BY JASON WINDERS

ALTHOUGH WESTERN’S BOARD of Governors unanimously backed the Report of the Board Governance Review Task Force, the “make-or-break” test for the university governing body starts with what they do next, according to one of the review’s co-authors.

“One of the things that came across so clearly, from all the groups and from all the individuals we met with during this process, was a real concern for getting things done,” said Brain Timney, Senate representative to the Board and task force vice-chair. “There were several people who asked, ‘Are you going to report back?’

“We have raised the expectation levels. This really is a make-or-break item. We have to follow through; we have to get out and be in the community and show the Board is interested in their concerns. This is the first step.”

Struck in June, the Board Governance Review Task Force was charged with exploring the Board in the wake of the presidential compensation controversy. A handful of the review’s recommendations dealt directly with the problem areas cited by The Goudge Report as main instigators of the recent firestorm, including the Board’s committee structure, its connections with the university Senate, as well as its relationship and communication with the overall university community.

The review was released publically Nov. 19 and approved in principle at the Board’s regular meeting on Nov. 26.

The Board’s By-Laws Committee will be charged with developing an implantation plan for the review’s recommendations along timelines set down by the Board. A meeting for that group has yet to be set.

More than one Board member asked that periodic updates to the university community be an integral part of the process.

The original motion before Board members was to ‘approve’ the review; Carol Beynon, Senate representative, moved to amend that motion to read ‘approve in principle.’ That amendment was approved unanimously.

“Approval of this report says to me that we approve every aspect of it. Approval in principle says it is for information,” Beynon said. “The other way makes me a little nervous.”

Board member debate on the task force’s actual findings was non-existent. Instead, most of the discussion centred on context and next steps.

Jane Toswell, a Faculty representative to the Board, voiced her concern over the report being framed from the opening sentences around only “the issue of the President’s compensation and the move for votes of non-confidence.”

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“Board member debate on the task force’s actual findings was non-existent. Instead, most of the discussion centred on context and next steps.”
If you had it to do all over again

By Adela Talbot


I am truly a ‘consequence of my studies.’ And I would have it no other way.

When I told him I wanted to write, my accountant father pictured poverty. When I said I wanted to be a journalist, he pictured poverty. When I said I wanted to be a lawyer, he pictured poverty. When I said I wanted to be a doctor, he pictured poverty.

But my father always taught me to think for myself. Whatever I wanted to be, then that was what I would do. And I am grateful that he cherished my ambitions and supported me to pursue them.

As was pointed out to me by a friend and colleague, perhaps dropping aeyer into the skies would have made it more fun. Say where’s the God’s fury when you’re not there in the face of it. It’s only real when you’re there in the face of it, isn’t it? When you’re there in the face of it’s only real when you’re there in the face of it. Isn’t it? It’s only real when you’re there in the face of it.

BENTLEY puts Canadian identity in the spotlight

Paul Kennedy, host of CBC Radio’s ideas, from left, joined English and Writing Studies professor and director Chair Brya Traister, Western English alums Liz Oshick and English professor David Bentley in a conversation following the second address in the President’s Lecture Series last week in the Paul Davenport Theatre. Below, Bentleyreacts during the conversation focused on arts and humanities education.

BY ADELA TALBOTElectronic composer

December 3, 2015
Research

Animal Care chair embraces new role as overseer, educator

BY ADELA TALBOT

IT'S NOT THAT its practices are parti-
cularly reassuring—they’ve just been seldom discussed.

Western School of Medicine & Den-
ytistry’s Core Research Centre and
Animal Care and Safety Committee Chair
Madeleine Rant thought about it, maybe,
took her colleagues at the ACC and stepped
down earlier this year.

“One of the main roles at the university
is health research. Animal research plays a very
critical role in that. The only way to do it
properly is to educate the principal investigators about
the ethical guidelines and policies and help them adhere to its critical for us to do that,” Rant said.

The ACC does not just oversee ani-
mal models in medicine and biomedicine
but also wildlife research, marine research,
fisheries, and bird programs, such as the
Avian Research Center (ARC) on campus.

Manuelled by the university, the committee is
appointed by the Senate. It’s made up of 20
members of the community, including faculty.
Research, who do the research, animal
models, veterinary technicians, staff and student
research and community members who are
involved to connect to the university.

In all research at Western conducted using
animal models, there are protocols and
policies at the Animal Care and Safety
Committee (ACC). “We oversee all research
engaging animals in research, two to cover by certain
policies and procedures set for the given
institutions that are the ACC for animal research include,
the ACC has identified ACC, in accordance with which
animal models, veterinary research, and more.

ARC representatives are part of an umbrella,
typically primary researchers, and all have
primary researchers. The ACC’s mandate at Western,
the ACC has identified ACC, in accordance with which
animal models, veterinary research, and more.

There are approximately 1200 animals in
research at Western, but some of them are not
involved in the ACC, but there are major
additional ethical concerns. The ACC meets monthly,
ensuring concerns are resolved. The ACC is
responsible for overseeing the ACC, and members
are part of the umbrella, primarily researchers.

“Our primary goal is to act as a facilita-
tor, we need primary research. We fill
in the gaps, and we resolve the
issues. We’re here for the
researchers, and we make
sure the policies are in place,” Rant said.

Rant has been at Western for 15
years, she says. “I learned
a lot of things from the
researchers, and I’ve
learned about the
research experience.”

The ACC has a role in
providing ethical support.

“What I try to do is make sure
the ACC is doing our job and
 doing it well. We need to
really communicate with the
researchers, and we need to
really know what they’re doing,
and what they’re thinking,”
Rant said.

The ACC has a few
researchers, and they’re
primary researchers.

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Floss happy.
New Patients Welcome.

Guidelines now offer fresh strategies for acne sufferers

BY PAUL MAYNE

GUIDELINES TO HELP treat Canadian children and adults with acne have received a face-lift after 15 years thanks to one Western professor.

Management of acne: Clinical practice guideline, published last month in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, offers health-care professionals an updated roadmap to dealing with the common ailment impacting 85 per cent of young people, aged 12 to 24.

“Nearly every patient I see these days has acne,” Dr. Jerry Tan, of Windsor’s Department of Medicine, said before the guidelines were released last month in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Dr. Jerry Tan, Department of Medicine professor (Windsor Campus), has offered health-care professionals an updated roadmap to dealing with acne, a common ailment impacting 85 per cent of young people.

“The vast majority of patients who have acne during their heads;”

Tan went the latter route. He waited almost six months before starting a professional training, something he said he would have done even if he was not aware of the guidelines.

Tan said the recommendations for acne is a combination of topical medications and in-office treatment and is a multi-faceted approach.

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BY EMILY LEIGHTON

MARINOS KOSCHINSKY has an appointment at the head of the institute and is leading the Western campus of a new initiative to bring world-class research to Canada.

Koschinsky was named acting head of the Western Academic Health Research Institute in June, and the former director of the Lipid Research Unit at Queen’s University in Kingston will officially take the helm in mid-January.

“Koschinsky plans to lead a renewal of the institute’s strategic plan, although she is quick to acknowledge there is a lot of groundwork to do before that process can begin.”

Despite some personal sacrifices, Koschinsky is excited about the new role.

“I do have a lot of problems, but there are also a lot of opportunities to make it work for an opportunity as well,” she said. “We’re all willing to make it work.”

New Robarts head ready to work with institute’s ‘rich material’

As the new Scientific and Executive Director of Robarts Research Institute, Marlyse Koschinsky plans to lead a renewal of the institute’s strategic plan, although she is quick to acknowledge there is a lot of groundwork to do before that process can begin.

This ambitious agenda isn’t something Koschinsky plans to tackle alone.

I like to empower people through clear and transparent communication around key issues,” she said of her leadership style. “I have no problem taking on the tough decisions, but I prefer a consensus-building approach to governance. A big part of my role as a leader is to ensure the success of others, which is something I take very seriously.”

With a well-established and esteemed reputation in the field and an international network of contacts, she is well-positioned to lead the institute’s research program through an ambitious agenda to continue engaging the public and wider society.

“Moving two hours west down Highway 401 into a different profession, my family is very supportive and excited,” she said. “We’re all willing to make it work.”
On the evening of Friday, Nov. 13, I was writing a report about a research project and I needed to confirm some facts. Although it had been a long week, and we had finished lessons that afternoon, I remained at my lab until late.

The project deals with the perception of entrepreneurship, transmitted by biometrics – the New York Times and Financial Times – that we had been doing along with colleagues at the INSEAD Business School since last summer. It involves collecting, extracting and classifying nearly 2 million sentences from the digital version of the papers. In a sense, we analyze the emotions associated to those sentences using several techniques from artificial intelligence, including sentiment analysis.

The small exchange derived into a comment from Javier de la Rosa, a PhD student and software lead in my lab, saying: “It is a good moment to collect tweets. I have set it up in Paris Again, because of the earthquake, and 1.3 million tweets are here by now.” Let’s see what we catch.”

It would only be a few hours before we learned about the dimensions of the Paris attacks, the number of dead and wounded, and the reactions of the public and governments to the new war enemy.

The following week started as usual – attending to classes and paying attention to grading, meetings and grant applications. On Thursday, the whole lab met to do a design thinking session on another project, an ongoing collaboration with the Central Bank of Colombia about the peace process in the country. Again, part of the project deals with the analysis of the public opinion about the peace agreement with the guerrilla and how this evolves as Colombia goes into a new historical phase after 50 years of eternal war.

Someone suggested using the transcripts from radio broadcasts, while some other mentioned Twitter. The problem, we said, is Twitter does not let you collect tweets from the past unless you reach a special agreement with them. On Twitter – as opposed to Facebook, that has a more restrictive policy – you can collect anything you want provided it is public and has been one second after you start collecting. And you have to have enough storage.

At that very moment, Javier mentioned we had the collections from Paris and we had not done anything about it yet. For the next three days, including another long weekend, David Rosero, PhD student, and I became very engaged, devoted himself to parsing, cleaning, analyzing and visualizing all the information from the Paris attacks.

In a period of 29 hours following the attack, we fished 4.3 million tweets – by more than 1.2 million users who had used the keyword “Paris” in their messages.

But, what else did we do? First, social media is here to stay. Never before in human history there had been a channel – as the case Twitter, but the same is applicable to Facebook, Whatsapp, Kik, Viber and Whts – capable to coney and gather such a wide and immediate response. Being able to bring together such large numbers of people through the use of language and other cultural artifacts implies a new power making possible to form communities and building the building of huge cultural networks.

Second, what happens in these places is for real. There is a movement that tries to play down the importance of social networks – it does not matter if they are Twitter or Facebook – in social media. People buy, talk, date, study, listen to music and organize their social networks. Basically, humankind has created a new form of doing all things human.

Third, we don’t know enough about those networks. Social networks work and disseminate ideas and behaviors. In order to analyze the tweets we collected, we built a network connecting users to hashtags. The resulting network had 13,613,818 edges. This is a quite large structure, almost impossible to visualize in graphic form, but another than the network of the brain, many ecosystems, the one connecting the 1.3 billion people actively using Facebook all around the world, or the human networks that powerful viruses use to create a global pandemic. In order to study them, you need a lot of computing power, knowledge of network physics, the mechanisms of community formation and the language and cultural elements that make groups of people tip their behavior.

And we need to learn more about all this.

Fourth, the world is not so flat. The analysis of the network of tweets shows that there are structures of communication are easy to join in social networks. Additionally, they show a complex organization with some general rules and many regional behaviors.

Fifth, celebrities and social media specialists know how powerful these networks are to create and maintain their products. One tweet from One Direction member Louis Tomlinson during the Paris attacks summarily proved the true impact of celebrity and the existence of the global connectivity. One tweet from Tomlinson at 6:47 a.m. Nov. 14 was the most active and widely shared Twitter message related to the event with more than 173,000 retweets and 208,000 likes.

Super-connectors like Tomlinson, who has 20.7 million Twitter followers (and counting), have an unbelievable amount of power to persuade.

In sum, cultural networks like the one immediately formed after the Paris attacks are a wake-up call to the influence celebrities have because they live there. The fact the most retweeted message of reaction to similar attacks – Mali got 400,000 tweets in double the time – prove some things, and one of them is that there is room for variation and difference in global networks. They have various topographic shapes.

Social media makes it a perfect mechanism to plant ideas and counterbalancing behaviors, from music and entertainment to politics and group. Young people are especially vulnerable because they live there. The fact the most retweeted message (38,319 retweets) around Paris was by a boy band member represents a wake up call to the influence celebrities have these days – and the responsibility that comes with it.

In fact, social networks like the one immediately formed around the Paris attacks on Twitter have become a vehicle to our understanding of human and human behavior. If humans have always communicated around words, rocks, books, maps and images, the major change we are living today is that these networks are both global in reach and very fast in formation.

We need to better understand how they work if we want to understand and affect the way we, humans, live in the 21st Century.
BY ADELA TALBOT

OVER THE YEARS, Eddy Smet’s comic book collection grew so large he couldn’t keep up with it. Of the thousands he once owned, he’s only read a small portion. He let his comic book collection when he was a young boy, but eventually my mom gave about half of them away. I went back into collecting around 1992, and then sold almost away. I tried to buy every comic book that came out for a while, but I had a job and was very young, I missed quite a lot,” said Smet. B.A.Sc., M.P.H., a professor emeritus at Western University, who continues to teach and advise students, professors and professionals, who taught at Huron for more than 30 years, has given away much of his 5,000 comic books, and those that remain in the community of his friends, family and students.

The first donation, which established the Dr. Eddy Smet Comic Book Collection at Western Archives, included quite a few of the very first comic books ever produced and purchased by Smet. When Smet was a child, he used to bring his comic books to school and share them with his classmates.

Among his most recent donation to Western Archives is a collection of Canadian comic books. For collection, some of these books produced during the Second World War, imprinted by the Canadian government in December 1940, American comics during the Second World War. Imple-

Eddy Smet, who taught Math at Huron University College for more than 30 years, has been collecting comic books for more than 40 years. He has given thousands of comics, graphic novels and magazines to Western Archives over the years, most recently donating his collection of Canadian Whites, comics published during the Second World War and are rare representations of a Canadian comic industry.

The earliest known collection of Canadian comic books was begun by Denny O’Neil, Frank Miller’s, revolutionary run on Daredevil. Alter-ego stories, the stories of Batman, Superman, Captain America and Spiderman, are stories that are spinoffs and adaptations of the world, maybe not

Canadian Whites. ‘For collectors, these are books produced by the Canadian government in December 1940, American comics during the Second World War. Imple-

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**Research**

Researcher makes the case for GASE

**BY PAUL MAYNE**

ASSESSING THE ONGOING DREAD of epilepsy in children led to a single question, said a recent Western grad.

“The Global Assessment of Severity of Epilepsy (GASE) scale, born at Western almost a decade ago, is a single-item, seven-point global rating scale designed for neuropsychologists to report overall severity of epilepsy in children,” said Michael Lerner, City of London’s new mayor.

Lerner, who had a strong interest in this early work when he met his Master from the Department of Paediatrics & Biostatistics, said the severity of epilepsy has been assessed predominantly with measures of the severity of seizures. But these measures fail to address other dimensions of epilepsy such as disability caused by disease, side effects of antiepileptic drugs, seizure frequency, and frequency of near-seizures. “Seizure severity alone also fails to provide a complete clinical representation of the severity of the patient’s condition,” he added.

Lerner was interested in finding out if the measures of the GASE property of the GASE scale would all the accuracy and reliability and reproducibility of the severity of epilepsy over a period of time.

Under Western professor Kathy Szwarcz, who was involved in the initial Health-Related Quality of Life in Children with Epilepsy study, Lerner discovered that the GASE scale can be used to assess the severity of epilepsy in children. Lerner was able to show there was a strong, well-defined, and reliable measure of epilepsy severity, and he developed a web-based GASE where the severity of epilepsy was assessed. Lerner’s research was completed after his thesis was completed.

"The results of this study have important implications for the ongoing work of the GASE scale and the rate of progress of epilepsy in children," said Lerner.

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**Roles & Responsibilities of Women in the Financial Services Industry**

**BY PAUL MAYNE**

WHILE EXERCISE is an important part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle, many ways of looking at how exercise can be accomplished don’t always work well for everyone. And it’s particularly important when you look at diabetes.

Young researcher targets exercise tweaks for diabetes patients

First-year Science student Annah Pandey’s independent research shows Type-2 diabetes patients may benefit from more high-intensity exercise in 10-minute bursts, as opposed to 30 minutes of sustained, lower-intensity exercise.

BY PAUL MAYNE

Young researcher targets exercise tweaks for diabetes patients

First-year Science student Annah Pandey’s independent research shows Type-2 diabetes patients may benefit from more high-intensity exercise in 10-minute bursts, as opposed to 30 minutes of sustained, lower-intensity exercise.

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Ingeborg Slade
Barrister & Solicitor
Western Alumni, Divine & Prout
519 679-1211
71 Carriage Hill Drive, London

France celebrates professor’s contributions to culture

Western French Studies professor Jeff Tennant received a national order of France at the Dr. David N.H. Chu International Student Centre earlier this week, recognizing his work in French phonetics and sociolinguistics, aligning his dedication to fostering plural learning and intercultural relations with France. The Ordre des Palmes Académiques (Order of Academic Palms) is an Order of Ceremonial for academics, cultural and educational figures, originally a decoration founded by Emperor Napoleon to honour eminent members of the University of Paris. In 1963, the award to which was revised to include major contributions to French national education and culture made by anyone, including foreigners. In 2013, France’s Ministry of Higher Education and Research created the Ordre des Palmes Académiques des Études Canadiennes (Order of Academic Palms for Canadian Studies) in recognition of the French-Canadian community. The winners included:

• Selma Firestone, Montreal
• Gilles Kepes, Montréal
• François-Xavier Hagen, Québec
• Anne-Marie Dugourd, Marché Ladies
• Jean-Pierre Gérard, Saint-Jean-Baptiste
• William B. Wright, Saint-Jean-Baptiste
• John Gribbe, Montréal
• Louise Tremblay, Saint-Jean-Baptiste
• Michael Spring, Montréal
• Denis Lortie, Montréal
• Yves Grignon, Montréal
• Marie-Christine Parent, Montréal
• Lucie Lévesque, Montréal
• Sean Fotopoulos, St-John’s

THE UNIVERSITY OF Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) handed out the association’s annual scholarship Monday to 11 students from across all 11 faculties. These awards are funded by UWOFA and given to students who are outstanding in the classroom and who demonstrate a commitment to employment equity and welcome students from all cultural backgrounds.

• Shaheen Ahmed, Science
• Kathleen White, Science
• Alison Muller, Science
• Mahboob Khorshidi, Engineering
• Mohammad Mostaghimi, Engineering
• Sara Ruzand, Education

• Jennifer Boogaards
• Sharang Sharma
• Geoffrey Molnar

UWOFA celebrates students at annual scholarship event

UWOFA, the Faculty Association of the University of Western Ontario, celebrated its scholarship recipients Monday night at the Don Wright Faculty of Music. The evening included speeches from UWOFA President Dianne Scott and keynote speaker Dr. Elizabeth McCorken. McCorken is a professor and former proctor in the Faculty of Social Science and is a member of the Faculty of Education's French Language Bursary Program.

The awards recognize the achievements of Western students, who were celebrated for their academic and personal accomplishments. The recipients were chosen by their faculty or department, and the awards are intended to support their studies and help them reach their full potential.

• Pamela Fitzgerald, Part-time Student Scholarship (Philosophy)
• Elizabeth McCorken, Don Pollock W. Balderston Memorial Scholarship (Philosophy)
• Mark Rae, Brander Scholar (Arts)
• Renée Zech-Shaposhnikova, Holly Trower Scholarship for History
• Kyle Yoder, Brandon Schupp, Maria Zhao, Science; (Part-time Student Scholarship)
• Elizabeth McConkey, Dan Pollock W. Balderston Memorial Scholarship (Philosophy)
• Marc Bau, Brander Scholar (Arts)
• Elizabeth McCorken, Don Pollock W. Balderston Memorial Scholarship (Philosophy)
• Marjorie Skourlas, Past Presidents Scholarship (Philosophy)
• Elizabeth McCorken, Part-time Student Scholarship (Philosophy)

NEWS AND NOTES

Western will be concluding its winter semester on Friday, and the university will be closed for the week. Some offices will remain open, including the University Centre and the Office of Student Life. Classes will resume on Monday, January 4, 2016.

Elisabeth McCorken, left, a student in the Faculty of Social Science, was joined by her mom, Ruth Ann, at the annual University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) Scholarship reception held Monday in the Great Hall. McCorken was one of the recipients of a Faculty of Social Science award. UWOFA scholarships are awarded annually to students across all faculties at Western and aim to recognize their academic achievements in the previous year.
A short time ago, in a residence not all that far away...

The Dark and Light sides of The Force clashed earlier this week as the 2015 Business Cares Food Drive campaign kicked off at Western Tuesday with help of some familiar faces from the Star Wars universe. Heading into its 16th campaign, the community initiative hopes to surpass last year’s total of 290,870 pounds of food donated to the London and Area Food Bank. The Western Cares Food Drive campaign is pitching in to do its part, through Dec. 15, with donation spots in numerous campus buildings. For more details, go to uwo.ca/faculty_staff/fooddrive/. The London and Area Food Bank provides emergency food items for 3,160 families monthly – 39 per cent of them children – and more than 25 other social service agencies in the London area. “There are many reasons individuals and families access the services of the London and Area Food Bank. Most people only use the food bank as a last resort. In fact, in 2014, 35 per cent of families came to the food bank only once in the year for help,” said Wayne Dunn, Business Cares Campaign Chair. “This year, the food bank is also changing its focus to remind supporters that healthier food donations are appreciated – think protein, think multigrain, think veggies.”