Green Awards
story // pages 8-9
Revenge of the big ‘bots at Western

More than 1,000 high school students, forming 35 teams, were on campus last weekend as part of the FIRST® Robotics Competition (FRC) – Western University District Event, hosted by the Faculty of Engineering. The week saw students and their robots competing in sport.

Students from across Ontario and the United States were tasked with designing and building 34-kilogram robots to complete tasks head-to-head such as collecting fuel, installing gears and climbing structures. Students used their engineering, coding and design skills to program, build and test their robots.

London Best Secondary School’s Raider Robotics – robot No. 9024 – won the place and will compete at the Ontario championships in Mississauga later this month. From that competition, top teams will be selected to compete in the FIRST® Robotics World Championships in St. Louis, MO.

FIRST® is an international non-profit organization designed to inspire students to pursue further studies and careers in STEM. Its programs reach 300,000 students in some 70 countries.

Paul Mayne

the university's newspaper of the undergraduate community.

An award-winning weekly news sheet, Western News, serves as an educational, informational and entertainment forum for the university’s undergraduate community. The publication serves students, staff and faculty, as well as members of the London, ON, and surrounding Chatham-Kent areas.


Our objective is to report comment. We hope you will write...

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Our objective is to report comment. We hope you will write to cover your or the community's views and information.

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Address: Western News, University Relations, University of Western Ontario, London, ON N6A 3K7
Study finds entrepreneurship training better for women, minorities

BY ADELA TALBOT // WESTERN NEWS

Women and minorities are more likely to benefit from entrepreneurship training programs when compared to Caucasian men, according to a study by Laurina Zhang, assistant professor in the School of Policy, Government and International Affairs at American University.

The study was motivated by the idea that over the past decade, there have been a lot of public and private initiatives that have been directed towards entrepreneurship training and incubator programs. While this trend is laudable, there is actually very little research on whether people benefit from these programs. This study seeks to fill that gap, Zhang said.

“We looked at this in two distinct ways — one is to look at whether the people who go through these programs, the effect is different for males and non-minorities. We can do this by looking at data on entrepreneurship training programs. Essentially, we found that people who go through entrepreneurship training programs tend to do better in the short term, but the effect is different if the skill is genetic — or whether entrepreneurship training programs have a differential impact on different demographic groups,” Zhang said.

“Also, we looked at the effect of these programs, particularly different types of programs, on different subgroups, Zhang added. “If the effect is significant, then the program is beneficial for the demographic group.”

The second study of the impact was for policy strategy, Zhang said.

“We examined the difference in the effect of these programs, if different social identities, which provide evidence for both policy decisions, and entrepreneurship program strategy overall,” she added.

The study, Creating Entrepreneurs: The Impact of Entrepreneurship Programs on Caucasians, found that women and minorities are more likely to benefit from entrepreneurship training opportunities. This is particularly true for programs that are structured to be inclusive, Zhang explained.

“The impact of these programs differ across different types of programs, which produce evidence for both policy decisions, and entrepreneurship program strategy overall,” she added.

As part of their research, Zhang and Lyons worked with 335 undergraduate students who participated in The Next 36, a large entrepreneurship training program based out of Toronto.

The study found that students were more likely to benefit from entrepreneurship training programs, particularly those that are structured to be inclusive.


A DE LA TALBOT // WESTERN NEWS

The Voltage of Womanhood: My Experience Workshoppping Mina Samuels’ Because I Am Your Queen

BY ANDREA HOLSTEIN (BA’16)

More than a dozen students and faculty had the opportunity to work alongside Mina Samuels, a New York City author and playwright, during the spring term at Western, as part of a residency program. Founded by professor of English and Writing Studies, French, Visual Arts, and Women’s Studies and Feminist Research, the program in Theatre Studies, and the Proustian Studies Research Group.

Below, one student shares her experience of working alongside Mina Samuels, Dugal and fellow students in this one-of-a-kind learning experience.

Because I Am Your Queen

I spent the first sunny day of spring warming up in the backyard of the Chocolate Theatre Centre, with several other curious thespians. We had all signed up to participate in a weekend theatre workshop, which was to be led by Mina Samuels, the author of Because I Am Your Queen. The group consisted of the students, a professor, and a few other curious thespians. The first day was about to begin and the space was set up: the queen’s throne, the crown, and the other props for the workshop.

Samuels explained that the workshop was going to be about the power dynamics between women, particularly in relation to the figure of the queen. She discussed the historical context of the queen’s position, as well as her own experiences as a playwright and a woman. She emphasized the importance of exploring the intersection of power and identity, and the ways in which these dynamics can affect individuals and communities.

Samuels’ work is known for its exploration of the power dynamics between women, particularly in relation to the figure of the queen. Her plays often explore the ways in which these dynamics can affect individuals and communities, as well as the broader cultural and social contexts in which they occur.

Samuels shared her own experiences as a playwright and a woman, and how these have influenced her work. She discussed the ways in which she has sought to challenge traditional representations of women and to explore the intersection of power and identity.

The workshop was divided into two parts: an exploration of the power dynamics between women, and a workshop on how to bring these dynamics to the stage. Samuels led the group through a series of exercises designed to explore the power dynamics between women, and to encourage participants to think about how these dynamics might be reflected in their own work.

The workshop concluded with a series of readings and performances, as well as a discussion of the ways in which the group’s work might be presented in the public sphere. Samuels emphasized the importance of exploring the intersection of power and identity, and the ways in which these dynamics can affect individuals and communities.

The workshop was an opportunity for the group to explore the power dynamics between women, and to think about how these dynamics might be reflected in their own work. It was a chance for participants to engage with Samuels’ work, and to explore the intersection of power and identity in their own work.
Free Press, Western Archives showcase London 50 years ago

BY KRISTA MARSHALL

It has changed in the 30 years since Canada centenarian – from fashion and sports to architecture and technology.

In London, Ont., and the surrounding region, a collection of nearly 5,800 images from the centennial year, captured by London Free Press photographers, show the evolution of the city.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the London Free Press. The paper will commemorate the centennial with a new website, 1967inpictures.com.

―Dr. Richard Butler, Professor Emeritus

The London Free Press has been an important part of the community for five decades, Butler said. The paper has played a role in the city’s development as an important cultural and economic hub.

―Mike King, Western University

Western University has played a key role in the development of London, King said. The university has been a major contributor to the city’s cultural and economic growth, he said.

The London Free Press marked the centennial with a series of articles, photos and special sections. The centennial celebration also included a parade and a fireworks display.

―Julie Davis, Western News

The centennial celebration was one of the largest events in the city’s history. It attracted thousands of people from all over the region.

―Leslie Ward, Western News

The centennial celebration was a time of great pride and celebration for Londoners.

―Mark Craven, Western News

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The centennial celebration was a time of great pride and celebration for Londoners.
Western gets WISE about sustainability

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PAUL MAYNE
Reducing meat and dairy consumption, clean energy and food sharing were just some of the ideas brought up this year as part of the Western's Ideas for Sustainability and the Environment (WISE) competition. Established in 2014, WISE seeks to foster innovative and high-impact ideas to reduce or eliminate today's most pressing environmental concerns. The aim of the competition is to generate ideas and initiatives among Western students around the topics of sustainability, and to officially recognize innovative and progressive ideas for green and sustainable initiatives.

The WISE competition aligns with Western's commitment to the Council of Ontario Universities' Statement on Creating a Sustainable Environment, which notes universities in the province have responsibilities on three fronts:

- To assist in finding solutions to the challenges of environmental sustainability;
- To share knowledge about environment and sustainability; and
- To incorporate principles of sustainability into our own operations wherever possible.

Separate competitions have been established for undergraduate and graduate students. Over the course of three months, students are encouraged to identify a current environmental problem faced at an institutional, local (or global) level, and to come up with meaningful ideas for mitigating the problem. Social and economic considerations must be included. Proposals were reviewed by a selection committee, and finalists within each competition were invited to pitch their ideas to the committee.

The grand prize for the winning proposal, within each competition, is $1,500. The final round of the competition was held last week. Below is the winning team, as well as the top two finalists, from the 2017 WISE competition.

WINNERS

NO-MEAT EATS
Sara Han, 4th-year Health Sciences
Ximena Salas, 4th-year Ivey Business School
Sahar Ataya, 4th-year Ivey Business School

Global meat consumption has increased by 42 per cent in the last 50 years because of population growth, urbanization, and rising incomes. Excessive meat consumption harms individual health and the environment. With 18 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions coming from the livestock industry, if consumers reduced their meat consumption to meet dietary recommendations by the World Cancer Research Fund, livestock-related emissions would be reduced by 33 per cent globally.

No-Meat Eats is a plant-based cooking education program for students living in Western residences. Students pay a small fee (subsidized by residence services) to learn how to prepare affordable, nutritious vegan meals. No-Meat Eats was implemented to encourage students to live small steps in reducing their meat and dairy consumption, with the ultimate goal of empowering them with the skills needed to adopt a low-meat, vegetarian or vegan diet.

BLOCKCHAIN ENERGY DISRUPTION
Gareth Gransaull, 1st-year Health Sciences

Current energy grids are inefficient, wasteful and prone to failure — and current use of fossil-based fuels can cause damage to the global biosphere. Through the use of blockchain, you can design a grid system which facilitates the clean energy transition by making clean energy more economically feasible.

Blockchain can be used to create a decentralized renewable neighbourhood microgrid, accessible to all producers and consumers. Renewable energy producers can tabulate the surplus energy they produce and turn them into tokens, which can then be traded for money. With the use of smart devices, ‘smart contracts’ can be developed so transactions can be executed and enforced automatically, enabling the grid to run autonomously.

PLATTER
Mary Yao, 2nd-year Ivey Business School and Environmental Sciences

Food waste is a major environmental, social and economic problem worldwide. In addition to consuming enormous amounts of natural and human resources, food waste also contributes to increased air, water and soil pollution. Despite these problems, we still waste 7 per cent of food value each year, which can then be traded for money. With the use of smart devices, ‘smart contracts’ can be developed so transactions can be executed and enforced automatically, enabling the grid to run autonomously.

FINALIST

WINNERS
Study shows link between food insecurity and poor mental health

BY KRISTA HABERMEHL

WHILE A LACK OF access to safe and nutritious food can contribute to isolation, and a lack of mental health care can lead to increased stress, what if... What if... what if they are the effects on mental health? According to Geography PhD candidate Isaac Atuoye, MA, PhD, highlights elevated mental distress in households of workers where food insecurity is moderate to high. The study was conducted with nearly 1,500 households in the northwestern region of Ghana, Africa, where food insecurity is an issue.

Academics

BY PAUL MAYNE

Academics Blended courses to offer students of both ‘best worlds’

The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee will meet in April to select a recipient of the President’s Medal of Distinction in order to be awarded at the 2017 convocation, to ensure that consideration is given to as many worthy candidates as possible. Committee members meet on the Monday prior to Western’s Spring Convocation. The nomination process is open for the 2017/2018 academic year. Nominations are due no later than May 15, 2017 (11:30 a.m.).

nomination forms can be submitted electronically to humanresources@uwo.ca or submitted in hard copy to the Honorary Degrees Committee, 101 Administration Building, University Campus.

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Research

Common prostate drug could increase risk of depression, self-harm

BY PAUL MAINE

While they might increase the risk of suicide, as previously claimed, common medications to treat prostatism and treat erectile dysfunction (ED) – such as the 5-alpha-reductase inhibitors finasteride and dutasteride – have not been linked to the increased risk of suicide, but are an area of concern, research has shown. In patients presenting with thoughts or evidence of depression, the continued use of these medications could be prescribed, for most men this treatment is still a good choice, Welk added.

Along with reducing the risk of surgery by 50 per cent, they have a lot of beneficial qualities from a patient and prescriber perspective – as enough to replace surgical treatments for prostatism and ED. When you think of this way, the risk is low, he said.
Western among the top in game design programming

By PAUL MAYNE

Western among the top in game design programming

Western students Mathias Babin and Kandan Baran, who are part of the game design program, lead the program’s approach to teaching and offering hands-on experience with experts in the gaming industry. For the second straight year, Western was named as one of the Top 50 schools for game design in Princeton Review’s rankings of the best undergraduate and graduate schools.

Mathias Babin admits to stepping up 1 a.m. when it comes to video games. But no one would have known it from his behavior, as he was the first student at Western to work on the game design program, where he can say he built the whole thing himself, in all the hard work he’s already done. The Princeton Review chose the school based on its 2014 survey of 7,500 students, which is the basis for the annual College of Choice survey. The survey found that students were more interested in learning about the gaming industry. The department prepares and gives the knowledge we need so we get to fourth year, within six months, we are able to take up game design and development and simply deliver. If you don’t know what you need to do, you can’t be good at it. So many people don’t have the experience you need to do it. I don’t want to be part of one of those people, even though you have a degree in computer science, you sometimes don’t have the knowledge. I have been working with students for years and they have been very happy with what they are doing. I am very happy with the program, where they “give you the knowledge you need”, along with collaboration from those in the local gaming industry, give you the best of both Worlds.

The Department of Computer Science at Western, under the direction of Professor Jonathan Vance, helped to promote the game design program at Western. The program was chosen for its innovative approach to teaching and offering hands-on experience with experts in the gaming industry. For the second straight year, Western was named as one of the Top 50 schools for game design in Princeton Review’s rankings of the best undergraduate and graduate schools.

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Empowering women in biz key to Canada’s prosperity

Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau stopped by the Ivey Business School last week to chat with students about Canada’s long-term goals and how the government is working towards inclusive growth. Focusing on empowering women in business, his panel discussion, with five MBA students, centred around the role of demographics and, in particular, the inclusion of women in business, in contributing to long-term national growth and prosperity. Morneau also touched on specific changes to this year’s budget and what was in store for Canadians going forward.

Western Finance - Year End Deadlines

The University’s year end is Sunday, April 30, 2017. All transactions occurring before year end must be dated April 30, 2017 or earlier to be included in the 2016/2017 budget year. It is the responsibility of each department to submit its accounting records before the deadlines listed below. The transactions received before these deadlines will be included in the 2016/2017 budget year.

CASH RECEIPTS
All cheques and cash must be deposited by the central cashier on or before Friday, April 28, 2017 in order to be processed with an April date. All deposits made after April 28 will be May dated. In order to accommodate year end processing, the cashier hours will be extended as follows: April 26 & 28 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 and 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

PETTY CASH
Expenses incurred prior to April 30, 2017 must be submitted through the central cashier no later than Monday, May 1, 2017 to be processed with an April date. It is strongly encouraged that petty cash claims be submitted prior to April 28 where possible to ensure your claim will be processed in the 2016/2017 budget year. The cashier will be accepting petty cash reimbursements up to and including May 1, 2017.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE INVOICES
All April dated invoices for external customers must be finalized and printed by 3:00 p.m. on April 28, 2017.

INVENTORIES
The last day for submission of the physical inventory sheets is Tuesday, May 2, 2017.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL CHARGES
Interdepartmental charges for goods received or services rendered before April 30, 2017 must be dated (and approved if Mustang Market forms/journals) April 30, 2017 or prior and journaled no later than Monday, May 1, 2017. Ensure the Accounting Date on the Journal Entry Header Panel is changed to April 30, 2017.

TRAVEL EXPENSES/TRAVEL ADVANCES
Paper travel claims for expenses incurred prior to April 30, 2017 must be submitted no later than Friday, April 21, 2017 for processing. Online expense reports must be approved by the final approver no later than April 30, 2017 to be included in the 2016/2017 budget year. All outstanding travel advances should also be cleared April 30, 2017 (meaning the associated expense claim must be fully approved by April 30, 2017 for the advance to clear). Hard copies of online expense reports with original receipts attached must be forwarded to the Travel desk, SSB 6100 by Monday, May 8, 2017.

PAYROLL INSTRUCTIONS
Regular and vacation pay for part-time employees and any overtime owed to employees should be paid in April. Financial Services will accrue payroll from April 16 to 22, 2017.

PROCUREMENT INSTRUCTIONS
Purchase orders for goods and services received in the 2016/2017 budget year and invoiced before May 1, 2017 must be approved and released in Mustang Market by April 30, 2017 to be processed in the 2016/2017 budget year. Purchase orders for goods and services shipped, received and invoiced after April 30, 2017 will be committed against the 2017/2018 budget year.

Suppliers’ invoices must be in Accounts Payable, apinvoice@uwo.ca or SSB 6100, no later than May 1, 2017. Invoices received after this date will be processed in the 2017/2018 budget year.