Input sought in strategic mandate renewal process

BY ADELA TALBOT

What is it that sets Western apart from institutions across the province? As the university joins Ontario postsecondary institutions in ongoing Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) renewal discussions with the provincial government, members of the campus community are invited to discuss just that at a town hall meeting today (Mar. 23).

Stipulated by the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, the SMA outlines the role each university or college performs within Ontario’s postsecondary system and how each institution will build on its current strengths to achieve its vision and help drive system-wide objectives. Western’s current SMA was approved in April 2014 and expires next month. The new SMA, referred to as SMA 2, comes into effect next month and runs through March 2020.

“The big addition between SMA 1 and SMA 2 is SMA 2 is coincident with the government changing the funding model for universities – that part of this negotiation will be done with Institutional Planning and Budgeting,” said Janice Deakin, Western’s Provost & Vice-President (Academic), who is hosting the town hall.

“The second component is the government is even more interested in a differentiation strategy amongst the 22 universities and colleges in Ontario and has identified five general areas of differentiation. They are asking institutions to differentiate on five priority areas,” she added.

In drafting a new SMA, the ministry has asked Ontario’s universities to present how they stand apart in five key categories: student experience; innovation in teaching and learning excellence; access in equity; research excellence and impact; and innovation, economic development and community engagement. The ministry has identified a number of system-wide metrics and has asked universities to identify institutional metrics to measure strengths and differences in each category.

“The purpose of my town hall will be to outline, at a high level, the general marching orders of the SMA document and process, and then to discuss both the system-wide metrics that will be imposed by the ministry, and the potential institutional metrics – things that we could use or develop that would speak to our progress on these five priority areas,” Deakin added.

As Western continues to be guided by its Strategic Plan, the university is well positioned to negotiate a new SMA and present its strengths to the ministry, she explained. In SMA 1, Western identified five areas of program strengths and four areas of possible expansion. SMA 2 is a natural progression, Deakin noted, with a nod to the four pillars of the current Strategic Plan.

“Among our four pillars – Raising our Expectations; Leading and Learning; Alumni Engagement; and Taking Charge of Our Destiny – the first two, and the key performance indicators we measure ourselves against annually, map very nicely with the SMA-related metrics being proposed by the government,” she continued.

“We have a culture at Western of both developing and executing strategic plans and measuring ourselves on an annual basis, for our Board and for the government, through various reports. We are in a very good position; eight of 14 of our annual key performance indicators speak to SMA metrics.”

In preparation for renewing Western’s SMA, Deakin hopes to see an engaging and open discussion at the town hall.

Western’s current SMA document is accessible online at uwo.ca/pvp/downloads/WesternAgreement.pdf.
Alumni’s story of mental health struggle brings hope

BY PAUL MAYNE

It was clear something was wrong,” said Helene Braichet, a doctoral candidate in geography at Western University, during her keynote speech at the 34th annual Mental Health Awareness Week. “I definitely felt ill.”

Braichet’s path from healthy and happy to ill was a long one, and the struggle she faced during those years was not uncommon. Her story is one of mental illness and recovery, and it’s one that she hopes will inspire others to seek help when they need it.

Braichet’s story began in the 1990s, when she was a student at Western University. She was studying geography and was involved in a number of extracurricular activities, including the University’s Student Union. However, as the years went by, she began to experience symptoms of schizophrenia.

“By 1998, I was feeling really bad, and I started to notice that I was having trouble focusing on my studies,” said Braichet. “I was also having trouble sleeping, and I started to feel like I was losing my grip on reality.”

Braichet sought help from a variety of sources, including her family and friends, but the symptoms continued to worsen. It wasn’t until 2001, when she was 31 years old, that she was able to find the right treatment and start to turn her life around.

“I think my life was going to be over,” said Braichet. “I was living in a world of my own, and I didn’t know how to break free from it.”

Braichet’s story is one of hope and inspiration, and she encourages others to seek help when they are struggling. “It’s important to remember that there is always hope, even when things seem darkest,” said Braichet. “With the right treatment and support, you can recover and live a fulfilling life.”

Braichet is now a doctoral candidate in geography at Western University, and she is using her experience to help others. “I want to use my story to raise awareness about mental illness and to encourage others to seek help when they need it,” said Braichet. “We need to break down the stigma surrounding mental illness and work together to create a world where everyone is supported and cared for.”

Western Alumna Merle Falk Bizette, BA’56, was named the 2022 Western Alumna of the Year. Bizette is the first Western Alumna to be named as Alumna of the Year, and she is being recognized for her contributions to Western and the community.

Bizette has a long history of involvement in Western and London. She was a member of the Western Women’s Association for over 50 years, and she was also a member of the Western Women’s Auxiliary. She was also a member of the Western Library Board, and she was a member of the Western Women’s Auxiliary for over 50 years.

Bizette is also a member of the Western Alumni Association, and she has been a member of the Western Alumni Association for over 50 years. She is a member of the Western Alumni Association’s Board of Directors, and she has served on the board for over 50 years.

Bizette is a long-time supporter of Western, and she has given generously to the university. She has donated to the Western Women’s Auxiliary, the Western Library Board, and the Western Alumni Association.

Bizette is also a long-time supporter of the London Public Library, and she has donated to the library for many years. She is a member of the London Public Library’s Board of Directors, and she has served on the board for over 50 years.

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Sport Offers Historic Insight beyond Games

BY JASON WINDERS

Zinon Papakonstantinou likes to tell the story of the original superfan. In the first century AD, a former high school athlete, he was inspired to incorporate sport into his Ancient Mediterranean, Mobility, Competition, Cultural Agency, at 3:30 p.m. March 31 in the Sonia & Arthur Labatt Health Sciences Building, Room 35.

“The humanities are so basic for creating responsible, open-minded citizens with an understanding of society,” he said. “It’s my job to make sure the humanities education is an erosion of society itself. I blame the decline in analytical skills. They are so important in shaping responsible, open-minded citizens with an understanding of society,” he said. “It’s my job to make sure the humanities education is an erosion of society itself. I blame the decline in analytical skills. They are so important in shaping responsible, open-minded citizens with an understanding of society,” he said. “It’s my job to make sure the humanities education is an erosion of society itself. I blame the decline in analytical skills. They are so important in shaping responsible, open-minded citizens within the humanities. That is what I am trying to do.”

“As a classicist and a sport historian, Papakonstantinou is no stranger to questions of value placed on, and, on the other hand, within, the humanities. Expectedly, he is a passionate defender of the discipline.

“Sport is a valuable entry point. It is a window to understand a number of issues – social movements to the cultural aspects of ancient Greece,” he said. “Theybet on it. They had arguments about it. They had their favourite athletes and teams. Greek and Roman sport were very passionate. The attitudes and feelings of sports spectators are very similar,” he said. “Audiences in modern times. It returns this year after a two-year hiatus. The following year, the University of Illinois-Chicago professor, with expertise in Ancient Greek social and cultural history, will deliver the Ion Ioannides Memorial Lecture, Greek Athletics in the Roman Mediterranean: Mobility, Competition, Cultural Agency, at 3:30 p.m. March 31 in the Sonia & Arthur Labatt Health Sciences Building, Room 35.

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You can’t have it both ways

“Study is a Faculty with one of the lowest student-to-faculty ratios in Canada. This means more personalized attention from our worldclass professors and research -oriented faculty. At a time when many other universities have cut back on faculty and research, we have continued to invest in both areas for the benefit of all our students. Our goal is to deliver high-quality education to all who embrace the challenge and responsibility to make the world a better place.” Sound wonderful, indeed “world-class professors and researchers” – sounds wonderful, if only they were implemented and allFaculty.

Student attends Daughters of the Vote

Equal Voice is a multi-partisan organization dedicated to getting more women elected into politics. In conjunction with many sponsors, including the Government of Canada, Equal Voice is asking women to vote, to celebrate 100 years of some women receiving the vote. It is an opportunity to see the diversity of women who can occupy political positions and to celebrate the balanced Cabinet in Canada.

On Mar. 8, the most significant, inspiring day of Canada’s 150th anniversary celebrations. The day when the most significant, inspiring women marched to Parliament Hill to demand equality and accept diversity. Gould, specifically, stood out as significant in this period, as that level of diversity was not present among our actual elected representatives. She expressed her concern as the number of women who have been federally elected to the House. Many of the women who took part in the March8 have been language and culture. We all come from different political beliefs, but one of the things that brought us together was the passion and support and unity that radiated through all of the people who were there.

The first step was to扩容 panel discussions concerning policy issues that we were able to hear from experts in the field and ask questions that pertained to our specific interests. The second day was International Women’s Day, when we took our learnings and turned them into action!

We were deeply saddened and shocked by the news that the Profile Building, an iconic building in Downtown London, was destroyed by fire. The fire was a devastating blow to the building and its communities. However, the building is not a single structure, but a collection of unique spaces and experiences. The loss of the Profile Building is a loss for London, for Western, and for all who have ever walked through its doors.

The building was a place where ideas were born, where communities were built, and where people were inspired to take action. It was a symbol of our commitment to excellence and innovation. While it is difficult to imagine a world without the Profile Building, we remain committed to finding ways to honor and preserve its legacy.

Onward and upward, London and Western. Together we will rise again, stronger and more united.

Researcher among international rising talents of women in science

BY KRISTA HARMELIN

Conversations... and what the concept has been debated for centuries in philosophy and sciences alike.

We are conscious because we can communicate one another through our behavior and language – but how do we know the state of awareness or consciousness for those who are unable to express their experiences? Is the patient who has lost the ability to communicate with us, indeed, conscious and able to experience emotions in the same way as healthy individuals? Is the patient who has lost the ability to communicate with us, indeed, conscious and able to experience emotions in the same way as healthy individuals? A great deal of research and innovation has been devoted to determining this.

The fact that the patient can no longer communicate with us is being recognized, and recent work has shown that the patient may still have some degree of awareness. This realization has led to the development of new methods for assessing the patient’s experiences and understanding their subjective experiences.

Her work, which has definitively shown some potential, continues to be expanded, and more research is needed to confirm these findings. It is important to recognize the importance of this work, as it could have significant implications for the field of neuroscience.

In the early days after injury is when medical professionals are making very important decisions about whether to withdraw life-sustaining treatments or not. This is why it is important to understand how the patient’s experiences are affected by their injury. It is crucial to develop new methods for assessing the patient’s experiences and understanding their subjective experiences.

Naci has expanded her method of including audio narrative or music for patients who have eyes closed. She hopes to develop relevant methods for patients in a real-world setting. According to Naci, the patient’s experiences are critical in determining their overall health and well-being.

The patient’s experiences are critical in determining their overall health and well-being. Naci’s research has shown that the patient may still have some degree of awareness, and this realization has led to the development of new methods for assessing the patient’s experiences and understanding their subjective experiences.

Lorina Naci research, which has definitively shown some patients in non-responsive vegetative states are, indeed, conscious and able to experience emotions in the same way as healthy individuals, a being recognized with a Cline-UNESCO Women in Science International Rising Talents Award in Paris, France this week.

The award, which comes with grant funding to pursue her research, is a significant recognition for Naci’s work. It is a testament to her dedication and hard work in advancing the field of neuroscience.

“I’m very excited by the potential implications of this work and I think it could have huge implications for end-of-life decision-making in serious brain injury patients,” said Naci. “It is a real way to determine this.”

“Naci has expanded her method of including audio narrative or music for patients who have eyes closed. She hopes to develop relevant methods for patients in a real-world setting. According to Naci, the patient’s experiences are critical in determining their overall health and well-being.

It is important to recognize the importance of this work, as it could have significant implications for the field of neuroscience. Naci is hoping to make a significant contribution to the field and is excited about the potential impact of her research.”

Naci is looking forward to starting a new lab at Western University in the School of Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities and Political Science.
UNITED NATIONS: JOHNNY VACAR // SPECIAL TO WESTERN NEWS

“I believe if a loan can empower a woman, it can empower a family; if we can empower a family, we can empower communities; if we can empower communities, then surely we can change the world.”

- Shoaib Rizvi

UN honours student’s efforts to empower women in Pakistan

BY PAUL MAYNE

When he came to Canada in 2010, Shoaib Rizvi experienced a culture in which women received support, resources, encouragement and were seen as a driving force in the country’s economic success. It was something he didn’t see much of back home in Pakistan.

Facing ridicule and opposition from his fellow countrymen, who thought he was wasting his time trying to help women create their own business ventures, Rizvi, a third-year Faculty of Information and Media Studies student, was not deterred.

“When I commit my mind to something, I go to the very end and achieve it,” said Rizvi, who returned from New York this past month where he had the opportunity to speak at the Youth Assembly at the United Nations. The 20-year-old was one of three exceptional youth – chosen from more than 700 applicants across 85 countries – to receive an Outstanding Youth Delegate Award.

It was four years ago when Rizvi began waging an uphill battle against the conventional patriarchy in Pakistan by initiating his ‘I Am an Entrepreneur’ campaign, which provides microloans and mentorship training to skilled women who have the passion and drive to start their own ventures, but lack the necessary resources.

“Truly this award is not for me, it’s for all the women who have been part of this journey,” he said. “They are the backbone for all of this coming true.”
It was during that first trip back home to Pakistan – after spending two years of high school in the Toronto area – that he knew he had to act.

“It was the time when I needed to do something, thought I could help just one woman, I never thought it would turn into a campaign,” he said, mentioning he first wanted to help a widow who lived in the urban slums of Karachi. After the death of her husband, she became financially dependent on her eldest son and with a simple mission of BIBIAN, she was surviving on odd jobs, earning only a little amount as a small piece credit provider.

“With that loan and marketing, she was able to set up this business, create a sustainable source of income and even send her daughter to school,” said Rizvi.

Other loans have gone to purchase sewing machines, apple orchards, and small grocery stores. The loan program in Charsadda, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. This training has allowed women to become independent, as it creates a sustainable source of income and employment.

Pausing in the dark, a woman talks about the women who have benefited from the loan program. “Women have not been given the opportunity to have a choice,” she said, explaining that women’s empowerment is not only a behind-the-scenes issue, but requires collaborative action from social enterprises, NGOs, local government agencies, and government banks.

The woman he has helped live difficult lives, and overcoming those challenges can change the trajectory of their stories and that of their children, motivating Rizvi to continue to give back.

“Having a loan program means helping a woman, it can empower a family. If we can empower one family, we can empower communities, and from there we can change the world,” said Rizvi, who hopes to continue his work abroad.

While the loan program has been in place for nearly three years, Rizvi said it it’s a campaign he started to take action to make gender equality a reality in Pakistan. He added that more needs to be done if Pakistan wants to experience real development and achieve gender equality.

Beyond the local campaign, he is now involved in a shoe production venture that has resulted in jobs for dozens of women in the community. Through these efforts, he is helping to build a platform to give women the skills and resources they need to create a sustainable future.

UN HONOURS STUDENT // CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Faculty of Information and Media Studies student Shoaib Rizvi recently returned from New York where he spoke at the Youth Assembly at the United Nations, after being one of three youth worldwide to receive an Outstanding Youth Delegate Award. Rizvi has been providing a wide range of research projects requiring a high-controlled sound field environment, with researchers in Music, Audiology, Hearing Science, Psychology, and Engineering all using the room.

Macpherson said his work with students, as well as those with hearing impairments and devices such as those used in the anechoic chamber – ‘anechoic’ literally meaning “without echo” – where he studies spatial and binaural hearing, is important in how the brain and ears work together to make sense of the complex world.

“Without echo” – where he studies spatial and binaural hearing.

Macpherson’s research can reveal how the ears and brain work together to make sense of the complex world. His message includes the notion that by understanding how the normal hearing system works, the processes that are involved, and how hearing impairments affect that.

“People talk about huge change but I think change starts with one person. The first time Ewan Macpherson asked when we already had going with tours we’ve given.”

Rizvi’s work with students, as well as those with hearing impairments and devices such as hearing aids, is important in understanding how the normal hearing system works, the processes that are involved, and how hearing impairments affect that.

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Macpherson has been the most active of Canadian universities on Periscope, with more subscribers than any other school in the country, and almost twice as many as Harvard University, said Western’s Digital Content Manager. Macpherson is interested in how the ears and brain work together to make sense of the complex world. His message includes the notion that by understanding how the normal hearing system works, the processes that are involved, and how hearing impairments affect that.

“Beyond its academic reputation for excellence, Harvard is acknowledged as one of the world’s leading universities – combined. Western had more Periscope followers than McMaster, the next closest university, and almost twice as many as Harvard University, said Western’s Digital Content Manager.

While a lot of testing can be done in a small sound booth, it’s important to have a controlled environment, with controlled devices. Macpherson, citing the anechoic chamber, said it is an environment that can measure, and at times to look at, are you doing measurement measurements and if it is working in particular aspect of their hearing.

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Engineering students flip for bottle craze

BY ANGIE WISEMAN

For some, the bottle flipping craze was a silly kids’ game. Armin Sabourin saw it as an opportunity. In just a few short months, with three of his friends — Justin Lam, Danny Loo and Aidan Sabourin — the students from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology created an app that attracted millions of downloads, becoming the top download in nearly 20 countries.

Engineering students Justin Lam, left, Armin Gurdic, Danny Loo and Aidan Sabourin created an app, Bottle Flip 2k16, that attracted millions of downloads, becoming the top download in nearly 20 countries.

A formula for smoothing rising Ontario hydro bills

BY GUY HOLBURN, ADAM FREMETH, MARGARET LOUDERMILK AND BRANDON SCHAFERLE

Public anger about rising electricity bills in Ontario has intensified recently as the cost of new investment in generation capacity becomes clearer. Over the past decade, the government has contracted for more than 20,000 megawatts of generation capacity, including natural gas and refurbished nuclear plants, as well as renewables, carbon capture and storage, and wind power. The cost of this work exceeds $120 billion.

The amount consumers pay today could thus be reduced by stretching capital expenditure periods to match the expected productive life of the assets. In the way, the costs of generation charged to households would more closely reflect the economic costs of the assets.

What’s the bottom line? Calculations completed by the Key Energy Policy and Management Centre estimate the potential savings could be large. Preliminary modelling, relying on publicly available data and a host of simplifying assumptions, suggests that speeding average electricity bills in the short to medium term. Importantly, since the government’s new electricity market regulations have now introduced contract duration changes up to 20 years, the savings could be large. Preliminary modelling, relying on publicly available data and a host of simplifying assumptions, suggests that speeding average electricity bills in the short to medium term.
Conference to address solutions, forge connections on issues of inequality

BY ADILA TALBOT

When faculty first gathered, more than a year ago, to discuss forming a conference at Western, no one anticipated the political climate 2016 would create. Brent Doerksen, director of Donald Trump and the emerging socio-economic discourses in the United States. The symposium organizers hoped to address political events and social movements, according to faculty, have only heightened the importance of Equalizing Spaces, an international conference that aims to bridge the gaps in the discourses around inequality.

As everyone is aware, social and economic inequality is a massive global problem. The latest Oxfam report details the rich and poor who inhabit our planet. The top 50 richest individuals have as much wealth combined as the bottom 50% of the global population. The inequality gap continues to widen, and the work that has been done so far is not enough. The conference organizers and a professor in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies (FIMS) said they chose this time to organize a conference that will contribute to the conversation around inequality.

In addition to comparing and contrasting our current situation, they hope it will make a contribution to the sharing and advancement of important studies that further our understanding. The feedback from the conference is important to assess our progress in our understanding of the issue.

Student questionnaires on courses and teaching resume

At the end of the month, Western will be recognizing students, staff and faculty for the sustainability efforts on campus, either through innovative ideas or ‘green’ behaviors. The ‘Create & Improve’ & ‘Sustain & Inspire’ awards will be given to students and employees committed to environmental sustainability. The deadline for the awards is March 31.

The focus of the awards is to acknowledge the efforts on campus that are leading the way in sustainability and contribute to the university’s sustainability goals. The deadline for award applications is March 31. For more information on the awards and how to apply, please visit the Sustainability Office’s website.

Classified

Student Central Helipass Hourly

A central website designed to help students find all the resources available to them.

This week, students received an email with a link to a questionnaire that asks for their feedback. The delivery of the questionnaire was slightly delayed, but 22,600 paper questionnaires have already been distributed.

With more than 100 presenters from Canada and around the world, the University of Western Ontario is set to take part in a two-day conference at Western, organizing equality, is set to take place at Museum London, with free public admission.

This will connect with wider currents of information, visit organizingequality.com. Organizing Equality, is set to take place at Museum London, with free public admission. The conference is aimed at bringing together activists, artists and members of the academic community around the world, it was likewise designed to target Western students and staff so that they may have the opportunity to learn about equality in a new way and to help them become more engaged in the issue.

The delivery of the news this weekend.

The feedback will provide deeper understanding of teaching across campus.

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The conference brings together speakers from around the world, including experts in the field of media studies, philosophy, political science, economics, sociology, psychology, and more. The conference will also include panels on topics such as Black Lives Matter Toronto, Indigenous rights, and the role of the media in promoting public discussion of a range of issues related to the role of Canada in the world.

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Cheers, amid expectations of protest

ADELA TALBOT // WESTERN NEWS
Invited to speak at Western by Young Canadians in Action, Jordan Peterson, a University of Toronto Psychology professor who has drawn controversy for refusing to use gender-neutral pronouns, received a friendly welcome on campus last weekend. Amid expectations of protests, an audience of 700 – including members of the Western community as well as individuals and university students coming from Sarnia, Windsor and Toronto – packed the Natural Sciences Centre, giving Peterson a standing ovation after he spoke for an hour, criticizing Bill C-16, proposed federal legislation to add gender identity and gender expression as prohibited grounds for discrimination under the Canadian Human Rights Act. His talk concluded with questions from audience members. Pictured here, Tylar Ingles, 23, from Sarnia, said he arrived disagreeing with Peterson but kept an open mind and found the talk more inclusive than expected.

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