apnea is a disorder in which breathing repeatedly stops during rest, thus depriving the body of oxygen.

“Normal oxygen levels are around 96 per cent. But that drops down to 90, or even 88, during a period of time for those with sleep apnea,” Ciriello said. “That’s what people don’t seem to understand – those who have sleep apnea, on record, lose about 10 years of their lives because it leads to metabolic disorders, such as high blood pressure. That’s what kills you in the end.”

Clinicians must ‘wake up’ and understand that sleep apnea should be considered one of the components in the metabolic syndrome, Ciriello argued. These clusters of conditions (including increased blood pressure, a high blood sugar level, excess body fat around the waist and abnormal cholesterol levels) increase the risk of heart disease, stroke and diabetes.

For his study, Ciriello observed female rats and their offspring. The research team exposed female rats to intermittent bouts of no oxygen as soon as they became pregnant. The researchers observed the offspring of those females exposed to chronic intermittent hypoxia during gestation, including Type 2 diabetes. “It was a eureka moment. We did not expect these changes to occur. We thought there might be a slight change at birth, and that things would work themselves out. But that was not the case, because we followed them into adulthood and they’re in bad shape.”

Individuals with severe sleep apnea can experience numerous bouts of oxygen deprivation throughout the night, each one a duration of up to 30-40 seconds without breathing.

“Just think of holding your breath for about 30 to 40 seconds, say 100 times,” he said, noting in cases such as this a person would require a CPAP (continuous positive airway pressure) device. “The problem with that is the compliance, where we’ll see in three to six months, the person stops using it. Because you are forcing air in them, people feel they are getting bloated, or their partner doesn’t like the noise.”

In mild cases, people can attempt to sleep on their sides or use a mouth guard to bring out the jaw line in an attempt to maintain the airway.

Ciriello will look further into the effects of sleep apnea, but hopes his research will help the media and the public understand the consequences it can have on children as they grow.

“When I talk to physicians, or those who deliver babies, I say ‘Do you ever ask the female if she’s ever suffered from sleep apnea?’ The answer is ‘no.’ It never appears on a form,” he said. “There are a lot of things we are exposed to in the modern era, and we simply tend to blame the most obvious things. Maybe we should be looking at ourselves more closely. We’ve blamed McDonald’s all our lives for all the problems we have. Maybe it’s not; maybe it’s as simple as more people not breathing properly during pregnancy.”

“Maybe we don’t seem to understand – those who have sleep apnea, on record, lose about 10 years of their lives because it leads to metabolic disorders, such as high blood pressure. That’s what kills you in the end.”

— John Ciriello
Physiology and Pharmacology professor John Ciriello’s research shows pregnant women suffering from sleep apnea may actually be putting their unborn children at risk for metabolic diseases as adults.

The Department of Physics and Astronomy invites the campus community to the 2015 Elizabeth Laird Memorial Lecture

Dr. Olga Popova
Institute for Dynamics of Geospheres
Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow

“The Chelyabinsk Meteoroid Entry and Airburst Damage”

Public Lecture / All are Welcome
4:30 p.m., Wed., 27th May 2015
Physics and Astronomy Bldg, Room 106
Reception to follow in PAB atrium

NOTICE TO JOIN THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION
305th CONVOCATION - SPRING 2015

Spring Convocation takes place Tuesday, June 9 to Friday, June 12 and Monday, June 15 to Wednesday, June 17 with ceremonies at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Members of Faculty, Senate, the Board of Governors and Emeritus/a Professors/Archivists/Librarians are invited to take part in the Academic Procession. Full information on joining the academic procession (including order of ceremony, honorary degree recipients, assembly and regalia) may be found on the Senate Website: uwo.ca/univsec/senate/convocation/index.html

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CAMPOK!
original kids summer theatre camp


Camp OK is located on the grounds of Huron College Campus. CAMP OK is a total theatre experience where youth (ages 7-16) can blossom as performers. Theatre however is not the only aspect of CAMP OK! We also offer lunchtime activities, water events and loads of games, but most importantly FUN. CAMP OK! is an attitude - an environment in which kids and young adults can express themselves openly.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!!
WWW.CAMPOK.CA

For complete info please contact us at 519-679-8825, summerscamp@oktc.ca, www.campok.ca
Kidney transplant survival could benefit from unexpected source

BY PAUL MAYNE

A COLOURLESS, ODOURLESS and toxic gas to humans may hold a rather counter-intuitive key to extending the lives of kidney transplant recipients, Western researchers say.

Kidney disease strikes 2.6 million Canadians, with an average of 16 people per day experiencing kidney failure of some sort. Despite improvements in immunosuppressive therapy, the long-term survival of kidney transplant patients has not increased dramatically over the past decade. "More than 95 per cent of kidney transplants are successful through the first year. But overall survival over time hasn't changed too much," said Patrick Luke, a Surgery professor in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. "I tell people, for a deceased donor kidney, it would be between 11-15 years as an average. We'd like to see this become 20 or 25 years."

Luke, along with research associate Rabindra Bhattacharjee and others at the Matthew Mailing Centre for Translational Transplant Studies, are pioneering a unique treatment using carbon monoxide-releasing molecules (CORM) in an attempt to meet that aggressive target.

The researchers are part of a $10 million Canadian National Transplant Research Program project, the first in the world to unite the solid organ transplant, bone marrow transplant and donation/critical care research communities together. More than 100 researchers and 86 collaborators at 13 centres and universities in nine provinces are coming together over six nationwide research projects to improve clinical outcomes for transplant recipients.

Luke and Bhattacharjee also have a Physicians’ Services Incorporated Foundation grant ($169,000) to assist their research. Normally, when you breathe carbon monoxide, the gas enters the lungs and binds to the hemoglobin in the red blood cells. As the level of carbon monoxide increases, the amount of oxygen the blood carries to the body's cells decreases, leading to oxygen starvation.

However, in a lab setting, treating kidneys with a synthesized form of carbon monoxide, CORM, has improved kidney transplant function and survival when added directly to the kidney storage solution prior to transplantation. At the time of the transplant, CORM is no longer present – thanks to its short half-life – which means no danger to the patient.

Kidney transplant patient survival is mostly dependent on the damage that occurs during kidney removal from the donor and prolonged preservation in a cold solution, Bhattacharjee said. "Lack of blood supply during the entire transplantation processes deprives the kidney from getting oxygen, which provokes inflammation in this organ," he said. "In small animal models, we have shown CORM improves kidney function and survival when given to the kidney donor or when added directly to the kidney storage solution."

CORM acts as an anti-inflammatory. It dilates the blood vessels and prevents the death of cells. Luke believes this could also lead to the reduction of toxic immunosuppressive drug use required for transplant patients.

"The point of all these studies is to set up the immune system so that when we do the transplants, we are going to condition these kidneys in a way that the immune system doesn’t attack it (kidney) and take years off it at the outset," Luke said. He noted more than 4,500 Canadians are waiting for an organ transplant. As less than 50 per cent of those people will receive an organ, one die each day while waiting for an organ.

For Bhattacharjee – who called working with Luke “wonderful ground to grow my plant” – he sees no issues to keep this idea from the bedside in the near future. Western is currently approving its human ethics protocol.

"The good thing with CORM and kidney preservation is we are not directly treating the patient, but the kidneys after donation," he said. "If CORM works positively in kidney preservation, it would work equally for other organs, too."

At the one-year mark of transplantation, if a biopsy was done, you could expect to see 40 to 60 per cent showing interstitial fibrosis and tubular atrophy, or abnormalities in the kidney’s function, Luke added.

"With this early treatment, we are trying to set up for success 10, 15, 20 years down the road, so we don’t have to re-transplant. If we are able to condition them with something like carbon monoxide, and prevent the immune system from being revved up, and reduce inflammation, I think that is exciting."

Working on this for almost a decade, Luke has looked at this at the cellular level, in small animals, large animals and now has grant proposals written to bring his research to humans.

"I don’t want to cure any mice," Luke said, noting success in humans could come as soon as five years. "The ultimate goal is to create the best situation for patients. If I could do one thing in my lifetime that changes the practice of medicine, if I can say we’ve done this, that every one getting a kidney transplant will use this method, that’s so exciting!"

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Student Life

Student-engineered ‘smart implant’ may save money, relieve pain

BY ADELA TALBOT

IT’S PAINFUL, INCONVENIENT and costly. But if detected early, implant loosening – the slight movement of a newly replaced hip – can be dealt with, without the need for a major follow-up surgery, according to a group of Western students.

Roughly half a million patients undergo a hip replacement surgery each year in North America. Of those patients, about 5 per cent – or 25,000 – will experience implant loosening and require a follow-up hip surgery because of resultant bone weakening.

“The implant becomes loose, and sometimes, there’s not always symptoms associated with this. It’s called ‘aseptic loosening,’ which happens without an infection so you don’t know (it’s moved) until it’s too late, until it starts wearing down the bone,” said Jolien Van Gaalen, an Engineering student studying mechatronic systems.

“The patient goes in, and maybe they’re experiencing pain at this point. The patient would have to get a scan that is not widely available and at that point you can already have permanent damage to the bone,” she continued. Currently, there are only four places in Canada equipped to do the type of scan that could detect implant loosening – a shift that occurs on a scale of micrometers. The scan isn’t just widely unavailable – it’s also incredibly costly. But Van Gaalen, along with three other Engineering students, has helped design a potential solution, engineering a smart implant that could detect loosening early on. The smart implant can wirelessly transfer data to a medical centre, requiring a visit to a local doctor and only a minimally invasive procedure to fix the problem.

Van Gaalen worked on the project with Hilary Luo, Mofeed Sawan and Peter Nielsen, while Robarts Research Institute researcher David Holdsworth supervised.

Their implant design took top prize in the Western Engineering Competition earlier this year and the group placed third in a provincial conference.

“This method can detect early on when there is loosening, so patients can do a minor revisional surgery. The patient doesn’t need to have to leave their home because the data can be transferred to a cloud and the doctor can look at that,” Van Gaalen said.

“We wanted to do something with sensorized implants because that’s something that’s big, and coming up in the future. We had a lot of 3D-printing technology we could use to our advantage at Robarts,” Nielsen said.

“We were thinking maybe we could try and make (detecting the implant loosening) cheaper with something more along the lines of embedded technology. We were talking with orthopedic researchers and we realized nobody had been able to properly create a mechanism of detecting micro loosening,” Sawan added.

“We thought there was a huge amount of potential. People said it was impossible – everyone told us we were wasting our time, and we were, until we came up with a solution nobody had thought of before.” Sawan and Nielsen noted their idea is pending a patent and, therefore, cannot discuss the particulars of how the smart hip implant works, although they did say it involves vibration sensors.

“The real challenge with it is the loosening of an implant is on a scale of micrometers – less than a 20th of a millimeter. We’ve currently tested at 10 times that scale. We’re still working on refining that system, but right now, what we’ve shown is that our system has the potential to work with those small loosenings,” Nielsen explained.

“It’s not something we can put into a person tomorrow, but it has shown promising potential to succeed.”
Between parking passes and gas expenses, it's much less expensive for group members to park on campus, Ayeni explained. What's more, given the success of the program, there could be more parking spaces available across campus. Carpooling could easily reduce traffic congestion, she continued.

“This is a great way to take part in the climate change challenge,” Ayeni said. “But you also save money, conserve energy and reduce traffic congestion, as well. Ideally, we would like to see people signing up for this, and seeing it as a value and a great way to help our environment.”

While carpool groups are required to sign up for a minimum duration of one term at a time, the parking office will consider dissolving a group due to extenuating circumstances, should they come up, Ayeni added.

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Campus emergency responders gathered for Harmony 10, Western’s annual emergency exercise, in response to a simulated explosion at Western’s North Substation last Thursday morning. Campus responders involved in the exercise included Campus Community Police Service; Student Emergency Response Team (SERT); Fire Safety and Emergency Management; HazMat Team; Emergency Response Team (ERT); and Emergency Operations Control Group (EOCG). In addition to testing on-site readiness, the exercise included tests of the university’s communication tools, including mass email, homepage, as well as emergency-related messaging on social media and the main telephone switchboard.
On Campus

’Tis the season

BY JASON WINDERS

NOW THAT WE (mostly) have the kids out of the house for a few weeks, let’s get a little work done around here. Construction season is already in full swing on campus, with a number of capital and infrastructure improvements on the slate for summer.

A trio of large capital projects is already underway, including the new Music building, scheduled for mid-summer completion with move-in prior to new academic term; Delaware Hall, scheduled to be completed by the new academic term; and the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS)/Nursing building, scheduled to open in early 2017.

Beyond those high-profile projects, Summer 2015 will feature a variety of infrastructure enhancements across the campus, including:

Westminster Parking Lot
Duration: Three weeks in mid-to-late summer.
Features: A new lot is being added to the south of Westminster Hall. The roughly 90 new spaces will be designed for grey permit holders.

South Valley Parking Lot
Duration: Three weeks in second half of summer.
Features: New spaces are being added, extending the South Valley Lot along Huron Drive. South Valley is quickly becoming one of the more popular lots on campus, growing last year and again adding another 150 new grey permit spaces this year.

Westminster Pedestrian Bridge
Duration: 12 weeks in second half of summer.
Features: The modernization of the pedestrian bridge will feature an accessible ramp, meeting Western’s commitment to create a barrier-free institution. A temporary bridge will be installed adjacent to the current structure, mitigating interruption to pedestrian passage.

Elgin Drive Resurfacing
Duration: Three weeks in June and July.
Service Interruption: Rotating lane closures are expected throughout the project.
Features: The busy bus and University Community Centre (UCC) delivery route faces heavy, unforgiving loads. The worn roadway will get a fresh coat of asphalt.

Sanitary Sewer/Pump Station Installation
Duration: May 1-Aug. 31
Service Interruptions: Complete closure of Huron Drive at Philip Aziz Avenue (through June 30). Parking lots will be accessible via detours.
Features: Greater demands are being put on infrastructure in the South Valley precinct of campus, including the new FIMS/Nursing building, requiring sanitary sewer upgrades. The project will prepare the site for future development.

Perth Drive Pedestrian Crossing
Duration: 12 weeks beginning in August.
Features: The crossing will include traffic lights, similar to the crossing farther South on Perth Drive. The new infrastructure will create a more visible and accessible crossing from Chemistry Parking Lot to main campus.

Updates for all projects will be available at uwo.ca/fm throughout the summer.
Student finds success in the kitchen and beyond with @CollegeCookin

BY ADELA TALBOT

AT FIRST, DANIELLE Hausberg was just taking photos of her meals to show family members she was cooking on her own and making healthy choices.

A friend’s suggestion to post her meals on Instagram followed, and before she knew it, the Sociology student had thousands of followers on her account, @CollegeCookin. Today, that number exceeds half a million.

“I’ve always been a naturally healthy eater. I wanted to be able to eat what I liked at school, and that’s why I decided to cook,” said Hausberg, who is in her last year of a Sociology degree.

“I like food, and I like eating good food. So, eating out wasn’t the best option for me, because it’s harder to find healthy options at restaurants – restaurants didn’t appeal to me as much as my own food. So, I thought, I might as well cook.”

Peruse through her account and you’ll see bright, colourful and artfully arranged photos of salads, soups, seafood dishes, breakfast foods and much more. Below each post Hausberg shares the ingredients used in the meal. Each is an example of a realistic, affordable, easy-to-make and relatively quick meal and snack options any student could replicate.

“A lot of my ideas come from my mom and things she’s made – she’s a big cook,” Hausberg said, adding she visits food websites and watches The Food Network regularly for inspiration.

In just two short months – after starting @CollegeCookin in November 2013 – Hausberg had garnered more than 10,000 followers. From there, her audience grew quickly, she said. When the number of followers reached 100,000, Hausberg decided to give back by publishing an e-cookbook featuring her recipes.

The e-book is available on her website, at college-cookin.com, or from Amazon’s Kindle store for $5.

All her efforts are to promote healthy eating. Hausberg noted, to show students like herself it is possible to eat healthy while studying away from home. It’s not as hard as one might think, she said, to cook for oneself and eat healthy on a tight budget.

“I think I spend on track with your average student. I go grocery shopping just as much as all my friends. When you’re buying healthy ingredients it can cost more money, but to me, it’s worth it because I could be going out for all these meals and spending way more,” Hausberg went on.

“I don’t over spend. I buy what I need, always. You have to prioritize what’s important – a girl might spend money on getting her nails done, but I would do that less so I could go grocery shopping more. It’s all about budgeting.”

More and more, Hausberg is finding herself working with various brands and food companies. Last year, she teamed up with Disney to promote the Helen Mirren culinary movie, The Hundred Foot Journey, in which a restaurant owner hires chefs based on their ability to make an omelette. Hausberg got to make her own omelette and even attended a private screening of the movie at Universal Studios.

@CollegeCookin has also expanded its social media platforms to Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. And while this side project may be time consuming for someone who is still a full-time student, Hausberg intends on letting it run its own course.

“I’m not giving this up any time soon. It’s a part-time, sometimes full-time, job for me. We’ll see where it goes. I could never imagine I would be here right now. It’s growing in its own direction,” she said.

Sociology student Danielle Hausberg started an Instagram account to share photos of healthy meals she had made. Today, @CollegeCookin has more than half a million followers and Hausberg has published an e-book cookbook featuring her recipes.

ADELA TALBOT // WESTERN NEWS
Snapshots in time
Western celebrates two years on Instagram

EARLYBIRD OR MAY-FAIR? Lo-fi or Inkwell? No single Instagram filter can cover Western’s glamour.

On May 16, Western celebrated the second anniversary of its Instagram account, @westernuniversity, the second largest Canadian university account that currently boasts more than 12,000 followers and 800 ‘grams.

“We work hard to bring our entire community into what we share,” said Melissa Cheater, digital content manager for the university. “Western’s Instagram account has always been a favourite platform of ours and it brings us closer to our community than other social networks. Our Instagram followers are more active than our followers on other networks – it really feels like a community.”

Western’s Instagram account has been a community favourite with an active follower base constantly sharing and contributing images.

In celebrating the account’s anniversary, Western’s Instagram will branch out by starting to follow interesting alumni Instagram accounts, including:

- Cameron Bailey, BA’07, artistic director for the Toronto International Film Festival, @cameronpbailey;
- Paul Wells, BA’89, author and Maclean’s magazine journalist, @inklesspw;
- Sarah Richardson, BA’93, designer and HGTV host, @sarahrichardsondesign;
- Stephan Moccio, BMus’94, songwriter, @stephanmoccio; and
- Vava Angwenyi, BSc’03, founder Vava Coffee Ltd., @vavacoffeekenya.

With the new additions, alumni and campus community photographers will fuse the many hues and shades of Western, said Cheater.

Presented here today are Western’s Top 10 Most Liked images, as of the anniversary.

- Gordon Si
Research

Education professor keeping lessons of Fukushima alive

BY CORY HABEMEHL

ON MARCH 11, 2011, a magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off the northeast coast of Japan. The quake unleashed a tsunami that slammed into the country, disabling infrastructure and destroying everything in its path. Just days later, Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant experienced the worst nuclear meltdown since Chernobyl.

First-responders rushed directly into the heart of the Fukushima disaster. And while each had specialized training, they later identified changes in their education that could have enabled them to be even more effective during the disaster response.

To ensure the next generation of emergency responders is better equipped to handle future catastrophes, Education professor Kathryn Hibbert recently travelled to Japan to work in collaboration with hospitals, governments and physician educators to make certain lessons learned at Fukushima find a way into future classrooms.

Specializing in curriculum development, Hibbert is cross-appointed between Education and Western’s Department of Medical Imaging, where she is a researcher at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry’s Centre for Education, Research and Innovation.

She – literally – wrote the book on radiology education. Because of this expertise, and her unique appointments, she has been working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the body that oversees all nuclear activities worldwide, for the past eight years.

When Japanese nuclear officials and their colleagues at the IAEA were keen to document what they learned during the management of the Fukushima crisis, and incorporate it into a revised curriculum for first-responders, they called Hibbert.

“There was a lot of concern about not losing the lessons they’d learned. But these were scientists with no real experience documenting those type of learnings in a meaningful way, or integrating them into educational curriculum,” Hibbert said. “That became my task.”

Officials sent Hibbert data from interviews they had conducted with first-responders so she could use the information in her curriculum.

“My goal was to keep the stories alive,” Hibbert said. “I conducted a narrative analysis of the interviews done by the nuclear radiation specialists, and rewrote them into narrative stories, which are far more memorable and a terrific tool from which to learn.”

Hibbert’s stories focus on the emergency responders’ first-person accounts, and pay particular attention to specific things the individuals highlighted as missing in their previous education and training. In conjunction with the stories, she created a series of resources and activities as part of a fulsome curriculum, and in December, travelled to Japan to work with officials and medical professionals to help them integrate her work into their existing materials.

One of the first things realized during disaster was a huge communication problem existed among first-responders, who had never been required to explain their specialized knowledge to the general public.

“Physicians were trained to talk to patients, but this was different,” Hibbert said. “They found themselves talking about radiation safety levels to frightened mothers, the elderly, kindergarten teachers who wanted to know if their kids could play at recess – it was something totally foreign to them.”

Amid growing anxiety, the public began turning on front-line experts.

“All this public anger and fear was directed at the responders – at these extremely courageous people who were doing their absolute best,” Hibbert said. “It was extremely taxing on them.”

She realized mental health was as big an issue as the radiation response itself. As such, she not only developed a curriculum that focuses on improved communications, but also has a significant mental health component as well.

With her work well underway, but far from complete, Hibbert will return to Japan in late June, where she plans to follow up on the curriculum implementation and how it might be further expanded, including into the digital realm.

Hibbert is looking forward to connecting in person once again with the Japanese educators and medical professionals with whom she has been working. Their resolve to carry on and learn from what took place at Fukushima has been truly inspiring, she said.

“You would never find more committed people anywhere – they recognize they have learned some important lessons, which is why they are so adamantly that what they learned not be lost,” she said. “I am incredibly humbled to have been asked to help with this endeavor and never in my life have I felt so honoured.”

JASON WINDERS // WESTERN NEWS

Education professor Kathryn Hibbert recently travelled to Japan to work in collaboration with hospitals, governments and physician educators to ensure lessons learned at Fukushima find a way into future classrooms.
On Campus

Staffer carries the weight of the Worlds

BY GORDON SO

POWERLIFTER ROBYN RIPLEY dreams about more than simply winning something to gather dust on a shelf.

“When people ask me about this ‘big dream,’ they expect me to talk about the hardware I am bringing home — that is really a side dream,” said Ripley, recent interim Campus Recreation Services fitness and wellness coordinator, and currently a coach at the Western Student Recreation Center (WSRC).

Instead, she dreams of changing the perceptions of strong women in sport and, in turn, society.

Ripley stands 5-foot-3-inches and weighs 52 kg (114 pounds). But don’t let small stature belie her explosive power as a powerlifter.

First, let’s distinguish powerlifting and weightlifting. In weightlifting, also known as Olympic weightlifting, athletes throw weight over their heads, via clean and jerk or clean and press. The powerful movements demand speed and flexibility. In powerlifting, athletes bench, deadlift and squat the weight. It is more of a raw strength sport.

While an empty bar, which weighs about 20 kg (44 pounds), may pose a challenge to some, Ripley benches 80 kg (176 pounds), deadlifts 165 kg (364 pounds) and squats 124 kg (275 pounds). However, those are only modest numbers.

During her time at Western, Ripley became immersed in the local lifting and fitness culture. That led to her recently finishing second in her weight class at the Canadian Powerlifting Union (CPU) National Championships in St. Catharines. The 28-year-old hoisted more than 340 kg over the three events.

Ranking sixth overall among 100 women at the competition, she qualified for the International Powerlifting Federation’s Classics Powerlifting World Championships, where the world’s finest powerlifters will converge on Salo, Finland, to compete in June.

Ripley will be the first London woman to walk on that world stage.

“The ‘big dream’ is, I can change the way other women think about sport. I want women to do sports that challenge the social norm,” she said. “Every time I grab the groceries, people ask, ‘Can I help you with that?’ And it is great to be able to say, ‘I can do it myself.’

It shouldn’t matter whether you’re male or female. It shouldn’t matter if you’re big or small. Anyone could do it,” Ripley said.

When not competing, Ripley coaches. Last summer, she met a Western student who thought she was not strong enough to compete in powerlifting. Ripley then told her, “It’s not about being strong enough. It’s about making that step. Competing is about having a good time and doing your best. Maybe you will exceed your expectations.”

Since powerlifting is not yet an official Olympic sport, Ripley receives no funding for going to the championships. Because of that, she decided to hold a fundraiser in London to finance her trip to Finland. The goal is to reach $4,000 in donations to offset the costs for the Team Canada jersey, hotel, training and food.

Ripley has been told how she has changed the way other athletes see powerlifting and how she has inspired them to lift heavier things. She is glad her story is able to connect everyone in the weightlifting community.

“The fitness scene in London is awesome,” she said. “Everyone cares about even ‘little’ people like me.”

During her time at Western, powerlifter Robyn Ripley became immersed in the local lifting and fitness culture. That led to her recently finishing second in her weight class at the Canadian Powerlifting Union National Championships. Today, she is preparing to take on the world at the International Powerlifting Federation World Championships.

HELP WITH THE HEAVY LIFTING

For more information about Robyn Ripley and how to sponsor her journey to the International Powerlifting Federation (IPF) World Championships, contact her at rripley9@gmail.com.
Honours

A few minutes to change the world

BY JASON WINDERS AND ADELA TALBOT

Western postdoctoral scholars put their research on the clock during a 3 Minute Research (3MR) Competition, hosted as part of the 2015 Postdoctoral Research Forum May 7 in the Great Hall, Somerville House.

The competition is a research communication exercise where postdoctoral scholars had three minutes or less to present their work and its impact to a diverse group of audience members. Cash prizes were given to assist winners in attending conferences to promote their research and further their career network.

Hosted by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (SGPS) and the Postdoctoral Association at Western (PAW), the competition was part of the 2015 Postdoctoral Research Forum, where more than 80 postdoctoral scholars took part in a day-long agenda, covering a wide range of topics.

The forum concluded with the granting of a number of awards, including Daniel Ansari, Psychology professor and Brain and Mind Institute, named Supervisor of the Year; Helen Kerr, Occupational Therapy’s administrative assistant, with Administrative Excellence; and Aydin Behnad, Electrical and Computer Engineering, named Postdoctoral Scholar of the Year.

LAUREN SOLOMON, FIRST PLACE
Microbiology and Immunology
Shooting the Messenger: Targeting Transcription in Cancer

Solomon’s research focuses on leukemia and lymphoma, both blood cancers caused by genetic mutations that alter the program of gene expression in developing blood cells through many different types of mechanisms. Spi-B is a protein located in the nucleus of developing blood cells that can turn genes ‘on’ or ‘off’. Spi-B levels are often reduced in a type of blood cancer called B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. In contrast, Spi-B levels are often increased in a type of blood cancer called B cell lymphoma.

Solomon’s research has two major goals. First, she aims to understand how Spi-B levels are affected by the type of mutations that occurs in leukemia and lymphoma. Second, she wants to understand how altered levels of Spi-B contribute to causing leukemia and lymphoma. The long-term goal of this work is to identify molecular-targeted therapies for B cell leukemias and lymphomas.
TOBIAS MORAT, THIRD PLACE
Kinesiology
To Fall or Not To Fall: Finding the Right Training Program for Older Adults

With increasing age, individuals experience a number of physiological, biochemical, psychological and sociological changes, and, as a consequence, problems in movements of everyday life occur (such as climbing stairs, rising from a chair, walking, and activities of daily living like hygienic activities and managing housework). This can lead to decreased mobility.

Morat’s research focuses on the mobility of older adults and creating both a new test to assess mobility and a comprehensive systematic training program with three relevant components (resistance and balance exercises combined with movements and surfaces of everyday life) within each training session, to positively influence the mobility and muscular strength of older adults.

NINA WEISHAUPT, SECOND PLACE
Anatomy and Cell Biology
The Quest to Prevent Alzheimer’s Disease: A Molecular Imaging Approach

If you have a stroke, you are more than twice as likely to develop dementia later on. Weishaupt’s research aims to find out why cardiovascular conditions, such as stroke, make the brain more vulnerable to dementia. To study this, her lab induces stroke in transgenic rats that will develop signs of Alzheimer’s disease months after the stroke. This provides a window to study what cellular changes occur during the progression from stroke to an Alzheimer’s-like brain state. The research focuses on the cell membrane, which contains different lipids (fats). Among those lipids, the gangliosides are most interesting, because changes in ganglioside expression go hand in hand with changes in cellular vulnerability to stressors. The only downside is, gangliosides are hard to measure with traditional histological methods.

This is why Weishaupt’s lab is using a new molecular imaging approach, shining a laser beam on a tiny spot of a rat brain section, which makes molecules detach from the section and fly down a vacuum tube in a mass spectrometer. The instrument then creates a mass spectrum, in which different gangliosides are represented as individual peaks, with peak height showing how much of that ganglioside was in that tissue spot. If software treats laser spot as a pixel, researchers can observe changes in ganglioside expression within anatomical context in an entire brain section. The hope is this approach will bring us one step further towards preventing, or at least slowing down the progression from stroke to dementia.
Determined learners never done studying

BY DONNA MOORE

FIFTEEN LEARNERS FROM a variety of educational institutions and agencies received Adult Learner Awards from the London Council for Adult Education earlier this month. Two Western students were among these award recipients. A third Western student received the SAGE (Students Aged Gracefully through Experience) Student of the Year Award.

Priya Khalsa was unable to finish high school due to mental health issues. She was living with severe anxiety, depression, addiction issues, a personality disorder, an eating disorder and spent several years in and out of long-term care facilities. But during her pregnancy at the age of 21, she decided to finish high school and work toward recovery, simultaneously. She applied to Western the following year.

Returning to school has changed Khalsa’s life. In 2010, she and her 13-month-old son moved to London, which became their first permanent home. They had never been to London before and didn’t have any friends or family in the city.

As a single parent in a full-time degree program, it was challenging balancing academic commitments with child-care responsibilities. Khalsa worked hard to achieve a 90 per cent average in her second and third years.

This June, she graduates with an honors specialization in Health Sciences and a minor in Psychology. Khalsa has been accepted to her first choice, the University of Toronto’s Law School for specialization degree in Health Sciences and a minor. She applied to both medical and law schools as she has an equal interest in both areas. Khalsa never thought she would be able to accomplish her academic goals until she came to Western.

She has been an active part of the community since arriving in London and has been a dedicated volunteer at Regional Mental Health London for the last three years. It has been an especially meaningful experience as a result of her personal history with mental illness. She is also a facilitator for the Leadership Education Program and received the Leadership Educator of the Year award last year for her passion and commitment toward the program.

Khalsa worked with Youth Opportunities Unlimited through Alternative Spring Break, London, in 2013, and taught English with Outreach 360 through ABD Dominican Republic in 2014. She served as an English conversation circle leader through the international and Exchange Student Centre.

She completed an Independent Study through her faculty (Health Sciences) and elected to focus her thesis on the feasibility of creating an online mental health support and treatment program for postsecondary students in Canada. Upon completion, Khalsa was offered a job as a research assistant helping to implement an online course for new incoming students.

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Bimadoshka (Annya) Pucan, an Anishinaabe woman from Saugeen First Nation, Turtle Clan, became an active and contributing member of the local Indigenous community both on and off campus. She is a key player in advocacy for Indigenous student and women’s voices as part of both the Idle No More and Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women in Canada movement.

During her years at Western, she has developed herself both academically and personally. Pucan returned to school later on in life, and has worked hard to earn high academic standings, while simultaneously raising a family. As a single mother of three boys (ages 15, 9 and 7), she dedicated herself whole-heartedly to being a positive role model to her children both on the powwow trails as a jingle dress dancer, and in academia as a dedicated student.

Pucan successfully completed an undergraduate degree in Psychology and First Nations Studies in 2013, and more recently completed the new Masters in Public Health (MPH) program. She will not stop here, though. Today, you will find her engaged in literature and anthropological archives in the Western Libraries stacks, researching, as part of her upcoming PhD thesis, restoration and repatriation of cultural artefacts belonging to her home community.

In addition to her studies and familial responsibilities, Pucan has been an Indigenous Services staff member as the Food and Medicine Garden coordinator. In this role, she has demonstrated strong leadership, innovative thinking and a deep commitment to integrating Indigenous Knowledge into student services and programs. In a short time, Pucan coordinated a series of Indigenous planting and harvesting workshops, a tincture making workshop and a tobacco seed exchange.

Pucan also went above and beyond her coordinating duties to complete a project planning framework including a logic model with short and long term recommendations to improve future garden initiatives.

Jill Dombroski received the SAGE Student of the Year Award at the annual Excellence in Leadership Awards, presented by the The Student Success Centre last month. SAGE, a society for mature students, embodies both the wisdom of experience that mature students bring to Western and the flavour their contribution adds to the Western experience.

Dombroski will graduate in June with a double honour in Thanatology and Women’s Studies. This fall, she starts her MA in Education at Western. Her research will focus on the ways physicians deal with patient death.

She has already received much interest in her work from the medical community. Dombroski has received a student undergrad award from the Bereavement of Ontario Network, and now sits as a member at large on its board. Also, she recently attended the Conference of the Association for Death Education and Counselling in San Antonio, Texas, where she received the Undergraduate Student Paper Award.

In addition to being a positive role model to other mature students through her academic work, Dombroski initiated several SAGE events this year.

“When I took my first university class at Brescia (University College) as a part-time student in 2007, I saw Ghandi’s words posted in their library: ‘Be the change you wish to see in the world,’” Dombroski said. “I stared at this mantra and wondered how I could ever contribute on this scale.”

In 2011, at age 40, after being accepted as a full-time student, her change began.

“Each professor, administrator, care-taker, coffee maker, parking attendant, friends and, especially, my family, helped piece together my foundation,” Dombroski continued. “I can best describe my university education as a brick house. These individuals each contributed one brick of support – either emotionally or financially – to help build my education. I realized it did not have to be about changes for the entire world – it was about the changes in myself that make the world better for my children and my family. I can be the change I wish to see.”

Dombroski is making a difference for her two sons, Pompeo and Pablo, who attended the awards ceremony with their mom.
War’s casualties far outnumber those of any other war in U.S. history, according to Medicine at the time were very low... historians have traditionally regarded the Civil War as a medical disaster. But the Civil War was a medical disaster,” said Shauna Devine, a visiting research fellow at the University of Western. “Nobody had asked the question, ‘In what ways did the conditions of war lead to more scientific standards or the rise of modern medicine?’ It’s easy to look at the bad – a lot of soldiers died. But if you look at the good – what happened, did new hospitals develop, did physicians change some things as a result of what they were seeing, did they see new diseases, did they start using more technical equipment to manage diseases, did they start using more medical science, suggesting some of the emerging practices become standard. The organization also asked for more training and dissection of bodies as ways to improve treatment. “What I noticed in the historiography was, all the same physicians who went to Paris and then went to Germany were being written about. They all served in the war. This was a national emergency and many talk about the opportunity to do work on domestic soil they were previously only able to do abroad,” Devine said.

Historian redeems Civil War medical science

BY ADELA TALBOT

HISTORY HAS NOT been kind to the physicians of the U.S. Civil War. With a toll of more than 750,000 deaths between 1861-65, the Civil War’s casualties far outnumber those of any other war in U.S. history, according to Medicine at the time were very low.

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Income deprived to some extent, but the nature of the environment and household was similar.”

Much of what we claim to know about single-parent families and the impact on children is actually driven by studies that focus on families where moms are both income disadvantaged and educationally deficient,” he continued.

The study used three measures of success and found the following to be true:

• In terms of a child’s education, family structure had no effect. Provided equal education of their mothers, children were on equal educational footing and just as likely to graduate from college or university.

• In terms of occupation, children from stable single-mom households had better jobs than children from stable two-parent families; and

• In terms of income, family structure had no impact whatsoever.

There’s a key finding worth noting among those points, said Seabrook, who conducts research within Brescia’s Division of Food and Nutritional Sciences. The stability of the child’s household is an important factor in determining a child’s future success.

“Usually, single parents all get lumped together in research. You’re either a two-parent family or a one-parent family,” Seabrook said.

“The problem is, there’s so much heterogeneity in single-parent families. The parent could be single, but stable, rather than a single mom who has many partners over the course of a kid’s childhood. That’s an apples-to-oranges comparison. If they all get lumped together in the same group, it might sometimes appear kids from single parent families don’t do well.”

Seabrook continued, “If these single-stable moms had equivalent levels of education, or higher levels of education, to the moms of two-parent families, the kids from single-parent families actually did a lot better. There’s actually something about the stable, single mom family – and we could argue resiliency, the relationship between the mom and the child – that really had an effect on how these kids did over time.”

In other words, a family’s stability is far more important than its structure.

A lot of data looking at children’s success as it relates to familial structure comes from the United States, Seabrook added. Different factors apply to families in Canada. American families are more likely to contend with school quality, neighbourhood disadvantages, race and ethnicity alongside familial structure.

“Much of what we claim to know about single-parent families and the impact on children is actually driven by studies that focus on families where moms are both income disadvantaged and educationally deficient.”

- William Avison
In The Community

‘Tinkering club’ lets inquisitive spirits fly

BY PAUL MAYNE

PLANETARY SCIENCE PHD candidate Marianne Mader has studied some of the oldest rocks on Earth in Greenland, explored impact craters across the globe and, most recently, collected meteorites in Antarctica. Now, she looks to empower similar inquisitive spirits to explore their interests.

Founded by Mader and her husband, Andy Forest, STEAMLabs are opening a non-profit ‘makerspace’ dedicated to kids and adults who want a place where imagination comes out to play. The goal is to provide a place to give kids access to the technologies, materials and skills that they couldn’t get on their own, and teach them they are capable of anything.

“It’s interest driven. So, kids will come with an idea for a project, and they may not know how to complete it. But the key is, in order to make it happen, they need to figure out the skills that are required,” Mader said. “And, because it’s their own project, they want to learn those skills.”

The idea for STEAMLabs – that stands for science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) – grew out of a garage, where the pair began a ‘Tinkering Club’ for their own kids and their friends, giving them opportunities to learn about high tech. They made boats and sank them full of kids in Lake Ontario.

They hacked Nerf guns to make them motion-activated.

Soon, the kids started teaching themselves. Through online resources and experimentation, they were learning to make all kinds of things on their own.

“It’s amazing,” Mader said. “When we run events, for example a robot balloon popping battle, the day started off simple, but by the end, the creations were just amazing and they were building off each other’s project ideas.”

Now, thanks to a partnership with Toronto’s Centre for Social Innovations, STEAMLabs will be located in a new location at 192 Spadina Ave. Renovations are currently underway, in time for summer camps to begin in late June.

A Kickstarter campaign raised more than $22,000 to fund equipment for the new space.

With the new space, Mader and Forest hope to open up the world of creativity to adults and more seasoned makers, entrepreneurs and artists looking to work with serious tools such as 3D printers, laser cutting, woodworking, electronics, sewing, crafts and more.

“The unique thing with STEAMLabs is while there are already others spaces for adults, very rarely are there ones for all ages,” said Mader, whose job title is STEAMLabs idea wrangler.

“We’re casting the net pretty wide – after school, camps, just for adults, beginners. We want to be a community makerspace, and be more accessible to the general public, as well as the seasoned professional.”

Mader added additional programs are being planned for September, including bringing high-tech education to schools throughout Ontario. They’ve created the Internet of Things Teaching Kit, an open source teaching kit that makes it possible for teachers with no knowledge of code to teach their students basic programming. They are currently in talks with the Toronto District School Board to roll these workshops out to classrooms across the Greater Toronto Area.

“It’s always a bit hectic for us, but Andy and I love to make things happen,” Mader said. “We wouldn’t be doing it if we weren’t having fun.”
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The 2016 Rhodes Scholarships

Every June, the Rhodes Trust announces the launch of its global competition for the Rhodes Scholarships, eleven of which are designated for Canadian students. The Scholarship supports postgraduate study at Oxford University in England, and covers both university fees and a stipend for living expenses. Successful candidates in the upcoming competition will undertake their programs of choice at Oxford in the fall of 2016.

Selection of candidates is made on the basis of extraordinary intellect, outstanding character, the capacity and instincts for high leadership, demonstrated rigor and commitment to service and extracurricular activity, with a focus on effecting positive change in the world.

The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies invites interested candidates to contact Paula Menzies (pmenzies@uwo.ca) for information on how to apply. The School offers strategic support and mentorship to applicants preparing their Rhodes scholarship portfolios well in advance of the September 15th university application deadline. Candidates seeking the endorsement of the President must submit a competitive application by the deadline and then complete a successful interview by members of Western’s Rhodes Scholarships Selection Committee. The Canadian Rhodes Scholarships program information is available at www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/caa.

Questions to ask yourself:

■ Is personalized, local service important to me? This could possibly be your greatest asset. We recommend that you explore all of the option available to you.
■ Do I want to work with an experienced advisor?
■ Is there a benefit to working with Advisors who are knowledgeable in dealing with members of Western University?

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LEARN ABOUT YOUR ALTERNATIVE PENSION OPTIONS: PROFESSIONAL RETIREMENT ADVICE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
IAN HAASE UNDERSTANDS the burden of student entrepreneurs.

“I know what students go through trying to start a business while balancing school and social life at the same time,” said Haase, Western’s Entrepreneur director.

“There wasn’t a lot of support around for me when I was doing it.”

But times have changed. Thanks to Propel, Western’s campus business incubator, student entrepreneurs no longer have to struggle alone.

Last Thursday, Propel – previously BizInc – launched the Propel Summer Incubator (PSI) program via a tradeshow format in which seven student-run ventures showcased their products and branding.

Propel is the new entrepreneurship center at Western which provides resources to aspiring student entrepreneurs. It does not matter if students go in with an idea or with a full-blown company, they receive one-on-one mentoring and access to the greater entrepreneur scene across Ontario through the Campus-Linked Accelerator program.

Propel is able to establish global connections so student entrepreneurs can leverage international opportunities, as well as a much wider business horizon. Its partnerships with institutions like Ivey Business School, Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs and LEAP Junction at Fanshawe also grant access to local skills and resources.

The PSI program takes it to the next level, Haase said.

“The PSI program allows a practical entrepreneurial experience to happen in a very concentrated, real-world environment over the summer months, which is invaluable as these new entrepreneurs develop their businesses here in London,” he said.

The PSI program is a competitive incubator program that supports student ventures with seed funding, mentorship and working space.

The 100 teams that applied online had to first go through a third-party panel that consisted of entrepreneurs from the community and business professors. The panel then selected 10 teams to perform a 10-minute formal pitch.

In the end, only seven teams will call Propel home for the summer – ShifVR, Tutor Hero, Everest, Zonedin, NoR Apparel, Jacked Scholar and Ezzy Lynn. They receive $7,500 of seed funding, access to WSS 2130, the designated Propel co-working space, and mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs throughout the summer.

“I think the most unique thing about our incubator is that they’re not all tech-based. All seven companies are from completely different industries: Fashion, sport, virtual reality, social media, social enterprise and education,” said Samantha Laliberte, Western Entrepreneur coordinator.

“That will add to a lot of cool synergies. The seven companies can help each other out in the co-working space even when they’re so different.”

NEWS AND NOTES

Western is seeking nominations from the university community as the search begins for the institution’s 22nd chancellor in its 137-year history. The University Secretariat’s office announced last week. Western’s Board of Governors and Senate have established an Electronic Board Chair Selection Committee.

The chancellor serves as the honorary and symbolic head of the university. The term of office is four years (non-renewable). Official duties include presiding at Convocation ceremonies.

A pair of Western deans, whose terms come to an end this summer, will be honoured at separate events over the next few weeks.

A reception for Social Sciences Dean Jim Weese has been set for 4-6 p.m. Wednesday, June 24 in The Great Hall, Somerville House. Weese has served as dean since 2004.

Attendees are asked to RSVP to either 519-661-3747 or rsvp@uwo.ca by June 19.

A search for the next Health Sciences dean is currently underway.


In this sixth edition of the guide, The Princeton Review profiled 353 schools in the United States and Canada, that demonstrate notable commitments to sustainability in their academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation.

Visit sustainability.uwo.ca for more details on Western’s sustainability efforts.

Western further buoyed its leadership in musculoskeletal health research with the formation of The Bone and Joint Institute, university research officials announced this week.

The institute now builds on a $5-million investment in musculoskeletal health research with the formation of The Bone and Joint Institute, university research officials announced this week.

The institute now builds on a $5-million investment the university made into the Western Cluster of Research Excellence in Musculoskeletal Health in November 2014. That program will fund more than 70 researchers from several faculties, including Schulich, Health Sciences, Engineering, Science and Social Science to study conditions such as arthritis, osteoporosis, trauma and work-, sport- and exercise-related injuries.

In addition to the institute announcement, Dr. Shabana Amanda Ali has been named the first recipient of the Kirkley Postdoctoral Fellowship in Musculoskeletal Health Research and Innovation. Arriving from the Institute of Medical Science at The University of Toronto, Ali’s research focuses on improving pain management for those with osteoarthritis.

Former Western Mustangs Glynn Leyshon and Jude St. John have been named among the London Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2015, the London Sports Council announced today. Six individuals and one team will be honoured at induction ceremonies in November.

TORONTO – Western Mustangs players Daryl Waud, Rory Connop and Preston Hughes are three of the newest members of the Canadian Football League after they were all selected in the 2015 CFL Canadian Draft last week. The three Mustangs become the 31st, 32nd and 33rd Western players to be selected in the CFL Draft in the past 15 years.

The University Students’ Council recently hosted the 7th annual Choose Your Own Adventure Grade 8 Early Outreach Conference two weeks ago at both Western and Fanshawe College.

The conference aims to encourage and support low-income, at-risk youth in London to pursue postsecondary education by way of lectures from professors, speakers from the London community, budget management presentations to students and parents, a volunteer fair and a coaching session to help students create individual paths to success.

This year, the conference hosted more than 100 students from nine schools in London with more than 50 Leadership Developers from Western.
What do you use to build a wind-powered elevator? Tape. Cardboard. Straws. And a string. Those were the only materials a Grade 6 student needed to make an elevator strong enough to lift a pair of earplugs up 10 centimeters.

At Western, more than 240 Grade 6-8 young scientists recently competed in the Let's Talk Science Challenge. Through a science quiz show and hands-on design challenge, the students’ knowledge in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) was put to the test.

James Czerkawski, a St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School Grade 6 student was cheered on by teammates Cam Sartor and Ian Jordan, both in Grade 8, as he used wind power to lift a weighted string.

Let's Talk Science is a national charitable youth development organization that aims to enrich students with science. The challenge is part of a national outreach program that ignites students’ passion in STEM.

"The programs we do keep the students engaged and interested in science as they move on through their studies," said Maggie MacLellan, Let's Talk Science communications officer. "So, they don’t close doors and decide to disengage with science and math early on when there might be jobs they like in the future that they don’t even know about yet."

- Gordon So