Western joined a litany of postsecondary voices earlier this week, all expressing a concern over a recent executive order issued by American President Donald Trump, banning individuals from seven countries with Muslim majorities from entering the United States for 90 days.

“Western is home to approximately 175 students, and many faculty, staff and visitors from countries included in the ban, and we are deeply concerned about the potential hardship this could cause them and their families,” Western President Amit Chakma said in a statement issued Monday.

Trump signed the executive order on Jan. 27 and a number of universities and groups representing postsecondary institutions have since issued statements indicating a stand against the order’s travel ban.

“The executive order restricting travel into the U.S. affects research partnerships, international studies, academic conference participation, field visits and in some cases family relationships of our university students, faculty and staff. The new order is having an impact on Canadian campuses and communities that is real, immediate and profound,” Universities Canada indicated in its statement.

The collective voice of Canadian universities, at home and abroad, Universities Canada supports the call from the American Association of Universities for Trump’s ban “to end as quickly as possible.”

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities likewise noted the “ability of faculty to continue teaching or conducting research is uncertain” because of the order.

Chakma said Western is particularly worried about “the chilling effect” of the ban and its detrimental effects on the transfer of knowledge.

“The problems of our world are highly complex and no one nation has all the answers. It is through the sharing and exchange of ideas and research findings that progress is and will be made,” he said.

TRAVEL BAN // CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

ABOUT THE BAN
Trump’s travel ban, issued on Jan. 27, lists seven Muslim-majority countries – Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia – and prevents individuals from entering the United States for 90 days. Western is home to approximately 175 students, and many faculty, staff and visitors from countries included in the ban.
Commentary

BY LAURENCE DE LOOZE

Be vocal in supporting Muslim community

I am a Monday afternoon, and I write from a suddenly gathering around the London Muslim Mosque, Odeon Street, in the wake of the trajectory of Muslims in Ontario on the Gaza Strip. It has been less than three days since Donald Trump publicly declared his intentions to ban all Muslims from entering the US. I spoke before he named announced his travel ban on 9/11, the moment in my country’s history that has shaped my identity, my country’s history that has shaped my identity, my country’s history that has shaped my identity, my country’s history that has shaped my identity, and my identity as a Muslim American. The wake has been a somber one, with the world holding its breath for what would happen next. And here we are, a little over a month later, and the fear remains.

The Western News is proud to be a forum for discussion of post-colonial studies, and it is my hope that this column will contribute to that conversation. As someone who has grown up in a family of Muslims, I have witnessed firsthand the impact of discrimination on our daily lives. It is a pain that we cannot ignore, but it is a pain that we can do something about.

Western students, staff, and faculty, and members of the London community, at a gathering at the London Muslim Mosque, showing support and solidarity with the city’s Muslim community in the wake of the weekend’s shooting at a shopping mall in Toronto.

Well, now we are being put to the test. In the 1930s, in Germany, there was a similar moment. Trump is going after Muslims. We cannot stand idly by and watch. We must act, and we must act fast.

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Michael Jari Davidson, BA'08, finds his calling behind the camera

BY JEFF RENAUD

Michael Jari Davidson, BA'08, reckons himself a maverick. And based on the choices, the award-winning filmmaker has made in not one, but two, entertainment industries, you'd be hard-pressed to argue.

Joining the dream as lead singer in a rock band, while owning and operating his own record label, Davidson was not necessarily looking for a new vocation to conquer. But one day, the music business was no longer his passion and Davidson needed a change.

“I spent many years in the music business—14 years to be precise. I ran a record label and I sang in a touring hard rock band. But I woke up one day and decided I just wasn’t having fun anymore. I decided to go back to my first true love—cinematography,” said Davidson, who has two films currently making the rounds on the festival circuit.

Enlightening non-cinephiles on the ins and outs of cinematography has the making of a whole lecture itself. But in his words, the cinematographer (or the director of photography if you’re on a film) takes the words from the scripted page and visually represents their tones and emotions on screen.

“Basically, it’s the director’s job to focus on the actors’ performances and the director of photography’s job to evoke those emotions the characters are going through and the tones of the film and represent that visually through lighting, camera movement and lens choices,” said Davidson, who has also shot music videos for Buck 65, Tegan and Sara and Alice in Chains.

As an adolescent, Davidson’s eye for cinema was not so much formed but forged by watching fiery films like Blade Runner, The Exorcist, Apocalypse Now, Eraserhead and The Road Warrior. These films unabashedly rocked his world.

“I was fortunate enough to be exposed to different types of cinema growing up as opposed to what you could call mainstream material,” Davidson said. “I was really influenced by international cinema too. While some of it was rough around the edges, the 70s were a great time for cinema for me.”

Fast forward to his time at Western. It was during—and after—an elective first-year Film Studies class he pinpoints as the actual ‘pivotal’ moment when he knew he needed to take his right choice to come to university as a mature student.

As part of the collaborative Media Theory and Production program, Davidson enrolled in Introduction to Film with professor Prakash Younger, who now teaches at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

“The Professor is an amazing person and a great teacher,” Davidson said. “One day in class, he showed Sergei Eisenstein’s film Ten Days That Shook the World, a silent film from 1928. The visuals on screen blew my mind. I stayed after the screening and we talked for hours about the cinema and cinematography. I asked him, ‘Who makes these types of images? How do I pursue that?’ It was that moment when something inside of me said, ‘I have no connections in the film industry but I need to do this.’ Part of the artist inside of me, coming from a musical background, there was something calling me to make images like that. And that was the pivotal moment that started the whole journey I’ve been on since I graduated eight years ago.”

Davidson has two new films set to be released this year, Save Yourself, which won the award for Best Horror Feature at the Bare Bones International Film and Music Festival in Muskogee, Okla., was available digitally on iTunes and Xbox Jan. 24. First Round Down, which stars Dylan Bruce and Kristian Bruun of Orphan Black fame is an action/comedy about a hockey player turned hitman, is getting a limited Canadian theatrical release in March.
Their studies and research are directly and indirectly affected by the ban, as is the well-being of students and their loved ones. More now than ever, Western must welcome all international students and provide support to help them succeed,” she stressed.

The University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA) wishes to continue with their child’s tutor in the Smart Steps tutoring belt. In December, they added, and feedback from parents has been positive. That question of ‘why?’ comes up a lot, Patel said. "One of the reasons we want it on campus is good and we try to build on that," Patel said. "We try to keep things the same for the students, connect Western students with London elementary students. The time is the same, the day is the same, the impact is the same of being able to tutor for the same amount of time. For some students, it’s like they have a study buddy. "We tried to start with a psychology study," Mansuri said. "We wanted students to participate in our commitment to the values of diversity and inclusion, as well as express our support and appreciation of international students, faculty, and staff. "We tried to start with a psychology study," Mansuri said. "We wanted students to participate in their commitment to the values of diversity and inclusion, as well as express our support and appreciation of international students, faculty, and staff. "We tried to start with a psychology study," Mansuri said. "We wanted students to participate in their commitment to the values of diversity and inclusion, as well as express our support and appreciation of international students, faculty, and staff. "We tried to start with a psychology study," Mansuri said. "We wanted students to participate in their commitment to the values of diversity and inclusion, as well as express our support and appreciation of international students, faculty, and staff.

NOMINATIONS WANTED for the UWOFA Board of Directors

The UWOFA Nominating Committee invites members of the Association to volunteer or to suggest names of members for consideration for the committee.

The positions open for election are the following:

• Vice-President (who succeeds to the Presidency)
• Secretary (two-year term)
• Three members of the Board of Directors (two-year terms) who will represent the membership at large. Of these three seats, one must be filled by a full-time member.
• One librarian or academic member of the Board of Directors who will serve the librarian and archival members in the year 2018-19.
• Five members of the Board of Directors who will represent their Faculty (two-year term, elected by Association members in the relevant Faculty).
• Faculty of Arts & Humanities
• Faculty of Information & Media Studies
• Faculty of Health Sciences
• Speaker for UWOFA (one-year term, renewable)
• Speaker for UWOFA-Literature & Archives (one-year term, renewable)
• Secretary for UWOFA-Literature & Archives (one-year term)

All full-time and part-time members of the Association are eligible. The term of offices begins July 1, 2017.

Please send inquiries or nominations by February 21, 2017.

Kathleen Helfman, Chair, Nominating Committee
University of Western Ontario Faculty Association
Phone: 519-661-4888
email: khoffma8@uwo.ca
Only four Canadian musicals in history have seen the light of day on Broadway. Michael Rubnoff’s Come From Away – a heart-warming tale of kindness and generosity in the face of tragedy – is on its way to being number five.

“It’s still surreal,” said Rubnoff, BA’98, LLB’01, who enlisted Canadian writing team David Hein and Irene Sankoff to bring to life one of the side stories of 9/11, in which the community of Gander, Nfld., welcomed displaced passengers from grounded flights into their hearts and homes during the dark days that followed the terrorist attacks.

“I think if you’re in any profession and you look at what is the pinnacle of that profession, as corny as it sounds, this is the dream come true. This is, professionally, what I’ve always wanted to accomplish,” he noted.

BY KRISTA HABERMEHL

ALUMNUS MUSICAL SET FOR BROADWAY STAGE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9
“From conceiving the idea and participating in its development throughout, to having it land on one of the greatest stages in the world – it’s really powerful – and to see the joy and pride on the faces of the entire community. It’s a beautiful story that’s a part of Canadian history.”

Rubinoff, who has been the associate dean of Visual and Performing Arts at Sheridan College in Oakville, Ont., since 2011, came up with the idea for the musical in the aftermath of 9/11, when he was a young lawyer, arriving at Bay Street. At the time of the attacks on the Twin Towers, 38 planes were grounded at the airport near Gander, with 4,000 passengers on board and 150 military personnel. All passengers were taken to the community. When they returned, they worked on the musical with Sheridan students through the Canadian Musical Theatre Project, an incubator established to develop new Canadian musicals.

The second-year Law student recently spent three months in the southern Ontario Indigenous community, focusing on criminal and family law, as part of the Delawen Summer Law Program, offered through Western.

“This is going to have an impact on the community, and I am very grateful to be a part of this process,” said Rubinoff.

The project was conceived of by the Attorney General’s Indigenous Justice Division and sponsored by the Native Legal Services of Ontario. It is an outgrowth of the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the recommendations in the Ontario government’s 2013 Palestine White Paper.

The program brings Indigenous issues to light

“Not only do these internships provide Western Law students with direct experience working with Indigenous issues, organizations and provide community education and legal assistance support to First Nations, Métis or Inuit communities and community organizations in Ontario. The program was created in response to Justice Frank Iacobucci’s 2013 First Nation Representation on Ontario’s Court Report.

Law student Rachael Phillips, left, and Grace Zhang recently took part in the Delawen Summer Law Program, spending time with Indigenous organizations to provide community education and legal assistance support to First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and community organizations in Ontario. The program was created in response to Justice Frank Iacobucci’s 2013 First Nation Representation on Ontario’s Court Report.

By Paul Mayne

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Law program brings Indigenous issues to light

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Character and competence essential in academia and beyond

By Mary Crossan

While the importance of leader character in fostering personal wellbeing and sustained success in organizations has gained traction in the business world, there is a significant opportunity to consider the benefits of developing and exercising leadership at the university. The term 'leader' could be a formal title, bestowed upon an individual by professional peers. In academia, however, leaders can be identified in a myriad of roles and capacities, whether through the research, teaching, service, and professional service accomplished by individual faculty, or by the academic leadership team present in universities across the world. In the academic environment, the value of leadership is significant. There are many career paths for PhDs at Western – some lead to careers, but most lead to important roles in academia. There are many career paths for PhDs at Western – some lead to careers, but most lead to important roles in academia. The academic environment provides an opportunity for personal and professional growth, and the value of leadership is significant for these careers and beyond. There are many career paths for PhDs at Western – some lead to careers, but most lead to important roles in academia. The academic environment provides an opportunity for personal and professional growth, and the value of leadership is significant for these careers and beyond. There are many career paths for PhDs at Western – some lead to careers, but most lead to important roles in academia. The academic environment provides an opportunity for personal and professional growth, and the value of leadership is significant for these careers and beyond.
Medical student represents Canada, chases international ski dreams

Kyla Vanderzwet, a first-year medical student in Western’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, is representing Canada in Nordic Skiing at the 2017 Winter Universiade (Winter University Games) in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The Universiade is a multi-sport event that brings together thousands of university athletes from around the globe. Vanderzwet is one of 125 Canadians at the games, and one of only six from Western.

BY CRYSTAL MACKAY

Vanderzwet started skiing at 18, relatively late for competitive racing programs in the country—and learned proper technique and managed to travel to areas with more snow. “It’s a lot of hours in my week, but it also brings a lot of satisfaction and joy,” she said. “I feel elated.”

“I can’t really control where I stand, compared to other athletes,” Vanderzwet said. “In one race, you can be first and in the next, you’re last.”

Sounding evermore like a medical student, Vanderzwet started thinking of the Universiade as a means of recovery; something she could use to take her mind off of things for a while and add some energy and motivation. “I try to incorporate new things and reevaluate things,” she said. “I try to do some things that are challenging and fun.”

When asked about her goals for the Universiade, Vanderzwet said, “I didn’t really set any. I think it’s really important to enjoy the process and the people you’re surrounded by.”

“I feel like this is the highest honor you can receive as an athlete,” she said. “It’s a lot of hard work and dedication, but it’s all worth it in the end.”

Western web development team recently rolled out a small change in its Cascade web content management system. It improves accessibility for visually impaired users of Western’s staff tools page, the team hopes.

“Western staff testing pages frequently have headshots associated with them, and web developers insert a placeholder graphic on the page while waiting for a photo to be provided for the headshot,” the team said.

A headshot graphic on the page is now replaced with a placeholder graphic in order to make them more inclusive of all campus staff. Staff names that headshotted “Daniel Smith” and “Heidi Lee” are now replaced with “Daniel Smith” and “Heidi Lee” in a placeholder font.

The team hopes the change will help improve accessibility for visually impaired users of Western’s staff tools page.

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London, Western show support for Muslim community

A handful of Western faculty, staff and students, including French professor Jeff Tennant, centre, were part of hundreds to gather at the London Muslim Mosque Monday afternoon in a show of solidarity against the deadly shooting at Centre Culturel Islamique de Québec in Québec City, where six men died and 19 were wounded Sunday evening. A similar gathering of solidarity was held at London’s Victoria Park Wednesday evening.