Starting this term, students will be afforded more flexibility in evaluating their instructors and courses as Western goes digital with its end-of-term questionnaires. It’s a move, university officials say, that will provide deeper data and a better understanding of teaching across campus.

The digital version replaces around 250,000 paper questionnaires every semester.

With around three weeks remaining in their courses, students will receive an email with a link to a questionnaire that can be filled out during class or at a later date on any electronic device. If students aren’t in class the day the questionnaire is released, they may still participate.

Students will receive follow-up emails if they haven’t completed the questionnaire by the last day before the exam period begins.

In its inaugural year, the digital questionnaire will be an exact reproduction of the paper version from last year.

“We’re going to make sure we generate the same kinds of reports that were prepared in the past, so we will see the same kind of data,” said John Doerksen, Vice-Provost (Academic Programs).

Next fall, however, the university will offer new options within the questionnaire never available in paper form, including the ability for faculties and departments to seek mid-course feedback and access comparative data and more sophisticated reports.

“That kind of flexibility is really helpful,” Doerksen said. “The software will allow us to have a more sophisticated way of arranging the questions so we can have core university questions, questions the instructors wish to choose and questions an academic unit may wish to select. There is more flexibility to the instrument itself.”

These reports could be helpful tools for academic units as they go through their review process, Doerksen continued.

“It’s just another way of engaging in student feedback to see what’s working and what isn’t.”

- John Doerksen
Vice-Provost (Academic Programs)

Ultimately, Doerksen hopes the university can use the deeper data set to frame the kinds of programming it offers through areas like the Teaching Support Centre.

If the university can identify gaps where greater clarity or pedagogical practice would be helpful, it could then provide programming to support faculty who may be interested in developing their teaching practices, Doerksen said.

“It’s just another way of engaging in student feedback to see what’s working and what isn’t, and then be able to make changes mid-course to benefit clarity and student learning,” he said.

"It's just another way of engaging in student feedback to see what's working and what isn't." - John Doerksen
Vice-Provost (Academic Programs)
An American's report from the election

“F"ly, I don't want to talk about it.”

Eleven days after eight words once comprised the entirety of an Atlanta Journal column by Southern humorist Lewis Grizzard, I was wrestling with the same words. I mean, some election officials are still counting votes. We all have our own timetable. I was tempted to offer an homage to Grizzard and that column this week. But to be honest, I am having trouble thinking about that now.

We, the American people, the United States of America, are a nation of contrasts. I have seen the best the country has to offer, and I have seen the worst. This election was no different. It was a battle of wills, a contest of ideas, a clash of values.

The column I had finalized for this space earlier Tuesday joked about the fate of the country. It was a satirical piece, meant to be light-hearted. But what I didn’t realize was how close to the bone it was. I was aware of the political division, but I didn’t realize how deep it ran. I was aware of the economic challenges, but I didn’t realize how devastating they were.

In that order. That was The South.

I was tempted to offer an homage to Grizzard and that column this week. But to be honest, I am having trouble thinking about that now.

We all must come together. We all must work towards common goals. We all must strive for unity. We all must learn to listen to each other. We all must learn to understand each other. We all must learn to love each other.

The world is watching. The world will remember.

END

BY PAUL MANIE

Exploration continues to find ‘surprising little differences’

I f you think adding something as innocuous as an F-word here and there would not make any difference, you have not observed the science.

It’s a surprising little difference. You go from a test of whether the physics is right to an assessment of the security of the building.

The state-of-the-art research facility, located in a non-descript building near the London International Airport, is currently in its third phase of activity. It is expanding significantly to conduct experiments on extreme wind effects, moisture penetration and energy efficiency.

Just in its second decade of research, the facility – dubbed “The Wind Tunnel” – continues to discover “surprising little differences” while redefining wind science and, more importantly, the name of safety at home.

“For a decade, Kopp, along with dozens of students, has spent their days destroying things in the name of science and, more importantly, the name of safety at home.”

In 2005, Western built the Insurance Research Lab for Better Homes (IRLBH). For a decade, Kopp, along with dozens of students, has spent their days destroying things in the name of science and, more importantly, the name of safety at home.

“Let’s not even think about that. It is a dangerous man, a man who has hate in his heart. And think of the cabinet – the one that I could not sleep because of world events. Millions upon millions of casualties.

We all must come together. We all must work towards common goals. We all must strive for unity. We all must learn to listen to each other. We all must learn to understand each other. We all must learn to love each other.

The world is watching. The world will remember.

END

End of the column

For Better Homes. Since the university added the Advanced Facilities for Avian Research (AFAR) and the Wind Engineering, Energy and Environment (WEE) Engineering Research Chair, the Western Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund to complement the University’s other research funding sources, the creation of the Wind Tunnel has been a key step in the development of Western’s research agenda.

In 2005, Western built the Insurance Research Lab (IRLB) in the Advanced Manufacturing Park. Code and policy changes for better residential and commercial structures have resulted in safer dwellings across the county.

“IT’S A do ‘right it the first time idea, and, if you don’t, it gets expensive.”

— Greg Kopp, Engineering professor
We are non-binary trans people—and, yes, we exist

BY JOSHUA M. FERGUSON

A

my birth, my mother asked [her] to put the clothes on and tell her if I was a boy or a girl. As [her] daughter, I'm not trans, but I've internalized this philosophy. I'm neither a woman nor a man, regardless of anyone's categories assigned to my body.

The transphobic intersectionality in our society is often focused on the lives of binary trans people—trans men and trans women. So, when we think about the possible identities of a person whose sex is not the sex ascribed at birth, there is often the assumption that they are either a man or a woman. The absence of binary trans people who do not fall into a binary sex/gender role is rarely discussed.

This is a common exclusion of non-binary trans people, as well as the lack of non-binary categories in public and legal recognition. People are often not aware of non-binary identities, which makes it difficult to navigate the non-binary lifestyle.

The erasure and exclusion of non-binary trans people, beyond the binary, exist. We face anti-trans legislation and anti-trans activism. The non-binary community is often ignored and misunderstood.

Recently, a University of Toronto tenure-track professor, John Paterson, tweeted about referring to others as 3.5 genders. He was given a gallows by students.
Fellowship pushes boundaries of new medical technologies

BY CHLOE GRANDO

The Western Medical Innovation Fellowship is one of the best things that could have happened to John Matheson. The medical student who initially reached out to Lanting and Matheson’s role was to be the clinical arm of the team. He helped Matheson's role was to be the business and commercialization side of innovating at the University of Minnesota and Western’s Research Park. Through workshops and in-person sessions, the fellows learned everything from how the patient population is identified to navigating the regulatory landscape to basing their work on previously published work, which can be difficult to use, and the solution could be anything, from a technical perspective.

Matheson also understands what it’s like to be in a patient’s shoes. A motivating force in his first year of university required him to undergo two surgeries. That experience helps it’s like to be in the patient’s shoes. A motivating force in his first year of university required him to undergo two surgeries. That experience helped Matheson understand the intellectual property of their projects, the fellows are under a confidentiality agreement. Provisional patient applications are currently being put forward for patents. He’s able to understand the intellectual property of their projects, the fellows are under a confidentiality agreement. Provisional patient applications are currently being put forward for patents.

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It’s always exciting to work with researchers involved in the fellowship, Matheson said. It’s a great opportunity to see how the fellows have a chance to just do this with more.

One of the projects, Matheson noted could be a potential project for a collaborative approach. A collaborative approach would allow the fellows to create a list of more than 60 innovative projects. Beginning last September, the fellows dedicated most of their time to those projects. Operating rooms. The fellows worked with orthopedic surgeons, where they observed procedures. The list was whittled down to 15 priority projects. Beginning last September, the fellows dedicated most of their time to those projects. Operating rooms.

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REMEMBRANCE DAY ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED

BY JASON WINDERS

T he Western community will pause Friday for ceremonies in honour of Remembrance Day.

The University Student Senate Council will host ceremonies that will feature student musical performances, speakers and other tributes dedicated to Canadian veterans and armed forces still serving our country, beginning at 10:15 a.m. in the Maclaurin Lounge in the University Community Centre.

King’s University College will host a ceremony at 11:00 a.m. in front of Mainstreet Memorial Building at 10:45 a.m. The Office of Campus Ministry at King’s will host a Remembrance Day ceremony that will conclude shortly after 11:30 a.m. The ceremony will include prayers, words spoken by the last post, moment of silence and will feature a bagpiper, bugler and the King’s University College Chamber Choir.

Huron University College will hold a service of Remembrance and wreath-laying ceremony at 10:30 a.m. in the Huron University College Fellowship immediately in front of the Huron University College Chapel.

If you are unable to attend either ceremony, you are encouraged to observe two minutes of silence at 11:11 a.m. at your work area.

In a tradition that started two years ago, Western will lower the flag on University College for two minutes. The university will also lower the flag on University Tower, followed immediately by Huron University College, King’s University College and Western traditionally (even if fog is) to remember the loss of members of Western’s community and also to mark significant occasions of national loss and remembrance.

Observed in Commonwealth countries, Remembrance Day (Armistice Day) was established to mark the end of the First World War. In 1919, the first month of November was set aside by the United Nations to remember those who have died in the cause of peace. In Canada, the Armistice Day Act provides that in November a ceremony be held to mark the end of the First World War, and that on the day set to mark the end of the war, a two-minute silence shall be observed at 11 a.m.

Connecting the carving to the soldiers, sacrifice behind them

BY KRISTA HABERMEHL

S tories of courage, symbols of pride. Symbols of love. The images of carvings – some intricate, others rudimentary – on the walls of Vimy’s Souterrain are currently touring the country as part of the CANADIGM project.

Emmy MacLachlan, a Western Continuing Studies Art therapy graduate, and Zenon Androsoy, CANADIGM founder, worked with Western Anthropology professor Andrew Niskanen and Huron University College Chapel Choir to help identify the names of Canadian First World War soldiers buried 200 carvings on the walls of a cave deep underground in the French countryside.

The project is a labour of love according to Emmy MacLachlan, a Western Continuing Studies Art Therapy graduate. The idea of touring the powerful images engraved on the

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Music alumnus bringing it all back home

BY KRISTA HABERMEHL

A feeling of coming full circle.

For Don Wright Faculty of Music alumnus Adam Stone, BMus’07, MMus’09, it was a two-and-a-half-month journey to perform in his home city. It began recently by ECM+—musical ensemble at Western Music von Kuster Hall.

"Some of the first places I ever wrote, were written here at Western," said Stone, one of four composers selected to participate in ECM+’s Generation 2016, a music festival and cross-country tour for Canadian composers under the age of 35. "I feel an enormous sense of accomplishment to come back to Western in this way, and with the ensemble ECM+."  

Stone notes, Oberlin has picked up a violin at the age of 3. "I think I never really let go of it. All my instruments I still play today. As a young teenager, I had a strong feeling music would become his life. I just didn’t know how to go about it." He earned his undergraduate degree at Western and a master’s degree in music composition. "Coming out of high school, I had a very strong creative side to my musicology. But I didn’t really know how to express it. It was only through studying composition that I came to understand and develop my personal style and my morality," he said, "I still perform a lot. But writing music is a mode of expression that works very well for me. It’s important to find a way to express yourself that works the best for you.”  

Stone thanks his teachers, particularly Liminal Pathways alumnus Paul Mikulski, for pointing him in the right direction and giving him the motivation to make a career out of music. "ECM+ is one of the most important ensembles in Canada. They’re very prominent. For a composer of my age to have one of my performances be a piece that’s remarkable. It’s a big deal. It’s something I’ve worked hard for, and since Scime spent hours studying and practicing, it changed significantly in the years since. Scime spent hours studying and giving him the motivation to make a career out of music. "I feel an enormous sense of accomplishment to come back to Western in this way, and with the ensemble ECM+.

Composer Award,aron Young Composer Competition, Project Kasser Prize in Canadian Music, and Ignatius Young Composer Competition.  

His music has been performed and commissioned by many renowned orchestras and ensembles, including the New York Philharmonic, the National Arts Centre Orchestra, the Véronique Mathieu, Nadia Mascia Jackson and Carla Furey as part of the von Kuster Hall.  

This year’s ECM+Generation 2016 tour, which stopped in nine Canadian cities, including London, over a three-week period this fall with conductor Véronique Lacroix and ECM+music director, is another honour to add to the composer’s profile.  

"I feel an enormous sense of accomplishment to come back to Western in this way, and with the ensemble ECM+.

"I feel an enormous sense of accomplishment to come back to Western in this way, and with the ensemble ECM+.”

Don Wright Faculty of Music alumnus Adam Stone, BMus’07, MMus’09, recently presented his new composition, Liminal Pathways, performed by ECM+—musical ensemble, at Western Music’s von Kuster Hall.
Alumna’s creation makes digital world easier to understand

BY PAUL MAINE

Western News
November 10, 2016

Western honored its long-serving, part-time employees at recent celebrations for faculty and staff who have been working at the university for 25 years or more. While spanning a quarter of a century at a single institution might seem like an anomaly today, three 211 UTM employees have made Western like a second home since they were first hired in 1991. A surprise dinner and evening of festivities were held Nov. 3 at Gillett’s Lodge, hosted by Western President Annette Antoun. Each recipient was presented with a pin and a Western postcard. 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 currently make up nearly half of Western’s student population. Currently, there are nearly 20,000 full-time students enrolled at Western – an increase of 1,000 students, or a quarter of a century of growth, 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 currently make up nearly half of Western’s student population. Currently, there are nearly 20,000 full-time students enrolled at Western – an increase of 1,000 students, or a quarter of a century of growth, 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 currently make up nearly half of Western’s student population. 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Recording success provides ‘escape’

BY PAUL MAYNE

“Music has always been there. It makes me feel happy. I can’t imagine my life without music. It’s a part of me,” said Lahib, who goes by the name Kapre. “I’ve always been told I have to lead a different life and not go into music. It’s my love, my passion and it’s what I want to do.”

Lahib is a.k.a. Kapre, an indie electronic music artist, with a music career that has only begun to take off. Lahib’s music has been played on radio stations across North America, and his songs have been featured in movies such as “Music of the Heart” and “The Go-Go’s.”

Lahib grew up in London, Ont., and began making music as a child. He attended a music class in grade school for goofing around. Today, Lahib is a student at Western University and is working on his music career.

“I’ve learned to take time off when needed and force myself to stop. That’s helped me more than I can really say,” Lahib said.

Lahib has been an escape for him. The day it first crossed his mind to make music was in grade school. “Music has always been an escape for me. The day it first crossed my mind was when I was 14,” Lahib said. 

With dance music, he said, record labels often sign artists to make music that’s not their style. “I’ve always wanted to be an artist, to make music that’s different from mine. I’ve always wanted to have some control over my music.”

Today, Lahib is working on his music career. He recently released his first single, “Ocean,” on his own label, ERIK Records. He said he is working on his second single, “Falling,” which will be released soon.

Lahib is also working on a music video for “Falling.” He said he is excited to see how the video will turn out.

“I’m really proud of my music. I’ve worked hard to make it happen. I’ve put in a lot of time and effort. I’ve always wanted to be a musician. I’ve always wanted to make music,” Lahib said.

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Teaching Awards

Western’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching have recognized outstanding contributions by faculty to the academic development of students since 1980-81. Previous recipients of these awards are ineligible for re-nomination for the same award. Up to six awards may be made annually in the following three categories:

The Edward G. Pleva Award for Excellence in Teaching was established to recognize continuing members of full-time faculty (appointed either as Limited Term or Tenured) at Western and at its Affiliated University Colleges. Clinical Academics appointed under Conditions of Appointment: Physicians Appointed in Clinical Departments and Clinical Divisions of Basic Science Departments are also eligible for nomination.

The Angela Armitt Award for Excellence in Teaching by Part-Time Faculty was established to recognize Part-Time members of faculty. To be eligible, the nominee must have held an academic appointment to teach at least one full degree-credit course (or equivalent) offered by Western or by an Affiliated University College during the fiscal year preceding nomination (May 1, 2015 - April 30, 2016).

The Marilyn Robinson Award for Excellence in Teaching was established to recognize a continuing member of full-time faculty who is appointed either as Limited Term or Probationary at Western or at an Affiliated University College, and who usually has seven years or less of full-time university teaching experience at the time of his or her nomination.

In addition, one award may be made in the Western Award for Innovations in Technology-Enhanced Teaching category. This award is meant to recognize and reward the contributions of faculty members at Western University and its Affiliated University Colleges who have significantly improved the experience and outcomes of their students through the intentional incorporation of technology into their teaching practice.

The nominations will be considered by the Senate Subcommittee on Teaching Awards (SUTA). Electronic nomination dossiers must be submitted as a single PDF file with bookmarks included by January 15, 2017 to teaching.awards@uwo.ca.

For more information about Western’s Teaching Awards please refer to the following website: uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/senate/sutaregs.pdf. Electronic dossiers of winners from the past three years are also available for viewing via the Owl system by sending a request to Erika Hegedues at erikah@uwo.ca.

Two new awards are available from the office of the Vice Provost (Academic) this year. The Vice Provost’s Award for Excellence in Collaborative Teaching and the Vice Provost’s Award for Excellence in Online Teaching. The goal of the first award is to celebrate innovations in student engagement by teaching teams working collaboratively; while the second award focuses on innovative learning objects and learning activities in online courses. Deadline for nominations is January 15, 2017. For more information and nomination guidelines, please visit the Teaching Support Centre’s website, at: uwo.ca/tsc/awards_and_grants/excellence_teaching_awards/index.html.

Twelve Angry Men takes to the university stage

Temper will run high and voices will be raised – even with Donald Trump nowhere to be found – as Theatre Western presents its gender-blind adaptation of Twelve Angry Men, a legal drama about a jury that explores themes of prejudice, class, anonymity and justice. Cast members Zerina Francis, from left, Alexandrea Gaistman and Jack Copland, among others, will try to reach a verdict in the production, which runs Nov. 16-19 in the Mustang Lounge.

Tickets are on sale now. Visit the University Community Centre (UCC) atrium between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. or uwo12angrymen.eventbrite.ca for details. A portion of ticket sales will be donated to Aboriginal Legal Services Toronto.