BY JASON WINDERS

WESTERN PROFESSOR VICTORIA Esses stressed that our nature is to help. “People want to do something, but they need a solution,” said the Director of Western’s Centre for Research on Migration and Ethnic Relations. “Sometimes, if you’re bombarded with information and, if it’s negative, you avoid it, turn away from it. Having a solution actually makes people pay attention. People are now ready to do something.”

The Syrian conflict has killed an estimated quarter of a million people in the last four years. That’s, basically, a city the size of Windsor being erased. Half of Syrians have been forced from their homes, creating more than 4 million refugees and displacing nearly 8 million people within the country. According to the United Nations, one million more people could be displaced within Syria by the end of the year. The situation has sparked a mass refugee crisis across the Middle East and Europe.

To aid in this relief effort, Western has mobilized a handful of efforts to assist families and scholars, alike, including the creation of the Refugee Sponsorship Fund and Syrian Refugee Student Awards, as well as using the Scholars At Risk Program to identify Syrian scholars who could be brought to the university.

“Western’s response is grassroots in nature and reflective of the very human and instinctual concern being expressed by people and university communities across the country and around the world,” said Janice Deakin, Provost and Vice-President (Academic). “The tragic scale of the crisis makes it imperative that we take steps to make some contribution of our own. It’s heartening to see support coming from all corners of campus.”

Currently, Western’s efforts focus in three areas. The Refugee Sponsorship Fund was established by the Faculty of Social Science, in partnership with the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre. Organizers hope to raise $30,000 to provide for a G5 Private Sponsorship Application for a Syrian refugee family of five. If more than the target amount is raised, more refugee families could be sponsored. Esses proposed the idea of a fundraising campaign to support the application to Social Science Dean Bob Andersen. He agreed with the idea and took it on as a faculty initiative.

"People have been thinking about this for awhile," Esses said. "Recently, I am sure a lot of members of the Western community have been wondering what they can do. This is..."
Editor’s Letter

Moving beyond the hashtag to help

Always love when human- 
ity can summon the will 
to move itself beyond the 
hashtag.

As you have read, the human 
costs surrounding the Syrian 
conflict are staggering – an estimated 
quar- 
ter of a million people killed in the 
last four years; 8 million people dis-
placed within the country; 4 million 
turned into international refugees. 
The situation has sparked a mass 
immigration crisis across the Middle 
East and Europe.

Most governments in a position 
to help – Canada included – were 
cautiously, based on the scale of 
the crisis and the public outcry it engen-
dered. Only in recent weeks have some 
progressed toward helping.

It is a human catastrophe on a 
truly epic scale.

Over the last year, Syria-related 
hashtags have popped up by the 
millions on Twitter – #Syrianchild, 
#SyrianRefugee, #SyriaCrisis, 
#PrayForSyria, #IamSyria. Even 
media paused from covering the 
actual crisis and its root causes to 
report on what, say, Rafaela Rivers 
ofered up on the issue in 140 char-
acters or less.

Shocking, trending status did not 
 improve the situation on the 
ground.

This week, however, Western 
joined other universities in offering 
a hand – not a hashtag – to Syrian 
families and scholars through a num-
ber of programs. It was a moment, a 
prime example of the power of the 
university community to respond, in 
its own unique way, to an interna-
tional crisis.

“There has been lots of support, 
not only at Western, but across the 
country, there has been a lot of sup-
port for not only doing private refu-
gee support, but also government-
assisted refugee sponsorship,” said 
Western professor Victoria Essen, 
Director of the university’s Centre 
for Research on Migration and Ethnic 
Relations. “That is only one solution – 
not the only solution – but a solu-
tion we can do now.

“People want to do something, 
but they need a solution. Sometimes, 
if you’re bombarded with information 
and, if it’s negative, you avoid it, turn 
away from it. Having a solution actu-
ally makes people pay attention.”

While attention is key, action 
makes all the difference.

Even if people don’t understand 
the politics behind the crisis, they 
understand it on a personal level 
through the flood of images com-
ing from the region. The raw human 
emotional spectrum laid bare in these 
captured moments – be it the 
deepest despair or the wildest 
relief – have connected with mil-
ions around the globe. They have 
demanded action of their govern-
ments and themselves.

Arguably, the majority of us were 
shocked into action by images of 
the lifeless body of 3-year-old Alan 
Kurdi, wearing a bright-red T-shirt 
and shorts, washed up on a beach, lying 
face down in the surf. Within hours, 
the photo had gone viral, becoming 
the top trending picture on Twitter 
under the hashtag #KiyiyaVuranInsan-
lik (“humanity washed ashore”).

Fortunately, humanity didn’t settle 
for trending this time.

“That child looked like any child. 
People can imagine it happening to 
themselves, their family, their child,” 
said Essen, who studies the percep-
tions of refugees. “I think the media 
can sometimes, possibly, or non-
ecessarily, lead to dehumanization 
because the images are so distant 
from us, the numbers so overwhelm-
 ing and the people look different. 
This child didn’t look different. He 
looked like any Canadian child. That 
resonated.”

Fleeting emotional connections 
are one thing, acting on those con-
nections is another.

And cheers to those rallying to 
help in a concrete manner. It was 
heartening to see our own univer-
sity community come together, so 
quickly, after inspiration from Essen 
and her Social Science colleagues. 
Here’s hoping my small donation 
acts in conjunction with yours to 
make a real difference.

FIND OUT MORE

Visit Western’s Help Syria website, wou.
can/helpsytia, for more information on all 
in efforts underway at the university. Western 
is interested in hearing about any other 
initiatives taking place on campus in 
response to the Syrian humanitar-
ian crisis. Email helpsytia@wou.ca with details.

CORRECTION

Western News is rewriting this week its two-page spread, Honouring a quarter 
century of service, from last week, recognizing faculty and staff who have been 
working at the university for 25 years, due to a handful of errors in the names. I 
hate messing up names – and I really hate messing up names in such an impor-
tant milestone piece. My apologies. - JW

“The hashtag to help

A

OBSTACLES

10:45 a.m. Natural Sciences Centre, Room 145

11 a.m. Social Science Centre, Room 5229

Board of Governors Meeting

The university governing body returns to open session following its 
annual Board of Governors meeting.

An award-winning weekly 
newspaper and electronic 
news service, Western News 
serves as the university’s 
newspaper of record. The 
publication traces its roots 
to The University of Western 
Ontario Newsletter, a one-
page leaflet-style publication 
which debuted on Sept. 23, 1965. The first issue of the 
Western News, under found-
ing editor Alan Johnston, was 
published on Nov. 16, 1972 
replacing the UWO Times 
and Western Times. Today, Western News continues to 
provide timely news, informa-
tion and a forum for discus-
sion of postsecondary issues 
in the campus and broader 
community.

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“`Our objective is to report events 
as objectively as possible, without 
bias or editorial comment. 
We hope you will read it and 
contribute to it.”

– L.T. Moore, 
University Relations 
and Information Division
Nov. 18, 1972

BEST BETS

Visit the Western Events Calendar at 
www.events.westernu.ca for a full look 
at the week ahead.

SEPT. 18 | 12 p.m. Social Science Centre 5229

‘AFTER CAPITALISM, WHAT’S NEXT?’
Western Sociology professor Anton Allahar lectures as part of 
the 2015-16 Sociology Colloquium Series.

SEPT. 18 | 1:30 p.m. University Community Centre, Room 56

UNIVERSITY SENATE

The university Senate returns to action in its first meeting since a 
turbulent spring.

SEPT. 19 | 10:45 a.m. Natural Sciences Centre, Room 145

WESTERN SERVES

This day of service is an annual event where students, staff and faculty 
come out to the community and engage in active service.

SEPT. 22 | 1:30 p.m. TBD

BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

The university governing body returns to open session following its 
annual Board of Governors meeting.

SEPT. 26

#HOCOONTHEHILL

One day. Two concerts. An unforgettable Western Experience.

#WINTERSERIES

A winter of culture, 2015-16. For more information, please visit 
www.events.westernu.ca
Academics

Andersen chats about the challenges ahead

IT’S A DOUBLE homecoming, of sorts, for new Social Science Dean Bob Andersen. He is returning to the Forest City, where he was born and raised. Actually, he never left, as he has commuted to his last job as Distinquished Professor of Social Science and chair of the Department of Sociology at the University of Toronto. Andersen is also a three-time Western graduate having completed his BA in Political Science in 1991, an honours diploma in Sociology in 1992, and an MA in Sociology in 1994. He also has a PhD from McMaster.

In July, Andersen was appointed to a five-year term as dean of Social Science, replacing Brian Timney, who served as dean since July 2002. Prior to joining Toronto in 2007, Andersen held various academic and administrative appointments at Brock, Oxford, Western (assistant professor, 2002-03) and McMaster universities.

With teaching and research interests in political sociology, social stratification and applied statistics, Andersen’s current research explores the consequences of income inequality for a wide array of attitudes and behaviours considered important to the health of liberal democracy. He is also a social statistician with expertise in survey research methods.

Western News reporter Paul Mayne sat down with Andersen to discuss the future plans for Western’s largest faculty, one boasting 244 faculty members, more than 6,600 undergraduates, 550 graduate students and more than 70,000 alumni around the world.

Western News: Instead of saying ‘welcome to Western,’ I suppose it should be more welcome back. With three degrees from the university, and being a London native, is that a plus?

Bob Andersen: I probably don’t know as much about the place as you would imagine. I know about it as a student, and that is quite different than an administrative role. I was here for a year as a faculty member in 2002. It was one year, so, I really did not get to know my way around. It’s more that I’m a Londoner, born and raised, so I’m back home in that respect.

I do have a soft spot for Western. I did my undergraduate and masters here, so I know it on that kind of level. I know it like other alumni. I know of the Department of Sociology and some of the other departments in Social Science through reputation, but not really from what’s going on inside. In that sense, I’m probably more of an outsider than it looks like.

Western News: Why make this move to Western? Was there something that sold you?

Bob Andersen: I think career wise I could have gone several different paths, and they all would have been good moves. This wasn’t ‘I had to do this’ one. For me, it was home. I’m at this stage in my life, not necessarily in my career, when I thought this was a good move. I have four kids and I actually live in London. I had been commuting to Toronto. It’s not like I ever had aspirations— although I have lately—to get into administration. I’m the kind of guy who is happy wherever he goes. It seemed like a challenge. The challenge is just as important. The world of universities has changed; it is different than it used to be. There are some things, maybe, hopefully, I can kind of convince people to change.

Western News: You’re taking over Western’s largest faculty, ranging from Account- ing a flight school to the Brain and Mind Institute. Where do you start to understand its unique make-up?

Bob Andersen: I’m really looking forward to that. I’ve already started talking to the chairs, touring the place and get my bearings, figure out where things are. The—it can I use the word ‘pure’?—the pure social sciences I have a really firm grasp on. I know that stuff very well. In fact, I consider myself a social scientist—not in a discipline. I am very multidisciplinary in my approach. I’ve already learned some new things here and I like that I like to learn. It’s going to be fun. There are a lot of things I want to accomplish and I’m already starting to do it, or at least work toward it. I’m starting to see what it takes to get things done around here.

Western News: What tops that list?

Bob Andersen: BA: We need a little bit more PR. My goal is to increase the profile. You don’t want to jeopardize the student experience, which I know is great, and that’s where I have that soft spot. I don’t want to jeopardize that and I don’t think we have to.

There are things we can do to increase our research profile in the academic community. There are a lot of really good people here and the way the world is going, and they way universities are going, you need collaboration. Maybe we can have a bit more of that here. We need to reach out to other faculty; departments have to flow?

Western News: You mentioned the increased competition for funding. How does your faculty ensure money continues to flow?

Bob Andersen: BA: I’d like to see people come together in a way that maybe they haven’t done. Every university has to go this way in my view. Tri-Council funding is now more and more big grants. You need a lot of people for these grants. And we need real ideas, they can’t just be names on proposals. I have to figure out a way, in talking with people, to see if we can come up with ideas, not just me. How can we bring out our best together? It’s more and more competitive; that’s the problem. The game has changed, funding has changed, whether we like it or not. I’d like to connect more with the community. I’d like to get our research more involved with the community. I don’t know exactly where, but that’s going to be important to us.

Western News: You have a five-year term as dean. Are you able to look that far ahead?

Bob Andersen: BA: I hope what’s already a good score. Why play the game? There are things we can do to things we do. It’s more and more competitive; that’s the problem. The game has changed, funding has changed, whether we like it or not. I’d like to connect more with the community. I don’t know exactly where, but that’s going to be important to us.

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Western News: You have a five-year term as dean. Are you able to look that far ahead?

Bob Andersen: BA: I hope what’s already a good score. Why play the game? There are some good chairs and the staff are good. This feels pretty good and I know there are challenges, but I’m up for them and I find that exciting.
Commentary

Seriously, quit taking the bait of phishing attempts

BY PAUL MAYNE

LET’S PLAY SPOT The Problem with a recent email that landed in our in-boxes from, supposedly, Western President Amit Chakma:

From: Amit Chakma e.achakmaa@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, August 21, 2015 11:20 AM
To: peluchok@uwo.ca
Subject: Dear Faculty/Staff (IMPORTANT NOTICE)

Dear Faculty/Staff

This letter is to confirm our decision to our staffs that some of us has been terminated in duties as a result of going against the ethics and standard of the institution according to the information’s gathered over time, we advise all the affected to please bear with us, these listed staffs are relief of their duties until further clarifications. Should in case you identify your full names, department, email, appointment date/title, current position and ID number/phone number. Please await our next mail for further required procedures. Please find the attached and download to view list.

NOTE: please if you receive any link message asking you to click don’t cause they are phishing, any message sent to you by me will be attached not link.

Thank you.

Okay, I stopped counting once I passed a dozen red flags – wild-eyed grammar and punctuation aside, is it really best to advise over email that “some of us has been terminated in duties” after they dropped the ball on “ethics and standard of the institution according to the information’s gathered over time.” That sounds like an in-person conversation to me. And did someone really think Amit might send this IMPORTANT NOTICE from a gmail account? Did he just finish watching Modern Family and think, ‘Hmm, I should probably send this really important message to everyone from my official Western email account. Nah, let me just hop on gmail and send.’

My question is simple: Why do some of you continue to click on phishing attempts we get on our work computers? “Oh, I never do that.” “What? I don’t fall for those.” I know someone is lying. If those statements were true, and everyone deleted all the phishing attempts they receive, the rest of us wouldn’t have to read a daily email announcing someone somewhere on campus fell for this, so be careful.

If those statements were true, then why would Western’s ITS Department need to maintain a website, uwo.ca/its/accounting/official-email/phishing/, dedicated to tracking these scams? All the phishing attempts that make it through the spam filters and into our inboxes are listed there. It’s because there are folks who click on these scams – a lot.

Click. Click. Click.

From now on, I vote the email warnings from ITS should read:

“Because the following Western employees have clicked on this latest phishing email, we are warning you not to click on it. Their names are:”

We’re all adults holding down full- and part-time jobs at an institution of higher learning, yet the second some of us see a shiny blue link telling us to ‘click here’ or life as they know it will come to a screeching halt, index fingers get click happy.

According to the Government of Canada website getcybersafe.gc.ca, 156 million phishing emails are sent globally every day; 16 million make it through filters; eight million are opened; 80,000 links are clicked; 80,000 fall for a scam every day. And given the volume of messages we receive, all of them seem to be sitting next to us. Read the emails before you click? Why are you opening an attachment when you have no idea what you’re opening? Why no red flags when a note from your president comes littered with spelling and grammatical errors, bad formatting and broken syntax?

Look, next time you get an email like this just don’t click on the link, open that attachment or hand over your email password. Just take a deep breath.

And if you still feel the need to open it, then perhaps someone needs “relief of their duties until further clarifications.”

Opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of or receive endorsement from Western News or Western University.
New award aims to attract, retain young scholars

BY ADELA TALBOT

FOR THOMAS MCMURROUGH, the winter months were plagued with uncertainty. Following an emergency appendectomy in the fall, he took two months of emergency medical leave. His studies – and his income – came to a temporary halt. “Graduate student stipends are not covered during medical leave. I was actually on the verge of bankruptcy in January and February, because I wasn’t paid for three months while I was recovering,” said McMurrough, a Biochemistry PhD candidate in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

Things started to look up when McMurrough came back. First, he received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Alexander Graham Bell Canada Graduate Scholarship for his doctoral work, which focuses on protein evolution and looks at potential for genome editing and genome therapy. But that’s not all. McMurrough was also selected as a recipient of a new award at Western – the Doctoral Excellence Research Award.

The Doctoral Excellence Research Awards, a program that launches Sept. 1, 2016, represent a new investment in Western graduate student support, which will supplement funding already invested by the university and individual faculties.

Meant to recognize outstanding academic achievement in order to nurture the potential of Western’s brightest scholars, the program’s investment totals roughly $2 million each year. Funding will be applied to both new and continuing doctoral students who hold a tri-agency scholarship.

At Western, slightly more than 10 per cent of doctoral students hold a tri-agency scholarship, with approximately 230 students each year receiving funding from NSERC, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). About 75 new recipients are announced each year and a handful of Western PhD students who win these awards subsequently choose to continue their studies elsewhere.

“There really has been quite the change in the last six months. A lot of people don’t realize when students get these big awards, in most departments, they lose some of their internal funding – Western graduate research scholarships, and things like that,” McMurrough said.

“This award makes sure we get the financial benefit that we are awarded with the big scholarship. This is my eighth year in university, and I’ve accumulated a lot of debt. This really lessens that burden. There’s nothing more toxic than financial stress, and I feel like these types of awards are really going to help people like me unleash intellectual potential,” he continued.

Linda Miller, Vice-Provost (Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies), stressed the strategic importance of the award in courting students like McMurrough.

“This is a way for us to attract and retain the most promising young scholars, and it strengthens our position as one of Canada’s research intensive universities,” she said. “It puts us in a more competitive position to recruit and retain the best graduate students.”

While Western submits a great number of deserving applications for tri-council scholarships each year, the external competition is stiff, Miller noted. This new award program aims to acknowledge the excellence of tri-council scholarship recipients by offering them support to continue their studies at Western.

What’s more, by lessening the financial burden, and thereby removing a need to work as a teaching assistant to supplement his income, the award will not only boost McMurrough’s productivity, it will also open an opportunity for another student to work as a teaching assistant.

Here’s how the Doctoral Excellence Research Awards will be handed out. A new doctoral student, who is also a new tri-agency doctoral scholarship recipient, will receive up to $15,000 during their first year (or their first three terms), and up to an additional $10,000 for each subsequent year of the tri-agency scholarship. A continuing doctoral student, who is a tri-agency doctoral scholarship recipient, will receive an additional $10,000 for each remaining year of their tri-agency scholarship.

“If I can understand how these proteins bind to and act upon their targets, I’m hoping to learn how I can change it to target a human gene, or a gene that we would like to target for a biotechnology application,” McMurrough said of his research.

“If we can use these proteins for genome editing, then we can try to cure human genetic diseases. It’s the idea of fighting fire with fire. If you’ve got a genetic disease, we can deal with the underlying genetic determinant, then we can hopefully cure it in that way, as opposed to just treating it,” he went on.

“Money isn’t going to be an issue for the next couple of years, so I can really focus on putting out the best research that I can.”

SPECIAL TO WESTERN NEWS

Thomas McMurrough, a Biochemistry PhD candidate in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, will be among the first recipients of Western’s Doctoral Excellence Research Awards. The program launches Sept. 1, 2016, and represents a new investment in Western graduate student support.
Academics

Writers-in-residence push community’s creativity forward

BY ADELA TALBOT

AS AN ACTOR, Tanis Rideout was used to rejection. It came with the professional territory, and to some degree, it was expected and accepted. But the charm of acting eventually wore off for the Canadian author, who trained, performed and even had a talent agent in Toronto at one time.

“A lot of people get one ‘no,’ get hurt, and it’s not worth it for them. In acting, it wasn’t worth it for me; in writing, it was. I could see through the ‘no,’” said Rideout, Western’s 2015-16 Writer-in-Residence.

“I didn’t want it nearly enough to put up with the stuff that comes with being an actor. The lovely thing about writing is, it’s just you. If you want to be an actor, people have to cast you in things. But writing you can do on your own, for a long time, before you have to show people,” she said.

After reading Michael Ondaatje’s In the Skin of a Lion for a Canadian Literature course at Queen’s University, Rideout was gripped by a desire to create something.

“I remember having this very visceral understanding, for the first time, that somebody had written this book I was reading. There was another person on the other end of it, they were Canadian, they didn’t live far away, and they were alive. And I thought, ‘Maybe I’d like to try that,’” she explained.

She started writing slowly, dabbled with poetry for a bit. She applied to a writing class while still at Queen’s, but was turned away. This time, the rejection wasn’t terminal. Rideout reached out to the professor, asking how she could make her writing better, and because she was willing to take criticism, she was invited into the class.

“I sent stuff out, got millions of rejection letters – far more ‘no’ than ‘yeses.’ I slowly got better, took more classes, and a zillion years later, it feels like I finally put a novel out,” Rideout said of her 2012 novel Above All Things. The novel is a work of historical fact and imaginative fiction which blends the story of George Mallory’s ill-fated 1924 attempt to conquer Mount Everest, with that of a single day in the life of his wife as she waits for news of his return.

“I feel like I was the poster child for sticking to it and not taking ‘no’ for an answer,” Rideout said.

It’s this tenacity she hopes to impart on students and community members in London who aspire to write, she noted. In creative jobs, it’s about relentless forward progress, a process that is informed and inspired by the work of others, characters, questions and ideas that won’t leave you alone.

“I tend to start out writing by working through questions I don’t get. At various times, I love and hate all parts of the process. Whatever part I’m in at the time, I hate. The magic happens in the editing, and starting to see how things fit together,” Rideout continued.

Rideout has also published a full-length book of poetry, Delineation, exploring the lives and loves of comic book super-heroines.

BY ADELA TALBOT

Canadian author Tanis Rideout, Western’s current Writer-in-Residence, looks to instill tenacity in the area’s writing community. In creative jobs, she stressed, it’s about relentless forward progress, a process that is informed and inspired by the work of others, characters, questions and ideas that won’t leave you alone.
named the poet laureate of Lake Ontario and she toured with the Tragically Hip's Gord Downie, drawing attention to environmental justice issues on the lake.

Her poetry and fiction have appeared in numerous quarters and magazines and received grants from local and national arts councils.

As she begins her residency this week, Rideout is excited to meet with writers in the London and Western community, and looks forward to sharing stories, ideas and feedback.

She holds office hours on campus from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the fall in the Arts & Humanities Building, room 2G28M. Winter hours will be announced later. To make an appointment, contact Vivian Fogston at vivian.foglton@uwo.ca or 519-661-3403.

The Writer-in-Residence program is funded by the James A. and Marjorie Spencely Fund and is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and hosted in Western's Department of English and Writing Studies. Additional funding from the London Public Library and from the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research will also support Rideout's residency.

Joining Rideout this year as Western's Student Writer-in-Residence is Helen Ngo, a fourth-year Mathematics student pursuing a certificate in Writing. The London native has always been drawn to the written word, and can't remember when she first started jotting things down.

"I've always been interested in writing. I grew up writing little stories in my journal, about animals and stuff. I think I always kind of dabbled," she said.

"I've kept a daily journal since I was 7 years old, and have found it to be an invaluable source for inspiration – and laughing at yourself. I would recommend it to anyone," Ngo noted.

At one time, she imagined a career as a creative writer. Later, she wanted to be a journalist. She worked as an editor of her student paper in high school and writing just kind of stuck with her. She loved math but didn’t want to abandon writing when she started university, Ngo added.

Blending math and the written word means expressing humanity through both quantitative data and storytelling, she explained. Math and writing are both forms of art – both search for truth and beauty, taking different roads to the same destination.

Ngo’s work is inspired by the everyday, she said, and comes out of conversations, people, snippets she overhears in coffee shops. It features themes from her latest struggle with abstract algebra, urban adventuring, and too many evenings spent driving around past midnight.

"I’m very much a storyteller and I like to get inside people’s heads and think about how I could get their perspective," she said.

Ngo received the Judge’s Choice category award for the Alfred Poynt Poetry Competition, and her prose and poetry has been published in Premier, Nom de Plume, Symposium and The Semi-Colon.

She is excited to work with the talented arts community at Western, and hopes to unite students from a wide variety of academic disciplines to express themselves and showcase their talent through creative writing opportunities around campus and the greater London community.

Ngo holds office hours from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the Arts & Humanities Building, room 2G28M.

The Student Writer-in-Residence program is the first of its kind in North America. It was developed in 2013 by the University Students’ Council and the Department of English and Writing Studies. The mandate of the program is to provide support for an accomplished undergraduate writer while allowing other students to benefit from the writer’s creativity, expertise, and organizational skills.

JOINING THE WRITING COMMUNITY

Arts & Humanities invites you to celebrate the art of creative writing with an afternoon of literary readings from Tanis Rideout, Western’s current Writer-in-Residence; Helen Ngo, Western Student Writer-in-Residence; and others.

1:30-3:30 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 26
International and Graduate Affairs Building, Atrium

“Math and writing are both forms of art – both search for truth and beauty, taking different roads to the same destination.”

- Helen Ngo
New centre ready to open doors to support students

BY ADELA TALBOT

STUDENTS, CONSIDER IT an opportunity to have a private conversation in what should feel as comfortable as a friend’s living room.

Western’s new Peer Support Centre, under the purview of the University Students’ Council (USC), opens later this month. As of Sept. 29, it will offer a new structured support system for Western’s student body, said Alex Benac, USC Vice-President (Internal).

“We’re starting from a new foundation, which is what this year was intended to be. We’ve put a new foundation in place, and we’ve had an incredibly selective recruitment process for volunteers,” Benac said of the new centre, which will be housed in room 256 of the University Community Centre (UCC).

Prior to this year, the USC provided a peer support space in the basement of the UCC – but that’s it – just a space, he noted. There was no structure, no programming, no trained volunteers and their concerns. It was an available room that served as a safe space where groups of students could gather to talk, Benac explained. But students didn’t really use it.

“We got to the point where we were having conversations about the program, and is the program effective? We turned to the idea that we didn’t have a program at all, and none of the things the Canadian Mental Health Association stipulates as best practices for peer support programs. It was a massive disservice to students,” he added.

With support from the Student Development Centre (SDC), the USC turned its eyes to a formal space that would house trained volunteers who would be able to offer a listening ear to students who felt they needed someone to talk to, affirmation and support, as well as a referral to a mental health professional, if needed.

“The Student Development Centre has been incredibly gracious and supportive. Our volunteer trainer, who helped us build the program from the ground up, is a psychotherapist with the SDC, and she’s bringing expertise that will make sure (our centre) conforms to national standards,” Benac said.

So, what can students expect from the new Peer Support Centre?

It will be a drop-in service – no calls or appointments needed. Students who need to talk to someone can expect a trained student volunteer to greet them, with no judgment. Regardless of the issue or source of stress, volunteers will be trained in a three-step process of active listening, affirming and referring.

“We want students to have someone that will sit and listen to anything they want to say, whether they’ve had a bad day, or they’ve self-identified as struggling. We’re not a professional counseling service – our volunteers are equipped to listen, affirm and get the student from Point A to Point B, if a professional service is best suited for their needs,” he said.

“We had no structure before, and a house without walls is not really a house at all. We’ve got that structure in place now, and we’re very proud of it,” he continued.

“The (centre) is for students who might not need to see a psychologist today or tomorrow, but definitely need support. There’s an incredibly high demand on campus for psychologists, psychotherapists, social workers and psychiatrists – and we want to alleviate some of the pressure on those units by offering another place students can go if they don’t feel like they need to seek professional support just yet.”

The new Peer Support Centre will be open 12-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. The USC will be paying close attention to peak hours and demand, and could adjust the operation schedule to better suit the needs of students, Benac noted.

The USC thanked Leslie Johnson, BSc’78, and Peter Johnson, HBA’74, MBA’75, LLB’78, along with their family, for recognizing the Peer Support Centre as a need on campus, and for stepping in with funding to support its establishment.

“We wouldn’t have had the capacity to do this, without them and we’re incredibly grateful for that support. We owe the entire distance we’ve come to the Johnson family,” Benac said.

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Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
THE DEAN’S DISTINGUISHED LECTURE
HOMECOMING 2015

Join us for Inspiring Futures, a thought-provoking lecture by Bonnie Schmidt, PhD’93. Learn about the founding of Let’s Talk Science, from the program’s conception at Western University to its transformation into a national science literacy movement.

Saturday, September 26, 2015
10:30 - 11:45 a.m.
Room 146, Medical Sciences Building, Western University

This event is open to all Western alumni, faculty, staff and students, and all community members.

Please register online by Thursday, September 24, 2015.
www.westernconnect.ca/deans_lecture

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Canadian universities tumble

Canadian universities tumbled in the in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University rankings, released Tuesday, with its eight Top 200 institutions dropping a cumulative 121 spots. McMaster University and the University of Montreal had the fall by dropping 36 and 32 spots, respectively. Only the University of Waterloo rose in the Top 200, going from No. 169 in 2014-15 to No. 152 in 2015-16.

Western found itself ranked No. 192 in the 2015-16 rankings of the Top 200 universities in the world. That number was down from No. 191 in 2014-15.

“Under this year’s refined methodology, some of Canada’s institutions face a year on year drop,” said Ben Sowter, QS Head of Research.

“Objectively, however, Canada performs very well with four institutions amongst the top 100. That’s the same as Germany, a country with more than double the population and GDP.”

McGill University was the highest ranking Canadian institution at No. 24, down from No. 21 last year. The remaining Top 200 included the University of Toronto (No. 34, down from No. 30), University of British Columbia (No. 50, down from No. 48), University of Alberta (No. 96, down from No. 95), University of Montreal (No. 115, down from No. 83), McMaster University (No. 149, down from No. 113), University of Waterloo (No. 152, up from No. 169) and Western.

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LISA BITACOLA
Ivey School of Business, Behavioural Research Lab manager

Nominated for her commitment to faculty research, Lisa Bitacola was applauded for enabling researchers at Ivey to investigate questions from different perspectives.

"Lisa is the outstanding team player who has become indispensable. She goes so far out of her way to make good things happen for those around her. Everyone she interacts with, she makes better, because of a kind word, a smile, an encouraging hand, taking on a bit extra here and there. What awes me is how every single person she interacts with walks away feeling better. She initiates solutions to problems I didn’t even see coming.”

LESLIE GLOOR DUNCAN
The Student Success Centre

Nominated for her efforts in cultivating the university’s famed Best Student Experience, Leslie Gloor Duncan was applauded for her dedication to creating and maintaining a positive environment for Western students, faculty and staff, and the broader community, through collaboration and creativity.

"Leslie is always the first person to have unrelenting confidence in a student’s ability to lead, and she genuinely supports the professional development of everyone she works with. She offers guidance, but places trust in a student’s ability to implement their own ideas – a very fine balance.”
KAREN VANKERKOERLE
Department of Geography
Nominated for the high quality and vari-
dety of her contributions to Western, Karen
Vankerkoele was celebrated for her dedi-
cation to teaching and scholarship, and
service to the London community.
“The depth of knowledge she has relative
to her field (and continued expansion of
same), her work ethic, personal affability
and professional approach to all she takes
on, ensure the best outcome possible
with the resources and time at hand. Her
rapier-sharp wit is used masterfully to
make a thoughtful point, to make light
of a stressful situation or to just to be an
incredible comedian for the benefit of
others.”

DIANNE MCCORMACK
Department of Psychology
Nominated for her professional and car-
ing demeanor, Dianne McCormack was
applauded for her ability to juggle multi-
ple demands as the department’s admin-
istrative officer.
“One can imagine that administrating a
department of this scope and diversity is a
bit like herding cats, especially when lack-
ing the staff resources found at the faculty
level. However, for over the last decades,
Dianne has effectively led the diverse staff
of Psychology to provide a highly collegial
and effective department. Whether deal-
ing with a student who has wandered
into her office with a form needing a sig-
nature, a faculty member who has locked
themselves out of their office or preparing
budget documents, Dianne is consistently
professional and effective.”

ERIN HUNER
Faculty of Social Sciences,
Office of the Dean
Nominated for her support of Social Sci-
ence researchers, Erin Huner was cele-
brated for her ability to navigate the rocky
shoals of the grant submission process.
“Erin’s positive outlook, enthusiasm and
good humour never fail in the face of
looming deadlines and tough statistics,
and have helped many of us master the
writing for one more draft or applica-
tion. As a researcher, she is exceptionally
good at identifying key contributions and
a proposal, and at helping researchers
source that marginal depth for an inter-
disciplinary audience. If the most superhu-
manatic skills didn’t exist, she is as close
as you can get.”

JON JACOBS
Earth Sciences
Nominated for his work as manager of the
Earth Sciences Machine Shop, Jon Jacobs
was celebrated for his good tem-
per, easy manner and consistent high
standard of excellence, stability and
advising in service of students, faculty and
staff. “Jon enhances the department by his
dedication to ‘learning by doing.’ He is always
available to new students and I regularly approach Jon with chal-
enges on producing a part or a fixture for our research projects. If an immedi-
ate solution cannot be provided, he always says ‘leave it with me and I’ll think
about it.’ Before he leaves, I am always confident that within a day or two, I will
have a solution for any design that usu-
ally ends up as a good solution.”

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PROGRAM STAFF
Courtney Hambides, Lisa Metselaar,
Diana Lee and Judith Thomas
Nominated for their leadership within the
program, the Master of Public Health
Program staff was celebrated for their
ability to balance the admin-
istrative detail necessary to run things
smoothly with the people skills needed in
the day-to-day process.
“The team is an absolute delight to work
with. Their cooperative nature is an excel-
lon between faculty and students. Their
commitment to service is exempli-
ﬁed by the long hours each put in as we
prepared for our inaugural accredita-
tion site visit. We are among the handful of programs in North America deemed
ready for accreditation within a year of
starting up; this was possible only due to
the stupendous efforts put in by the staff.
Last, but certainly not the least, their per-
sonal character is unimpeachable.”
Turning the page on ‘their own terrible story’

BY PAUL MAYNE

FOR SEIFAN ISTEFAN, seeing his 2-year-old son Zenos giggle and roll around in the grass caught up in this crisis,” said Glen Tigert, Director of Campus Ministry Rev. Michael Bechard. The Istefan family arrived in London two weeks ago thanks to King’s Refugee Sponsorship Program.

Recent Syrian refugees Seifan and Talar Istefan, along with their 2-year-old son, Zenos, enjoy some time on the King’s University College campus along with Director of Campus Ministry Rev. Michael Bechard. The Istefan family realized the importance of education, facilitate jobs, community integration and socialization, working through the effects of trauma. There is a lot of space to develop the energy of the community.”

The awards are administered through Western’s Office of the Registrar.

Unlike the Refugee Sponsorship Fund and Syrian Refugee Student Awards, the Scholars At Risk (SAR) program has been a fixture at Western since 2009.

“We have experience with the program and it has worked really well for us,” said Julie McMullin, Vice-Provost & Associate Vice-President (International). “In looking to see what we could do for Syria, we thought it would be an important opportunity to engage with that program once again.”

By offering temporary or short-term, academic positions, SAR member institutions can help qualified scholars escape dangerous conditions in their home countries and allow them to continue their scholarly work unimpeded. In return, these scholars contribute to their host campuses through teaching, research and other activities. In 2012, Anna Dolidze, from the Republic of Georgia in the former Soviet Union, was welcomed to Western Law under SAR. Law professor Michael Lynd and Political Science professor Joanna Quinn have been the key contacts on the program for the university.

“This is the sheer magnitude of this (crisis). We haven’t seen anything like this on the world scale in a long time,” McMullin said. “It’s heart-wrenching when anything like this happens, but the scale is really what makes this situation so different.”

FIND OUT MORE
Explore the King’s University College’s Refugee Sponsorship Program, or to donate with time or money, by contacting Campus Ministry Director Rev. Michael Bechard at 519-963-1477 or michael.bechard@kings.uwo.ca.

A HUMAN CONCERN | CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

something concrete we can do. We have got to take action. This is a good step.

Donations can be made via Western’s Help Syria website, uwo.ca/helpsyria, or through the Make A Donation link on the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre website, lccc.org, under Western Social Science Refugee Sponsorship.

The Syrian Refugee Student Awards will cover tuition and living costs for up to 10 Syrian students admitted to Western as early as January 2016. To be eligible, applicants must be Syrian citizens or residents with satisfactory academic standing and have been admitted to begin studies in a Western degree program.

Western set up a similar program after the 2010 Haitian earthquake.

“Western is about education and scholarship. Therefore, it makes sense for us to look for opportunities to assist the Syrian refugees caught up in this crisis,” said Glen Tigert, Western Registrar. “A response along the lines of these student awards is something we are particularly well suited to do. It makes sense in terms of what we are all about.”

Western International, in conjunction with World University Service of Canada (WUSC), is working to identify potential students. The university currently sponsors students from Africa and Asia via WUSC. Although WUSC primarily focuses on undergraduate students, Tigert said both undergraduate and graduate students will be considered for the awards.

The program’s success is about building relationships with the refugees as they create a new life for themselves in London. While the legal responsibilities that come with sponsoring a refugee – such as financial support and getting them settled – comes to a conclusion after one year, Bechard said these connections will last much longer.

“We are the only family for them. We have an obligation to be part of their lives. I anticipate they will go on for generations,” he said, adding Seifan and his family realize the importance of how education is the key to success. “I would like to think that in 16 years we will see Zenos here at King’s.”

For now, Seifan, who began a job with the City of London yesterday, is content to watch his son, laugh, run, trip and get back up again. It’s a life every 2-year-old should experience and for Zenos, it’s the only life he’ll know and remember.

“My son did not see what I have seen – this is good,” said Seifan, who appreciates all the help and friendship he has been overwhelmed with in just two weeks. “I may be tired, but this kind of tired I am happy with. They have shown me how life will be better for my child and for my family.”

FIND OUT MORE
Visit Western’s Help Syria website, uwo.ca/helpsyria, for more information on all efforts underway at the university. Western is interested in learning about any other initiatives taking place on campus in response to the Syrian humanitarian crisis. Email helpsyria@uwo.ca with details.
Relationships are a two-way street for ASB

BY ADELA TALBOT

IF YOU'RE READING this, Melissa Ostrowski wants you to know, now is your chance. Alternative Spring Break (ASB) has been a Western tradition for more than a decade, seeing thousands of students, staff and faculty roll up their sleeves and engage in community-oriented service learning over Reading Week, spending their days off helping out either at home or abroad.

While February is far off on the radar, application deadlines are fast approaching. If you’ve ever considered getting involved with ASB, now’s your chance to jump on board, said Ostrowski, Global Experiential Learning Coordinator with the Student Success Centre.

“Over the years, the program has grown exponentially. We went from five students and two staff members and, this year, we will have close to 200 student positions or student team leaders, and 20 staff and faculty team leader positions,” she said.

“I could say all of these things, like it’s an amazing, eye-opening experience that opens students’ eyes, hearts and minds to different perspectives. But it’s more.”

ASB isn’t about simply stepping into another community to help out, be it in Peru, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, or even Thunder Bay, Ont. It’s an experience that builds relationships, intercultural communication and competency, while nurturing a variety of perspectives and worldviews, Ostrowski stressed.

This opinion is echoed by ASB’s partners abroad.

“When Western students come, they honestly seemed excited to be with the kids, and to be here,” said Apryl Gibson, Outreach360’s team director in the Dominican Republic.

Western has partnered with Outreach360 since 2005, sending students to teach in community schools.

“The students very much roll with the punches; they adapt quickly, and they’re very happy once they get here. The thing that really intrigued me, and really impressed me, about them was they were quite inquisitive. They had a lot of questions about our involvement in the community, what type of development we do,” Gibson added, noting she later heard students discussing what they could do, and continue doing, once their week was up.

Outreach360 operates on a ‘poco a poco’ principle – meaning ‘little by little,’ she said.

“The cumulative effect of the 19,000 volunteers that have gone through the organization makes a difference. And the student volunteers who are here for a week make a difference as well, because they’re forming relationships and getting the kids excited about learning and about English,” Gibson continued.

“The kids love when they come and the kids teach them things – there’s so much people can learn from communities here. We have such an appreciation for the long partnership we’ve had with Western.”

ASB has likewise enjoyed a long partnership with New Orleans and Area Habitat for Humanity (NOAHH), sending student volunteers since 2008.

“Western’s student volunteers have worked on a number of different projects with us. They helped us, most recently, prepare for some of the stuff we were doing for the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina,” said Avery Strada, NOAHH Director of Volunteer Services.

“To commemorate the anniversary, we built 10 houses in 10 days, and when the students were here last year in February, they helped us prep some of the sites, digging foundations. The great thing about that is, they were really a part of what we do – they were a part of our commemoration, even though they weren’t here for the blitz build. And that’s really important to us,” she continued.

The work students do is critical – and Strada wants to make it clear – no matter what project Western’s volunteers are involved in, be it construction or restoring parts of an established home, they are radically changing the life of a family.

“We are so grateful for the time the volunteers give. Post-Hurricane Katrina, colleges and universities have come down have given thousands and thousands of hours, and that’s probably our largest demographic of volunteers. Our city could not be built without them,” Strada said.

“Our goal is to make them understand there’s something they can do here, but they can also go back home and make a difference in their own community. Take what you learn here, and take it home, and find something that sparks an interest and gets you engaged in the community.”

And this is exactly the ASB outcome Ostrowski loves to observe.

“We have a three-hour, post-ASB workshop and it’s amazing to have everyone in the room to chat and see the common themes, regardless of where they went for ASB,” Ostrowski said.

“It’s interesting to stand back and have students realize it’s not necessarily about where you go, that you have that eye-opening experience, regardless of location. Our projects are community driven, and the needs are identified by the community. We don’t decide what to do. But then students come back home, and sometimes they realize that things need to be done differently here,” she said.

In June 2015, in response to concerns about its effectiveness and the lack of university community participation in decision-making processes at Western, Senate established an ad hoc committee with the following terms of reference:

1. To make recommendations that will establish more robust and transparent decision-making practices and processes at Western.
2. To receive comments and recommendations from across campus and from the affiliated university colleges and to determine ways forward that are beneficial to the whole community.
3. The committee is given the following specific tasks:
   (a) a full review of the state of governance at Western focusing on collegial governance and the role of Senate, including a review of the constitutional documents of Senate including the by-laws and regulations, the terms of reference of all committees, and a review of the development of agendas for Senate meetings;
   (b) such other matters that arise during its investigations with respect to the enumerated tasks of the committee.

The ad hoc committee invites members of the university community to provide their input. This may be done in writing to the committee at senate-renewal-cttee@uwo.ca or in care of the University Secretariat, Room 4101, Stevenson Hall. Alternatively, you may plan to attend one of a number of town hall meetings that will be scheduled over the coming months.

Information about the ad hoc committee, including a schedule of meetings will be available in future at the following web site: www.uwo.ca/univsec/about/gov_review/senate_rev_index.html

SPECIAL TO WESTERN NEWS

Western’ Alternative Spring Break (ASB) has partnered with Outreach360 since 2005, sending students to teach in community schools in the Dominican Republic.

SENATE

Ad Hoc Committee on Renewal

JOIN THE TEAM

Interested staff and faculty can attend an Alternative Spring Break (ASB) information session at 5 p.m. Tuesday in University Community Centre, room 147A. Staff and faculty team leader applications are due Sept. 23; student team leader applications are due Oct. 12; student participant applications are due Oct. 20. For information, visit the ASB website, asb.uwo.ca.

Western
“THAT WAS BRICK Lane in 2011, in January. I just finished degree and was going to my commencement ceremony and was showing my mom Brick Lane when I saw these guys and thought they were awesome. So, I asked to take their photo.”

“That was in Toronto, on Queen Street, where I was talking to this guy who was playing music and some other guy was being racist towards him. I told him to lay off and he finally left, so then we starting talking. I asked him play a song and took some photos. It’s one of my favourite pictures.”

Show Cliff Davidson any of his thousands of photos and he will tell you how it came to be. The Sociology PhD candidate has been sharing his views of the urban landscape for more than a decade now through photography publications and exhibitions in the United States, United Kingdom, Netherlands and Canada. Even still, the self-defined ‘urban street photographer’ doesn’t necessarily see himself as ‘an artist.’

In fact, he pushes back from the word. “I’m a photographer,” he said. “It’s a strange thing for me because I don’t treat it as I’m an artist. I know I can do art well, but I’m very staid and controlled in how I do things. As an artist, you can manipulate; I usually just tell them I like to take pictures of people.”

“I like to capture images. I try to do it as much as possible ‘in camera.’ I do my own film developing and scanning. I guess there is some minor manipulation. But the more I can do in the camera, the less time I have to spend on my computer, which is amazing, because then I can take more pictures.”

At age 7, Davidson received an Olympus Trip MD 2 as a gift from his brother. Thinking it was “cool,” he jumped in and started taking pictures with it. The skill seemed to come naturally to him. He continued to follow the passion over the years, even as he pursued postsecondary education by earning degrees from Humber College, York University, the University of London (U.K.) and Western.

Today, with academics taking up the majority of his time, Davidson still manages to keep a camera on hand, as well as lead photography classes in the Toronto area. He has worked with the Toronto Urban Photography Festival, and he has shown his work at multiple exhibitions. His first show, Consumption/Desctruction, was shown in Middelburg, The Netherlands, as part of a PhotoRA (photography club of Roosevelt Academy) exhibition entitled Provocations. His work was featured as part of Roosevelt’s Culture Week and held at Revolution Gallery in Middelburg. The Provocations exhibition was also spotlighted on local Dutch television station TV Walcheren. After that, his works went on display across London, including the Linear House Gallery, Museum of London and Shop 14 Truman Brewery.

In addition to his projects like Portraits of Brick Lane, Umbrellas and Street Portraits Black and White, there is his urban photography, composed in both black and white and in colour. All projects lend themselves to Davidson’s ultimate goal – telling stories. “The biggest part is nowadays people are worried about how to technically take a good...
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Western Homecoming presents

Saturday, September 26, 2015
UC Hill, Western University

Everyone is welcome to join Western’s alumni for #HOCOonthehill - a full-day concert experience on campus.

Our Lady Peace, one of the most successful bands in Canada, headlines an all-Canadian lineup of chart-topping artists featuring Sloan and Coleman Hell.

EVENING CONCERT - GATES AT 6 P.M.
Ticket prices:
Students - $35  General admission - $45 or 10 for $350
*Prices are subject to per ticket fees and taxes

More information and tickets are available at: HOCOonthehill.ca

photo," he said. "Sure, you have to have photos that are good, but you also have to have a story to go with it. Let your photos tell stories." Since returning from England, Davidson feels his photography has regressed since he is "not particularly comfortable" taking pictures of people in London (Ont.) yet.

"The vibe is just different," he said. "I don’t like to take photos of vulnerable populations, such as homeless people. They are easy targets for so many. When I was in London (U.K.), it was much easier because everyone is so open to being on camera. There are cameras everywhere there."

Davidson always asks permission of his subjects before taking any photos. And when using a twin-lens reflex (TLR) camera – a retro camera usually viewed from just above waist level – it’s an easy icebreaker in meeting new people.

"When you use a TLR, which everyone notices, it creates a conversation," Davidson said. "I let them look through it, and then I ask if they mind if I take a picture."

The throwback TLR isn’t an antiquated oddball in his collection. In fact, of his 10 cameras, only one is digital.

"We start relying too much on the technology to take our pictures as opposed to relying on ourselves to do it," said the 36-year-old. "When I shoot analog, I do what a lot of people tell you not to do – I take just one picture. I take a single shot.

"It’s like most things, where is that fine line between too much and not enough? Photographs are how we capture our past, a slice of a time, that single moment. Because it is one point, you begin examining it and, more and more, layers begin to emerge – all this nuance. If we start taking so many pictures at one time is there really any nuance between them." ETB

"We start relying too much on the technology to take our pictures as opposed to relying on ourselves to do it."

- Cliff Davidson

GET SCIENCE RIGHT

The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) invites you to a town hall event about science policy and funding in Canada.

Featuring Western scientists:

Dr. Daniel Ansari, Canada Research Chair, Psychology
Dr. Jeff Dixon, Department of Physiology & Pharmacology
Dr. Beth MacDougall-Shackleton, Department of Biology

And local federal election candidates

McKellar Room, UCC
September 30, 2015, 1-3pm
Honouring a quarter century of service

WESTERN HONOURED ITS long-serving employees at recent celebrations for faculty and staff who have been working at the university for 25 years. While spending a quarter of a century at a single institution might seem like an anomaly today, these 143 university employees have made Western like a second home since they were first hired in 1990.

Long service award ceremonies were held June 25 at Gibbons Lodge, hosted by Western President Amit Chakma. Each recipient was presented with a pin and a Western print.

Since this group began working at Western a quarter century ago, the smallest entering class the university has ever admitted was 4,000 first-year students. That means this group has contributed to the education of more than 100,000 people during their career.

“Western’s success is a reflection of the expertise and dedication of our faculty and staff, many of whom have devoted their entire professional career to serving the cause of postsecondary education,” Chakma said. “It’s a pleasure to celebrate their individual and collective contributions to the university.”

Pictured on facing page are those who attended the event.

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HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee will meet in November to select candidates for honorary degrees to be awarded at Western’s Spring convocations in 2016. To ensure that consideration is given to as many worthy candidates as possible, the Committee invites the submission of nominations from any member of the University Community.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the following website: uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/senate/honorary/HonDeg_NomForm.pdf and submitted electronically to ibiree@uwo.ca prior to October 30, 2015 for consideration by the Honorary Degrees Committee.

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Academics

Winder named Yale’s sixth Roe Cloud Fellow

BY ADELA TALBOT

NATAHNEE NUAY WINDER considers her next opportunity a chance continue the work started by a renowned Native American educa-
tor and reformer more than 75 years ago.
The Western PhD student, a member of Nevada’s Duckwater Shoshone Nation, with an intertribal heritage of Navajo, Pyramid Lake Paiute and Southern Ute, headed last month to Yale University where she became the sixth Henry Roe Cloud Dissertation Writing Fellow, a prestigious position granted to one doctoral student each year.
The fellowship, which provides the recipient the time and resources available at Yale to com-
plete one’s dissertation, honours the legacy of Roe Cloud, a member of the Winnebago Nation of Nebraska and graduate of Yale College, 1910. A tireless critic of federal Indian assimilation programs, and a proponent of increased educa-
tional opportunities for American Indians, Roe Cloud’s leadership helped transform American Indian higher education.

“It’s very exciting for me. Roe Cloud is consid-
ered the first full-blooded Native American to earn his bachelor and masters from Yale. He did a lot of work with the Indian Reorganization Act in the United States, believed in incorporating indigenous ways of thinking into mainstream ideology. He talked about conditions of board-
ing schools, poverty and living conditions, living on and off reserve,” explained Winder, who grew up on Southern Ute and Pyramid Lake Paiute reservations.

“Even though that was done so long ago, it still applies today. His findings are still relevant to native communities. For me, doing the fel-
lowship, I look at it as continuing his work, even though he started talking about residential schools and boarding schools (in 1928), I’m doing this now because those impacts are still around.”

Winder, who holds two BAs in Native Ameri-
can Studies from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, has focused her studies on nation building, leadership and social welfare. She came to Western for a PhD in Sociology as a direct-entry student.

“I wanted to work with a supervisor who was still working with an indigenous community, and still fostering those relationships. With a lot of indigenous communities, researchers will come in and we won’t hear from them again,” she said, noting she was happy to come and work with Sociology professor Jerry White.

Western also was a good fit because of its proximity to indigenous communities and the services it provides to its indigenous students, Winder continued.

Her dissertation is a comparative analysis of the residential school history of Canada and the United States, based on the perspectives of Indigenous university students using photo-
voice – a process using photography to answer research questions – to gauge the impact they feel the residential school system has left in their lives.

For the study, she interviewed 30 participants from the University of New Mexico (16) and Western (14), facilitating group discussions and conducting one-on-one interviews focusing on photographs as a means to discuss how students continually feel the impact of residential schools.

“There’s not that much literature or research on how descendants feel they’ve been impacted and I’m looking at the two (American and Cana-
dian) systems together because they were going on around the same time period,” Winder said.

Winder’s fellowship will provide her one year to finish coding and writing her dissertation at Yale. When she is finished, she hopes to work as an academic and remain active in the com-
munity.

“I’m very honoured and humbled to be here at Western. This is not my territory. I’m a guest here,” she said.

Natahnee Nuay Winder, a Sociology PhD student at Western, headed to Yale University this semester where she became the sixth Henry Roe Cloud Fellow, a prestigious position granted to one doctoral student each year.

“Tired of believing that the research – the stories the students have shared with me, I’m very privileged they felt comfortable entrusting me to share their story. Without them, the study wouldn’t have happened. I’m very grateful for that and I want to make sure I’m being a good facilitator in retelling their story.”

NOTICE TO JOIN THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION
306TH CONVOCATION - AUTUMN 2015

Autumn Convocation takes place Thursday, October 22 and Friday, October 23, 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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Vader’s Legion steps out and answers the ‘Challenge’

BY PAUL MAYNE

YOU CAN SAY that ‘The Force’ is strong in this team.

Vader’s Legion, a group of Facilities Management co-workers, took the top spot among Western’s teams in the recent Global Corporate Challenge (GCC). Made of up of grounds workers Marc Vanden Heuvel, Phill Scott, Ethan Langerak, Georgie Bull, Randy Collins, George Rawski and Mike Ullerrick, the team averaged more than 24,000 steps each day over the 100 days, taking them close to 7,000 miles – or London to Vancouver, back to London and then to Vancouver, yet again.

Vanden Heuvel, a Vader’s Legion team leader, said GCC was a great way to get healthy once again.

“This past winter, we worked odd hours,” he said. “We worked late nights; our sleeping and eating patterns were destroyed; we were eating junk food; I gained like 30 pounds. I said this was the end of it.”

With his daily walking and commuting to work on his bike – not to mention extra loops through Springbank Park and local neighbourhoods to hit 50 km some days – Vanden Huel placed 25 pounds through GCC and plans to “keep it up,” having since joined a gym.

“It’s a whole lifestyle change, exercising and watching what you eat,” he said of the program. “It made me aware of what you’re doing. And work benefits too because if there’s healthy workers, there’s less sick time.”

While tops at Western, Vader’s Legion also finished 13th in Canada and 418th in the world, among more than 42,000 teams.

In total, more than 550 Western employees recently wrapped up a healthy lifestyle makeover, thanks to GCC.

Founded in Melbourne, Australia, in 2003, what started as frustration at the increasingly sedentary society soon developed into a global movement that has reached 1.5 million employees and 4,700 organizations in 185 countries.

Billed as a workplace health and engagement program, the GCC is built around 100 days, where participants, in teams of seven, take part by walking, swimming and biking, improve their diet and better their quality of their sleep.

Louise Koza, Director of Human Resources (Total Compensation), said hundreds of Western employees took part by walking, swimming and biking their way to well over 350,000 miles.

“All indications point to a huge success over the past 100 days,” said Koza, encouraging participants to keep their pedometers and continue with their program, as the GCC website’s portal and resources remain accessible right up to May 2016.

Western is planning a ‘finish line’ event wrapping up the Challenge and review over all results at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, in Room 2050 of the Social Science Centre.

NEWS AND NOTES

The Western Formula Racing Team earned a sixth-place finish, out of 75 teams, in the Formula Student Germany Competition, held at the Hockenheimring race track last month. Western was ranked as the top team from Canada, and the second-best team from North America. The team won its appeal of a DNF (did not finish) ruling for breaking a driver-change rule, and the official results were posted last week. The event wraps a successful season for the team, that saw a Top 10 finish in every event it participated in.

Family and friends of former Western staff member Jane Baldwin will celebrate her life this weekend in the best way possible – through music.

Baldwin worked as a cataloguer – through music.

“It’s fair to say my career as a Music Librarian is due to Jane’s encouragement,” said Lisa Philpott, Western Music Librarian (Music Reference, Collections and Instructional Librarian), who worked with Baldwin. “As a mentor, she was responsible for influencing a generation of librarians.”

Baldwin was also an accomplished musician at an early age, going on to receive her BA (1973) and MA (1975) in music from the University of Victoria. Family and friends have arranged a memorial concert in her honour, scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday (Sept. 20) in von Kuster Hall (Room 111) in the newly renovated Music Building.

The program, while short, will include one of her favourite Strauss songs and an arrangement of the aria from Bach’s Goldberg Variations for flute and string trio. The performers include several of Baldwin’s colleagues, plus several Music alumni who were students during her time at Western.

If you would like to attend the memorial concert, RSVP to jbal- windavisfamily@gmail.com.
Nearly 32,000 students returned to London last week as Western geared up for a new fall term. The university’s 5,211 full-time, first-year students, participated in a wide variety of O-Week activities designed to help them get to know their new home, prepare for academic life and highlight how to stay healthy and safe.

“O-Week is a very important part of Western’s student experience, providing us with the opportunity to welcome new students and help them get acquainted with each other, the campus and the City of London,” said Susan Grindrod, Associate Vice-President (Housing & Ancillary Services). “We do our very best to ensure that new students begin this new chapter in their lives with confidence so they may succeed in their pursuit of a university education.”

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