Seize the moment

Western applauds federal re-investment in scientific research

BY ADELA TALBOT

A new blueprint for scientific research – said to be the most comprehensive in four decades – offers Canada a renewed opportunity to be a world-changer in the sciences, according to Western administrators and scholars.

Commissioned last year by Minister of Science Kirsty Duncan, and led by former University of Toronto President David Naylor, the Report of the Advisory Panel for Federal Support for Fundamental Science – dubbed the Naylor Report – calls for a new vision of sustained excellence across postsecondary disciplines.

Released April 10, the report stated that federal government sources represent just 25 per cent of total research-and-development funding that takes place in higher education. The panel recommended enhanced support for early career researchers; strategic and coordinated collaboration for international and interdisciplinary research; improved gender equity in science; and increased funding for discovery research.

“The report rightly concludes that Canada’s research competitiveness has eroded significantly in recent years, and it offers a wide-ranging list of recommendations that aim to reposition our country as one seriously committed to global leadership in science and scholarly inquiry,” Western President Amit Chakma said.

Key emphases at Western have included innovation, internationalization and collaboration – which are likewise at the core of the Naylor Report, he said.

The report puts forward a multi-year strategy stressing greater investment in independent investigator-led projects, better coordination between the core research funding agencies and the creation of an oversight body called the National Advisory Council on Research and Innovation.

According to the report, the federal government needs to increase support for the institutional costs of research from the current level of around 21 per cent to 40 per cent. The panel also wants to see annual federal funding for research-related activities increase by an average of 9 per cent over four years – from approximately $3.5 billion to $4.8 billion. Such an increase would represent 0.4 per cent of the federal government’s annual budget.

“I applaud the report’s authors for calling not only for

READ ALL ABOUT IT

NOT SO SWEET

Research shows black licorice packs a potent punch for some patients

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY FRANK NEUFELD

INSIDE TODAY:
**Matter of facts**

London, Western join global March for Science

By Adela Talbot

Scientific progress is not a given — it must be fought for, defended and encouraged. And that’s exactly what many students, and across the Forest City, plan to do.

The March for Science — a global campaign to celebrate scientific research in health, safety, economy and beyond — is scheduled for April 22, with the primary event taking place in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of institutional and citizen science partners have come together worldwide, including one in London.

The worldwide demonstration is not meant to be a political event, said Biology professor Amanda Moehring, organizer of the local march.

“A demonstration of support for research and evidence-based decision-making. It’s meant to be a global event, where the public can come together and show that science is important,” said Moehring.

The only reason it’s viewed as political is because of how the Trump administration and party attacking science. If science is a process, it’s not about partisanship, it’s about fact-based decision-making. It’s important that research is not stifled; it should be encouraged.

What about climate change? If it’s an important policy-making issue, that you can actually go out and talk about, I think that’s the right way of doing things.”

This worldwide demonstration is spontaneous, she explained.

“We don’t have four, or maybe eight, simultaneous satellite marches have been organized worldwide, including one in London. What about climate change? If it’s an important policy-making issue, that you can actually go out and talk about, I think that’s the right way of doing things.”

For science to be respected, it must become an immediately dire issue. “We don’t have four, or maybe eight, simultaneous satellite marches have been organized worldwide, including one in London. What about climate change? If it’s an important policy-making issue, that you can actually go out and talk about, I think that’s the right way of doing things.”

“We don’t have four, or maybe eight, simultaneous satellite marches have been organized worldwide, including one in London. What about climate change? If it’s an important policy-making issue, that you can actually go out and talk about, I think that’s the right way of doing things.”

But that is not the path we want to be on. “If we can join together, we can make a difference,” said Moehring.

Campus colleagues have been supporting in helping organize the event. Melissa Weir said, “The Faculty of Science and University of Western Ontario Science Faculty Association (SFOSFA) have stepped forward with some financial assistance.”

“We have a stake in this, both as citizens of Canada and as ourselves. It’s something our colleagues believe in and they want to express their strong support for science and to make a statement that scientific research is a valuable contribution to society,” said Melissa Weir.

“Science is the way to factual, logical thinking. It allows us to understand the world around us and to explore and learn,” said Weir.

“We are how policy decisions should be made. It’s important that science is not lost. Science is a process, it’s not just about finding evidence-based decision-making. It’s important that research is not stifled; it should be encouraged.”

A “lot of people have now become interested in what science is doing,” said Moehring. “You have to actually get your seat and actively work for that.”

“In 2010, the March for Science in London is set to take place Sunday, April 26, at 12:30 p.m. at Victoria Park. Four speakers will be present to talk about the impact and importance of scientific research on Canadian and world health and safety.”

**Best Bets**

**April 28 | 3:00-4:00 p.m., Physics & Astronomy Building Room 100**

**APRIL 28 - 28 | Windsorer Minor**

**Florence Buck Prize Lecture**

Where: Windsor Minor Room 100

Windsor Minor Professor Bethany Brown will celebrate her research around idealized sound waves, including quantum poly-mer chains that can be designed to act as sound centers and not sound barriers. She hopes her research will open the door for future research and applications.

**IMAGINING RELIGIOUS TOLERATION, 1600-1800**

Where: Parkinson Building 100

By Krista Habermehl

In his Ultimate last week, sociology professor Jerry White shared his Top 10 “mistakes” that led him to a career in academia. White will retire at the end of nearly 30 years at Western.

“The top one,” he said, “is that I didn’t know I would make mistakes. Some young people feel so badly if they don’t do perfectly every time. But it just doesn’t work that way.”

“Let yourself make mistakes. Some young people feel so badly if they don’t do perfectly every time. But it just doesn’t work that way.”

Jerry White

**Todd Rotherham**
Shaping skills for a new Industrial Revolution

BY MICHILE AMPADU, ANUDEEP SULTANIA, ALAYSIF SHAIKH, LIAM WICKEN, TOBY BENDT AND CONNOR JAMES

In current economic research, it is shown that millennials will change jobs at least eight times in their lifetime and to cope with this, individuals must possess skills applicable across different jobs. It is also imperative that our educational institutions should emphasize on continuous self-education to meet the growing demands of this fourth Industrial Revolution as the previous days’ knowledge could quickly be rendered obsolete by technological advancements.

Easy-to-learn skills are at risk of being replaced by robots and other technologies – and unless employees can learn the skills that are still unique to humans, they risk the threat of unemployment.

"By doing this, we are better able to understand what is going wrong in people who do not habituate," said Ulrike Schmid, whose research was recently published in Nature Neuroscience. "This is important for further research and treatment for abnormal habituation, as we need to increase habituation in individuals that have a deficit in that area, thereby increasing their ability to filter out unwanted sounds and arranging a clinical range of deviations in emotional events.

"We don't want to consciously learn it. Our brain is able to adapt to new environmental sounds, Schmid explained. While drugs exist to block these channels, not allowing habituation, Schmid said there are also drugs that can make these channels more available and the increase habituation.

"This is something that, potentially down the road, could be used to increase habituation in individuals that have a deficit in that area, thereby increasing their ability to filter out unwanted sounds and arrange in a clinical range of deviations in emotional events," Schmid added enhancing habituation and sensory filtering in those with autism spectrum disorders or schizophrenia might have benefited the way they connect. In doing so, she found that some individuals, the connection gets weaker, making the transmembrane signal less efficient. It hyperactivates the sounds and makes it more difficult in selecting, turning down the volume of the noisy background.

"By doing this, we are better able to understand what is going wrong in people who do not habituate," she said. "Adding it also means perhaps improving habituation in some individuals by targeting this mechanism and improving their sensory filtering. This may also mean that the neurons that convey the auditory information in the brain, Schmid explores the way they connect. In doing so, she found that some individuals, the connection gets weaker making the transmembrane signal less efficient. It hyperactivates the sounds and makes it more difficult in selecting, turning down the volume of the noisy background.

"Acoustic habituation is the most basic form of learning. But it is implicit; you don't have to be conscious of it to learn it. Our brain is able to adapt to new environmental sounds, Schmid explained. While drugs exist to block these channels, not allowing habituation, Schmid said there are also drugs that can make these channels more available and the increase habituation. This is something that, potentially down the road, could be used to increase habituation in individuals that have a deficit in that area, thereby increasing their ability to filter out unwanted sounds and arrange in a clinical range of deviations in emotional events."

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Accelerator advances its inaugural cohort

PHOTOS AND STORY BY PAUL MAYNE

It is full-speed ahead for four companies, and their young entrepreneurial leaders, thanks to their time in the Western Accelerator.

Open to Western students, faculty and recent alumni, the Western Accelerator provides an intense, rapid and immersive education for prospective entrepreneurs. Its goal is to accelerate the lifecycle of high-potential ventures and compress a year’s worth of learning into a few months for their entrepreneurs. The Western Accelerator launched in January with its first cohort.

During their time in the accelerator, the four teams received a $3,000 per month stipend, benefits from programming and educational sessions; joined bi-monthly networking events with successful entrepreneurs, industry experts, investors and service providers; and participated in a pitch day at the end of program.

Join the Western Accelerator’s inaugural cohort at its Demo Day 4-6 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at the Accelerator, Somerville House, Room 3366.

The first four companies to come out of Western’s Accelerator program include:

NATIONAL COACHING DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Cobie McGugagh and Dwayne Milii

The National Coaching Development Association is a key, proprietary online education program that enables youth coaches to effectively teach the fundamentals of their game.

The program comprises a comprehensive, easy-to-follow series of video tutorials and complementary practice plans designed to enhance the comfort level for coaches when it comes to teaching the necessary core skills of the game. Key topics include customer retention, recruitment and programming and educational training.

AUNT MARY’s BEVERAGE COMPANY

Ryan Bauer, Erik Lapointe and Michael Palmiero

Aunt Mary’s Beverage Company provides consumers with powdered beverage mixes capable of balancing and countering the ill-effects of hangovers. The company’s easy, convenient and consistent consumption method can be tailored to any user and their own personal marquee of supply.

NASCAL PRESS

Alan Kalbfleisch

NASCAL Press is an all-in-one pressure brewer and travel mug designed for on-the-go coffee lovers. Unlike other travel brew- ers, NASCAL Press separates the used coffee grounds from the brewed coffee to prevent post-consumption bitterness. NASCAL Press is designed to perfectly balance the coffee brewing process using a master’s degree in Thermofluids Engineering. With the help of its co-founders, the Clear and Audrey Khramtsov, both have St. John’s University students, NASCAL Press successfully raised more than $60,000 through a crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter in 2016.

AUNT MARY’s BEVERAGE COMPANY

Ryan Bauer, Erik Lapointe and Michael Palmiero

At Whitt & Rye, they do things a conventionally, and unapologetically in keeping with a common goal. Using local to the U.K. - and also “looking damn great while doing so.” What & Rye is a “social lubricant” company, whereby everyone produce it manufactured directly for the consumer. And if you’re interested in being a part of the “social lubricant,” you don’t want to sell. The sole purpose is to deliver “indecisively beautiful” savoury snacks that include social connections and raise awareness about the dangers of impaired diving.

ON THE MOVE

The Western Accelerator provides entrepreneurs with the following opportunities:

Collaboration: Sharing ideas and challenges with other entrepreneurs in diverse areas (engineers, designers, marketers, etc.) in an open space specifically designed for their needs.

Education: Formal programming related to entrepreneurship.

Networking: Entrepreneurs can connect with and learn from entrepreneurs and leaders in the field.

Business Ventures: Founders can receive investment and collaboration.

Participation carries a certain degree of pressure, but also a sense of beauty that incites social conversations and raises awareness about the dangers of impaired diving.

Biography

Travis McKenna

WRIST & RYE

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BIOGRAPHY

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Roots rally professor to the call

BY ADGILA TALBOT

A media mogul was born to answer the call.

“The only thing I’ve always been the most proud of that if you see something that needs to be done, just do it,” said the Western professor.

When an email began circulating among science researchers, they knew in an effort to organize a local march — part of The March for Science, a response to budget cuts for scientific research in the United States and the growing political indifference toward the science community, the rally was needed. The rally, set for April 22, was organized to answer the call.

“I’ve been deeply impacted by this. I went with a carload of people to the Women’s March in Washington, D.C. It was the first time I ever marched,” added the professor, noting it was the first time the professor had been involved in an event of this magnitude.

“We are very much living in a time where we recognize the importance of demonstrations of data and evidence and evidence-based policy making, she said. In a good political and scientific setting, the government’s support of evidence is crucial.

“Researchers are coming for their colleagues in the United States and in the Netherlands,” she added. “They need and deserve our support.”

In the meantime, the professor hopes to see some good turn-out at the March for Science on Saturday.

“If you hold a March for Science today, there’s some people who are coming to be a part of your advocacy, of your evidence, of your mission,” said the professor.

“People making people see that there’s a cause and there’s a need and there’s a way to make a positive change,” she added.

“In Canada, we have a lot that we’re proud of,” added the professor. “What we need to do is make sure that we continue to make evidence-based decisions. We need to continue to be empowered and enthusiastic about what we’re doing and that we’re reporting mark and as an important part of science.”

“Research shows black licorice packs a potent punch for some patients

BY PAUL MAINE

Black licorice is like other foods that you love. If it turns out the Western professor is offering a reason to give it more thought this time you think about reaching for that black licorice, the flip side is that you’re thinking about your health.

Dr. Van Uum, a professor in the Departments of Internal Medicine and Endocrinology and Metabolism, knows that black licorice is popular and that black licorice can send your blood pressure soaring, as well as cause dramatically lower levels of potassium in the body, resulting in abdominal heart rhythms and even paralysis.

Research shows black licorice can send your blood pressure soar, as well as cause dramatically lower levels of potassium in the body, resulting in abdominal heart rhythms and even paralysis.
Smaller cities offer different insights into sex work

BY TODD DEVIN

Trena Orchard believes the size of the city should not matter for sex workers seeking a safer, healthier environment. And, after the explosive research study, the Health Studies professor hopes communities across southwestern Ontario will work how they help these marginalized groups.

“Although most research is conducted in major metropolitan centers, sex work is a reality for people living in the outer rings – large cities, like Toronto and Vancouver, as well as smaller cities like London,” Orchard said.

One of the major challenges for sex workers in these smaller cities is that they lack visibility and support, Orchard said. And, many of them live in suburban areas, with limited access to services and programs.

“We need to work together to provide these individuals with the support and resources they need to lead healthy, productive lives,” Orchard said.

This study is funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The research team includes co-authors Treena Orchard, Kate Tushingham, and Sarah Mroz.

The study is the first of its kind to examine the experiences of sex workers in smaller, non-metropolitan areas in Canada.

“Sex work is a complex phenomenon and it’s important to understand how it affects individuals and communities,” Orchard said. “By examining the experiences of sex workers in smaller cities, we can develop more effective policies and programs to support them.”


For more information, please contact Treena Orchard at tcreardon@westernypicality.ca or Kate Tushingham at kate.tushingham@uwo.ca.
Opera revival embraces complexity of our history

BY KRISTA HABERMEHL

C

anadian baritone James Westman embraces his role as Sir John A. MacDonald, for the current Canadian Opera Company production of the opera, is made up of conversations, discourses and correspondences between each character. This is what these people said. And the people reminded us, "We are in a musical family. His mother was an original and accomplished musician who recorded for the Tommy Hunter Shoe and played with the Solid Wallamen.

Westman, who performed with the Canadian Opera Company for half a century, performed in the 1960s. In 2017, people will now wonder "Is I looking outward and having empathy for different people?"

"I am completely honoured to be a part of it. "The Honoree: The Distinguished University Professorship Award is Western's highest recognition for a faculty member. This award acknowledges professors/Archivists/Librarians are invited to take part in the academic procession. Public Talk on April 3. 4:00 p.m. in John Land Visual Arts Centre, Room 100

NOTICE TO JOIN THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION: 300th CONVOCATION – SPRING 2017

R.S.V.P.: 519-661-3747 or rsvp@uwo.ca

The Distinguished University Professorship Award is Western's highest recognition for a faculty member. This award acknowledges outstanding excellence in teaching, research and service accomplished among outstanding and extraordinary faculty members. Hosted by Janice Deakin, Provost & Vice-President (Academic).

The Honorees:

KATHERYN BRUSH

Research Librarian, Departments of Visual Arts

Mapping Medieval Art in the Modern Era

If You Go

Famed Canadian opera Louis Riel, featuring Don Wright Faculty of Music Lecturer James Westman portraying Sir John A. MacDonald in a revival of the famed Canadian opera Louis Riel!
Team eyes non-invasive alternative to biopsies

A team led by Len Luyt, a Chemistry professor of radioactive metals or dye administered by injection or patch would provide a detailed picture of the prostate, allowing for more accurate detection of tumours.

“Prostate cancer is a site area where there is a need to more confidently diagnose a tumour and estimate the extent of the disease, to avoid over-treatment,” said Luyt. “We have worked with the London Regional Cancer Program, the Medical Imaging, and other hospitals to develop a new class of imaging agents targeting the prostate.

Western regional team is developing a way to diagnose prostate cancer without invasive tests and reducing the number of biopsies that would be required.

“Our goal is to create imaging agents that will improve treatment decisions by accurately detecting and localizing cancer, so we know if treatment is needed and where to direct it.” - Len Luyt

Chemistry professor
PART-TIME ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ANTICIPATED LIMITED-DUTIES (PART-TIME) APPOINTMENTS
Fall/Winter 2017-2018

The University has a central website displaying complete advertisements for all anticipated Limited Duties postings. The following academic units have anticipated Limited-Duties vacancies and these anticipated appointments are among those being advertised on the website at uwo.ca/hr/working/staff/index.html. Please review the website for complete details, including application requirements. The positions will be posted no later than April 30.

GENERAL NOTES

Course Dates (unless otherwise stated in posted notices)

Fall: September 7, 2017 – December 8, 2017
Fall/Winter: September 7, 2017 - April 11, 2018
Winter: January 8, 2018 – April 11, 2018

See westerncalendar.uwo.ca

The calendar description of undergraduate courses offered in the academic units is available at westerncalendar.uwo.ca/. In accordance with the Faculty Collective Agreement, consideration of applicants will include an assessment of previous performance, experience, and qualifications, including qualifications which go beyond the requirements for the positions.

Course offerings could be assigned to the workload of full-time faculty or to part-time faculty with seniority or preference rights in accordance with the Faculty Collective Agreement, or left unfilled based on operational/enrolment requirements. All positions are subject to budget approval.

FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
English and Writing Studies, French Studies, Modern Languages and Literatures, Philosophy, Visual Arts, Women’s Studies and Feminist Research

FACULTY OF EDUCATION

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Mechanical and Materials Engineering

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, School of Health Studies, School of Kinesiology, School of Occupational Therapy, School of Physical Therapy

DON WRIGHT FACULTY OF MUSIC
Music Education, Music Performance Studies, Music Research and Composition

FACULTY OF INFORMATION AND MEDIA STUDIES

FACULTY OF LAW

RICHARD IVEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY
Biochemistry, Dentistry, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Physiology and Pharmacology

FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Applied Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, Statistical and Actuarial Sciences

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
Anthropology, DAN Management and Organizational Studies, Economics, Geography, History, Local Government Program (Political Science), Psychology, Sociology

While every attempt has been made to ensure the listing of academic units with Limited-Duties vacancies is accurate, it is advisable for candidates to also check the notice boards in each academic unit for complete details.

The University invites applications from all qualified individuals. Western is committed to employment equity and diversity in the workplace and welcomes applications from women, members of racialized groups/visible minorities, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, persons of any sexual orientation, and persons of any gender identity or gender expression. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents.

Accommodations are available for applicants with disabilities throughout the recruitment process. If you require accommodations for interviews or other meetings, please contact Human Resources at hrhelp@uwo.ca or phone 519-661-2194.

Please Note: Recent Western graduates who are foreign nationals may be eligible to work on campus. Please refer to the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website under Post-Graduation Employment at cic.gc.ca/ english/study/index.asp.