No violation over Reunion Weekend controversy

BY JASON WINDERS

Follwing an investigation by Campus Community Police Service, Western found no breach of the Student Code of Conduct occurred regarding the four students photographed beneath a banner reading “Western Lives Matter” in a widely circulated photograph from Reunion Weekend, Janice Deakin, Western Provost and Vice-President (Academic), told university Senate last week.

Deakin stressed the university was aware of a number of images shared by Western community members through social media, although only one shared via Instagram has come to symbolize the incident. That one image has been unfairly characterized as the lone trigger of university action, she continued.

“The response to the ‘Western Lives Matter’ incident that triggered the media release was due to information beyond the picture of the four young men,” she said. “The university did not tie its response to the four young men. I am not at liberty to say what those other things were, but they were of enough concern to the institution and to out other groups.”

Deakin continued, “I don’t know who captured that particular image and attributed that to the cause of the university’s response. But that image was one small piece or slice of a number of things – images, symbols, etc. – that were taking place. It is unfortunate that the image captured and published by others was taken to be the university’s motivation to investigate.”

Deakin neither referenced the content of the additional images nor presented them for review.

Following the wide circulation of photos via social media during Reunion Weekend, Western issued a statement, signed by Jana Luker, Associate Vice-President (Student Experience), stating that the university “does not tolerate racism” and that it “considers the ‘Western Lives Matter’ banner to be contrary to the university’s values.”

“Senior administration wants to assure the entire Western community that these types of transgressions are hurtful, disrespectful and demeaning. They do, however, provide an opportunity for further conversations with campus leaders and community partners,” the statement continued.

While Senators decried the incident, the questions posed by two members of the governing body showcased the awkward position the university finds itself in with this issue.

Senator Kim Clarke was concerned about the possibility of the university’s investigation creating a “chilling effect on the academic lives of students” and that the university’s actions “may constitute an infringement of these students’ rights to free expression.” Senator Harry Orbach-Miller wondered how the university would use this incident, along with other similar ones, to “educate the entire campus community to increase our communal awareness to appropriately deal with sexual violence and racialized issues.”

When pressed on the “chilling effect” caused by the university’s response, Deakin pushed back.

“We walk a fine line balancing individual rights and the interests of the community.”

- Janice Deakin

Western Provost and Vice-President (Academic)
Get a machete – Senate is deep in the weeds

Someone had to say something at some point, right? Senate has been in an odd place since the events of last year. It is working through its transparency issue – still wrapped in secrecy, still put on hold. And yet, the whole time, it has been happening. The whole time, the Senate has been happening. Without us, without us...

However, this isn’t the way it’s supposed to be. Senate, as a body, is handling an important issue, the issue of academic freedom. Senate has been working hard to find a way to address this important issue. Senate has been working with all stakeholders to find a way to address this important issue.

In the meantime, however, these discussions are being held in secret. Private citizens don’t have access to these discussions. Private citizens don’t have access to the Senate.

That’s where we want to focus, helping our citizens get the help they need.

In the meantime, however, the discussions have been happening. Senate has been working hard to find a way to address this important issue. Senate has been working with all stakeholders to find a way to address this important issue.

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It recently had Thanksgiving dinner with my family. It was a three-generation family. A range of generations, from my 90-year-old Great Uncle, to my 45-year-old brother-in-law, to his two kids, my nephews. My boyfriend and I were the youngest in attendance, as we’re both in our twenties. We all got on the topic of university reading breaks, as there was a fairly upcoming one.

My cousin was skeptical of the breaks, remembering he never had breaks during his time in his undergraduate years. He believed it was just a way for the school to get ahead on, their work before the holidays. However, I was interested to hear him comment on this.

The official intention of these breaks has been the concern of some Millennial-haters or reading break critics. This has been the concern of some TA’s, or reading break skeptics. But I wonder how large a grain of truth is beneath this statement. I am fairly well aware of how the mental health landscape has changed during my lifetime, as a student, sometimes I really need a change of heart when it comes to expectations for a variety of reasons. Other students have a change of heart when it comes to expectations of undergraduates as soon as they transition from undergrads to grad students. As both a PhD student and a teaching assistant (TA), I often walk the line of being soft on students while also balancing the need to be critical of students and one’s work.

So moving forward, let’s forgo this TA, Millennial-hater or reading break skepticism. I don’t have a satisfying answer for why people seem to forget being an undergraduate student in your twenties is hard. And maybe a few days off isn’t a completely garbage way for the school to get ahead on, their work before the holidays. I do believe there needs to be a few days off in my life.

• As an academic institution, Western News has applied a commentary label to any article written in an author’s voice.

Letters to the Editor
Remembering those who helped shape the university

It was interesting to see the published letters in the Western News: (Register an online account to submit letters) with so many other people in other areas. To see it in everyday life.

The Lawson Health Research Institute scientists are applying a commentary label to any article written in an author’s voice.
I

The picture on this page is of the No. 10 Stationary Hospital, as it appeared in 1917. The hospital was located in Seaford, England, and served as a casualty clearing station for the Canadian forces during World War I. It was commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Seaborn, who was a well-respected and respected medical officer. The hospital was well-equipped and had a large staff of medical personnel, including doctors, nurses, and orderlies. It served as a hub for medical care and treatment for wounded soldiers, and was staffed by dedicated and hard-working individuals who were committed to providing the best possible care. The hospital was a symbol of the dedication and sacrifice of those who served during the war, and is a reminder of the courage and heroism of those who fought and died for their country.
When Words collide

Festival looks to bring all lovers of words together

by ADELA TALBOT

Joshua Lambier wants you to see for yourself that words—whether spoken, written or performed—can bring people together, and that everyone has something to offer.

“Seeing the festival has been successful in that it has brought figures from across Canada. Organizers have also invited a handful of larger literary figures to engage; they belong to anyone who wants to do so, and their voices are published. They don’t belong to those who are published, as Lambier noted, adding a lot of the festival volunteers are students from the School for Advanced Studies in Arts and Humanities at Western.”

Lambier said. “There’s always a desire to have engaged, rigorous cultural programing – but it’s important to find the right balance. We need more needs to be done to engage the general public, and we need to get past Town and Gown because even though we have different classes of faculty members, there are different classes of faculty members, and those classes have different interests and perspectives in some of the things we do.”

“Seeing the student body and show them what creativity is all about, Lambier said. They are published. They don’t belong to those who are published.”

“We’re ramping up for the next set of negotiations in 2018 and we’re constantly trying to make sure the administration doesn’t lose sight of what we’re trying to do. We’re definitely watching what’s happening at Senate and trying to participate more in that process. That’s an area UWOFA really needs to work on.”

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Lambier said. “I’ve heard an employer talk about how contract faculty members are more engaged and productive. We really need to work towards engaging contract faculty members to be adequately recognized. As it stands, the administration doesn’t actively show it values her contract faculty colleagues, she said.”

“I’ll be watching closely how negotiations play out, and we’re constantly trying to make sure the administration doesn’t lose sight of what we’re trying to do. We’re definitely watching what’s happening at Senate and trying to participate more in that process. That’s an area UWOFA really needs to work on.”

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University administration, Fanshawe College administration, London Police Service, Middlesex-London EMS, City of London Housing and the student association, said the plan now goes to the Board of Governors for formal endorsement. The plan is not silent on the issue of mandatory Indigenous courses for Western students; a faculty committee complements the plan. The plan calls for the university to "explore strategies to increase Indigenous content across undergraduate programs, e.g. mandatory course(s) and/or embedding Indigenous content into foundational undergraduate courses using common learning outcomes."

Senators unanimously approved the university’s Indigenous Strategic Plan, which seeks to "Indigenize Western’s institutional practices and processes in order to achieve Western’s strategic directions.

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Senators unanimously approved the university’s Indigenous Strategic Plan, which seeks to "Indigenize Western’s institutional practices and processes in order to achieve Western’s strategic directions.

Through my position, and in my heart, I believe we will look hard at this and, on the advice of those who know better than us, and in consultation with those in the community, we will make Western proud of our efforts and successes.”

Janice Deakin
(Western President and Vice-President Academic and Provost)

Deakin called the university’s response its “best effort” given the circumstances...
Governor General taps trio for top PhD honours

BY ASILYA TALBOT

Hector colleagues at Western call him a “true Renaissance man,” but bring his erudition in music, languages, and Parigiello Gobbo is trying to politely laugh off a label as a “brainiac.” A musician, a scientist, and an Olympic athlete, Parigiello Gobbo is the only PhD to receive this year the Governor General’s Academic Medal, an award that recognizes the outstanding scholarly achievements of students in Canada.

Gobbo graduated from the University of Padua with his PhD in Chemistry, and his work is ongoing as he continues to explore the functional properties of the two-dimensional material known as graphene. Gobbo was the first person to isolate graphene from its parent material, graphite, and he has continued his research on the material since.

Gobbo was one of three Western students to receive the Governor General’s Academic Medal. The other two were Mark Workentin from the Department of Chemistry and Yanxiang Wu from the Department of Economics, both of whom were also awarded the Governor General’s Gold Medal for their academic achievements.

**Governor General’s Gold Medal Recipients**

**MARK DESJARDINE, PhD Business Administration**

Mark, the way he carries out research, is “always loved it because of the freedom it gives me,” Gobbo said.

Gobbo, who is originally from Italy, has been working on graphene for many years and has published extensively on the material. His research has earned him several awards, including the Governor General’s Academic Medal.

**YANXIANG WU, PhD Comparative Literature**

As for judo, he calls it “the other half” of his life. He started training at the age of six and has been earning his black belt for many years. When he started, he was a child and was hooked immediately, he said. Gobbo has quickly earned his black belt and is now working on his sixth degree.

Gobbo’s work looks at characterizing graphene’s properties and exploring many other applications in science, including electronics and solar cells. He has published several papers on the subject.

**SPECIAL TO WESTERN NEWS**

On the University of Western Ontario campus in London, Ontario, Pierangelo Gobbo, who graduated with a PhD in Chemistry this past November, is among the year’s recipients of the Governor General’s Academic Medal, an award that recognizes the outstanding scholarly achievements of students in Canada.

Gobbo came to Western as an international graduate student from the University of Padua in Italy, one of the oldest universities in the world. Looking for an opportunity to study abroad, he landed at Western as a result of a collaboration between the Chemistry department and the University of Padua. Western’s Department of Chemistry, Gobbo worked on nanomaterials and biomaterials, and he joined with a work group associated with a professor at Padua and Mark Workentin in his lab. While working on his PhD, Gobbo earned a Marie Curie Fellowship, and he was able to work on research in France and Italy during his PhD.

Gobbo’s work focuses on functional nanomaterials. Nanomaterials are used in a variety of areas, such as medicine and industry. The effects of graphene on these materials need to be thoroughly investigated in order to find new applications.

Gobbo’s work is a shining example of the type of research that the Governor General’s Academic Medal recognizes. With the award, Gobbo is now able to continue his research and pursue a career in academia.

**Governor General’s Academic Medal**

The Governor General’s Academic Medal, an award that recognizes the outstanding scholarly achievements of students in Canada, is given to three students each year. The recipients are chosen based on their academic achievements and contributions to the field of study.

Gobbo’s work has been recognized with several awards, including the Governor General’s Academic Medal. His research has earned him the honour of being included in the list of the world’s most cited researchers.

Gobbo is now working on a project that will help to increase the sustainability of the world’s cities, and he hopes to continue his research in the future. With the award, he is now able to focus on his research and pursue a career in academia.

Gobbo is currently an Assistant Professor of Business Strategy & Policy at the University of Oxford. He recently earned a Marie Curie Fellowship, and he was able to work on research in France and Italy during his PhD. Gobbo’s work focuses on functional nanomaterials. Nanomaterials are used in a variety of areas, such as medicine and industry. The effects of graphene on these materials need to be thoroughly investigated in order to find new applications.

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Partnership offers a new reality about the past

ADIA TALBOT

Rhonda Burstall, who spent the last seven years helping to establish Western’s Sustainable Archaeology facility in the city’s southwestern corner, is now the executive director of the Museum of Ontario Archaeology. Going forward, she hopes to see a healthy partnership between the two institutions, which are located right next door to one another.

“The idea (for Sustainable Archaeology) is to provide a home for Ontario’s archaeological heritage from all across the province. It was built for storage and to facilitate research,” she said, noting the research has been largely digital, involving images and data. The new building, amongst other things, will help the museum get its act together.

“The museum now has the opportunity to be a true ground for a lot of stuff that happens at Sustainable Archaeology – which is why I’m particularly excited about facilitating this. After operating funds are steered up on the Sustainable Archaeology collab, the museum will take a new role in helping to create Sustainable Archaeology charges for storing anything and for use of its technology, she explained. The hope is it will eventually make it a focal point for partnerships with the museum curate continue."

“The Chan dellor for the University of Toronto, the University of Chicago, the University of Washington, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of California, Berkeley, amongst others, to barcode images as they are digitized and bought the Second World War. Blackstone tells the Warhorse stories’ created by the Warsaw and Nazi Germany, and she is excited to see how modern-day images of the people, and a number of architects, artists, and scholars from around the world, will take advantage of the new facility.”

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Western looks to set a new record for United Way this year

Western is counting on students, staff, faculty, alumni and retirees in helping the university meet its lofty goal of $750,000 for this year’s United Way of London & Middlesex campaign. Last year, the university raised $717,858, the largest single donation United Way received. That number brought the university’s contributions – dating back to the 1990s – to nearly $11 million. Last month, United Way of London & Middlesex announced a campaign goal of $9.17 million. Last year, United Way eclipsed its goal of $9.1 million by raising $9.113 million. The next big fundraising event will be the annual Scotiabank StairClimb, scheduled for Nov. 3 at One London Place. For information on this, and other upcoming fundraising activities, visit unitedway.uwo.ca.

Review Committee
Vice-President (Research)

A Review Committee for the Vice-President (Research) has been struck in accordance with the Appointment Procedures for Senior Academic and Administrative Officers of the University.

Vice President John Capone is eligible to be appointed to a second five-year term.

The Committee is seeking input from the community as it conducts its review, particularly with respect to the following:

• The alignment of the strategic research directions and priorities with Western’s Values and Mission and with the University’s Strategic Plans over the last five years.
• The alignment of these strategic research directions and priorities with external realities (e.g., Tri-Council Funding)
• The effectiveness of consultation and communication with key stakeholders and the broader campus community on the development of specific strategic research directions and priorities undertaken in the last 5 years
• Stakeholders’ awareness of steps that they can take to stay engaged with the research vision, process and direction
• Means to enhance the effectiveness of research services provided to the campus community

In preparing written submissions, the following documents may be helpful:

• Roles & Responsibilities of the Vice-President (Research)
• Strategic Research Plan
  www.uwo.ca/research/_docs/excellence/Western_University_Strategic_Plan_Overview_Approved.pdf

Submissions should be forwarded by November 18, 2016 to the Secretary of the Committee, Irene Birrell at ibirrell@uwo.ca or mailed to:

I. Birrell, University Secretary
Rm. 4101, Stevenson Hall
Western University
London, Ontario, N6A 5B8.

All submissions will remain confidential to the review committee.