Senate seeks clarity on president’s future

BY ADELA TALBOT

Stay tuned, Western.

That was the unanimous response to questions that arose during last week’s Senate meeting regarding future plans of Western President Amit Chakma.

Senators raised a number of questions regarding the university’s presidential review and appointment process, without directly asking Chakma, who is 19 months out from finishing his second five-year term, whether or not he is seeking reappointment or an extension of his term.

Senate Vice-Chair Michael Milde, Arts & Humanities Dean, addressed the concerns of Senators.

“One thing I can tell Senate is that for all senior administrative leaders, except the president, there is a common process whereby a selection committee is struck,” he said. “If there is an incumbent, the committee is a review committee and inquires of the incumbent whether or not he or she wishes to be considered. If they wish to be considered, it goes to review. If they do not wish to be considered, the review turns into a selection committee. Normally, those committees are on an 18-month, or slightly less, time frame.

“The selection process for the president is similar, but the timeline there is the committee is struck between 24-21 months before the president’s term, and that committee would consider any extension or any renewal of the incumbent.”

When pressed as to where administration sits in the process at this time, the answer was a deferral to proceedings of this week’s Board of Governors meeting, scheduled for today.

“There is nothing to be announced at this time. The Board is aware of its responsibility and has a meeting next week. That’s where we are at right now,” said University Secretary Kathleen Kwan.

“There’s nothing to report at this time,” Chakma said. “But stay tuned. Ignore alternate facts; just be patient and things will unfold in due time.”

Milde noted the timelines for the presidential review committee and the selection committee differ and there is nothing yet to report about the selection committee “because we’re not even at the outer edge of that.”

Whether tasked with being a review or selection committee, the body is comprised of five Board members and five Senate members, he added, noting one of the Senate members must be a student. The Board does not make any decisions or move forward in the presidential review or selection process without Senate input, Milde stressed, noting several times the Board “does not act on its own.”

Senator Alison Hearn, who teaches in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, noted “it seems we are past a renewal and would have heard about it already.” She asked if the review process, she understands to be approaching, will become a general review of the presidential role, not the president, wherein feedback is solicited from faculty, staff and students, by way of Senators.

“It is up to the committee to decide how to proceed,” Kwan answered.

Chakma has served as president since 2009. He was at the centre of a controversy in 2015 when it became apparent he had accepted a contract stipulation that paid out $967,000 in salary and taxable benefits at the end of his first term.
**Signage opens door to ‘inclusive’ washrooms**

**By Adela Talbot**

Western is encouraging a shift in how the campus community thinks about washroom facilities with a new poster campaign that launched this week, to foster safe spaces and inclusive washrooms.

“Western is dedicated to making our campus community a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. The realization of this is made possible with the support of the University community and partners like Equity Services,” said Executive Director of Equity Services, Carmen Bartlett. “As such, we continue to provide a forum for discussion of post-secondary issues in the campus record. The publication traces its roots to The University of Western Ontario’s Student newspaper, The Westerner which launched in 1918.

The posters, which are placed in various locations across campus, are intended to encourage people to be without a gender designation, as they explained. For example, a single-user washroom would just be designated as a washroom, without a gendered sign, that was accessible and routed with an accessibility symbol. There are signs on washrooms already, in addition to gender marked facilities. Bartlett added, and that is the point of things for the same.

“A couple of years ago, we had a request that we start to look at some signage — informational signage. We’ve been asked to go through our washrooms and signage. Some of the signs were, for example, ‘Are you a woman, or are you a man?’”

As of this week, 50 framed posters have been placed new washroom signs across campus in buildings like the University Community Centre (UCC), Simpsons Hall, Matthews College and the D.B. Weldon Library. The new signs are in line with how the university is working on a poster and it evolved to a bigger goal, according to Bartlett.

“All the posters are placed and they don’t replace the gender-marking on multi-user washrooms; they’re just another layer of inclusivity,” said Bartlett. “We worked together as a group — Equity, the University Students’ Council (USC), the Society of Graduate Students, Women’s Centre, the Queer Centre and Western community members. What we’re encouraging is a shift in how people think about washrooms, rather than it being about the person who uses the washroom, shifting the perspective to the service it provides.”

“Some of the posters will be along the lines of one of its washrooms in the UCC on ‘all-gender’ washrooms. Through the Equity website, you can either select a sign in English or a sign in French to be placed with someone whoever identifies as the same. The UCC includes a number of ‘all-gender’ washrooms. One of the questions about the new campaign may be, ‘Are these all-gender or multi-user washrooms?’ This is not what these posters mean. These posters are meant to encourage people to be without a gender designation.”

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“People are already considering how we do things on campus and what we do in inclusion in everything from language to approach to procedures. Housing & Ancillary Services is also considering how we do things on campus, going forward, Equity Services has suggested there is a need to look at Western policies and procedures as they relate to gender verification, gender expression, and gender identity. In addition, in recent weeks, we’ve seen a trend in the state of things for some time.”

“Companies are always looking for low cost manufacturing of electronic products on the market for printed technology.”

Western researcher Jun Yang is looking to push the ‘paper’ envelope when it comes to printable electronics, a rapidly growing area of research. His work could revolutionize the electronics industry. Producing printed electronics is ‘flexible, attractive, lightweight and wearable devices – a challenging in many ways said the Mechanical and Materials Engineering professor.

“Traditionally, most electronics are made out of silicon, building it layer by layer, but it also generates a lot of waste,” Yang said. “We want to keep the performance and lower the costs. Why? Because it still costs much lower performance than regular electronics,” said Yang, whose work was recently published in the journal Nano Letters.

“Printed electronics have been popular in research for more than a decade, but we seldom see printed electronics on the market. Why? Because it still costs much more than what is currently available on the market for printed technology.”

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Engineering PhD student Tengyuan Zhang shows off a battery-free self-powered LED light array, fabricated at Western.

**Work pushing new wave of printable electronics**

**By Paul Mayle**

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**BEST BETS**

Visit the Western Events Calendar at www.events.western.ca for a full look at the week ahead.

**NOV. 23**

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lawson Hall, Room 2270C

**A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT**

A Marathon, Not a Sprint is an annual Vanier Cup. Tickets available at The Purple Store or vaniercup.com.

**NOV. 25**

1 p.m. Harris Hall, Room 1102

**VANDER CUP**

The Western Mustangs take on the Rouge Otters of the OCAA for the 23rd annual Vander Cup. Tickets available at The Purple Store or www.westernontario.ca.

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**Inclusive washrooms themselves are born.**

Banner continued.

“While we recognize that if they are uncomfortable with using a washroom with someone else, we’ll dispense a single-use washroom. What will happen is when you approach the washroom, go to the single-user washroom,⽇th to over ⨳ or covert emotional or physical trauma or non-binary, are sometimes subjected to threatening, discriminatory and scary for reasons you can think of. It can be humiliating, threatening, discriminatory and scary for someone who tells you, ‘I don’t like being here.’ So, we started working on a poster and it evolved to a bigger goal, according to Bartlett. “The new signs are in line with how the university is working on a poster, shifting the perspective to the service it provides.”

“Some of the posters will be along the lines of one of its washrooms in the UCC on ‘all-gender’ washrooms. Through the Equity website, you can either select a sign in English or a sign in French to be placed with someone who identifies as the same. The UCC includes a number of ‘all-gender’ washrooms. One of the questions about the new campaign may be, ‘Are these all-gender or multi-user washrooms?’ This is not what these posters mean. These posters are meant to encourage people to be without a gender designation.”

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Levi Hord joins ranks of elite scholarship

By Adela Taibot

It was, without a doubt, an honour. But, above all, Levi Hord knew it was the utmost recognition of the humanities and the work and impact of his research. Hord, a fourth-year Sexuality Studies, School for Arts & Humanities (SASAH) and Scholar’s Electives student, has been named a recipient of the esteemed Rhodes Scholarship, an international postgraduate award for students to study at the University of Oxford. It is a widely considered one of the world’s most prestigious scholarships.

Named for the British mining magnate and South African politician Cecil John Rhodes, the scholarship offers two years of expenses and postgraduate study at Oxford. It is one of the only renewable scholarships in the world, with people who are just as engaged and experienced in society. Hord hopes to play an integral part in breaking through the social and cultural barriers that have historically prevented those who identify as queer person, I would approach certain issues in terms of gender and identity and how I saw that relating to my studies in gender and sex studies, how, as a gender theorist and as a gender queer person, I could approach certain issues in terms of gender and identity, in my Rhodes application and my interview. I think that’s how I was able to make my political engagement based on what I had already learned through my studies... I think it’s a big thing for me,” Hord noted.

As a humanities student, I had been prepared for how to think of the world and how to address certain challenges, as well as to frame my work in terms of the betterment of humanity and how I could serve my fellow people. When I got into the room with the selection committee, it was like they already knew it was valuable. That was a big thing for me,” Hord noted.

At Oxford, Hord plans on doing a double master’s – two one-year degrees – the first in women’s studies, how, as a gender theorist and as a gender queer person, I could approach certain issues in terms of gender and identity and how I saw that relating to my studies in gender and sex studies, how, as a gender theorist and as a gender queer person, I could approach certain issues in terms of gender and identity, in my Rhodes application and my interview. It’s still hasn’t really settled in yet. I’m incredibly excited to be able to study at Oxford, especially with the other people who have become Rhodes Scholars. There’s no other group of people in the world who could possibly think that way, and I want my thoughts to be articulated, my views to be represented in the world, in the humanities, and to have a passion for furthering transgender academia and theory.

Getting to be in the best humanities university in the world, with people who are just as engaged as I am, is absolutely thrilling. But, above all, Levi Hord knew it was the utmost recognition of the humanities and the work and impact of his research.

But coming out of the interview, Hord was encouraged. “They asked me about my work at the cemetery, which came out of my studies, how, as a gender theorist and as a gender queer person, I could approach certain issues in terms of gender and identity, in my Rhodes application and my interview. It’s still hasn’t really settled in yet. I’m incredibly excited to be able to study at Oxford, especially with the other people who have become Rhodes Scholars. There’s no other group of people in the world who could possibly think that way, and I want my thoughts to be articulated, my views to be represented in the world, in the humanities, and to have a passion for furthering transgender academia and theory.”

Along with that, I’m going to be continuing a lot of the advocacy work I’ve already started in my community. One of the biggest things I can learn from this experience is how to figure out how to bring this type of theory, that allows people to see, and make it something that is actually useful, something we can talk about, human to human, and not keep that locked away in an academic space,” Hord added.

How do we make it culturally accessible? How do we make it something that everyone can understand, but push things like activism and advocacy forward?”

Being a Rhodes Scholar isn’t just a personal accomplishment for Hord. It is an acknowledgement by the world that people are doing something right, and it’s something that we can talk about, human to human, and not keep that locked away in an academic space,” Hord added.

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Music alumna finds self, community in new venture

Carolyn Holdsworth, BMus’01, MMus’03, took her talent for the arts in a new direction and created Me & C, a London-based shirt company that features images of iconic locations throughout the city.

BY PAUL MAYNE

“arolyn Holdsworth, BMus’01, MMus’03, is using her creative spirit with a bit of social entrepreneurship. The company is an ideal way to showcase the things she loves about living in London. It has quickly become an old friend. I’ve created designs of the places where people have their first kiss or said their last goodbyes,” Holdsworth said. “It’s been amazing to turn this from something that is just a hobby, a second thought as an executive assistant for Pillar Nonprofit Network, to a primary focus so much so that I’ve stopped work at my day job.”

Holdsworth is the founder of Me & C, a London-based, London-themed shirt company that combines her creative juices rekindled, this time to bring her art and creative process that she loved about her me and my trying to reconnect with the city, expanding her weekend location at the Western Artisan Market to offer their suggestions.

Moving back to London in 2014, and now working as an executive assistant for Pillar Nonprofit Network, her creative juices were rekindled, it’s time to bring her creative spirit with a bit of social entrepreneurship. The company is an ideal way to showcase the things she loves about living in London. It has quickly become an old friend. I’ve created designs of the places where people have their first kiss or said their last goodbyes,” Holdsworth said. “It’s been amazing to turn this from something that is just a hobby, a second thought as an executive assistant for Pillar Nonprofit Network, to a primary focus so much so that I’ve stopped work at my day job.”

“I did some volunteer stuff, but not a lot of performing,” she said. “You have to be OK with rejection; there’s been a lot of things where I’ve brought to this new part of my life. It’s somewhat ‘really struggled with the auditioning process.'”

In the name of the company, Me & C, the ‘C’ is a London’s Largest Independent Repair Centres... London’s Largest Independent Repair Centres... London’s Largest Independent Repair Centres... London’s Largest Independent Repair Centres... London’s Largest Independent Repair Centres...

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It was Badru Mugerwa’s curiosity that drove him to find out who, or what, was killing the cat. The African Golden Cat, to be more specific. But, he wondered, was it actually being killed? Or was it ecotourism behind its marked drop in sightings in the Bwindi National Park in southern Uganda?

What he discovered, in association with Western partners, may help conservationists strike a greater balance between wildlife and ecotourism, while also shedding new light into how animals perceive threats from predators and poachers.

“The African Golden Cat is a very cool species we don’t know that much about,” explained Mugerwa, a Queen Elizabeth (QE) II Scholar, hailing from Uganda. “It’s a medium-sized wild cat, about double the size of a domestic cat, and it’s one of Africa’s least known wild cat species, endemic only in the part of Africa where we have forest.”

One such forest is Uganda’s Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, where Mugerwa has been working as part of a large consortium, monitoring biodiversity in tropical ecosystems. Motion-triggered camera traps, placed systematically in a grid, allowed Mugerwa to observe the temporal trends of elusive wildlife, without needing to be there physically.

“My camera trap data was showing the populations of the Golden Cat were going down. I didn’t really know why, but I had some thoughts on what could be driving those trends. I didn’t think it was hunting, because the cat is a carnivore, and in Uganda, people don’t hunt carnivores. I wondered if it could be ecotourists, because in Bwindi, where I worked, there are lots of ecotourists. The numbers are huge.”

So are the dollars, with tourists paying approximately USD$750 to see endangered mountain gorillas. Of the 880 mountain gorillas left in the world, half of them live in Bwindi, a premier African-protected area and the main source of Uganda’s ecotourism revenue.

“My reasoning was these cats are likely not declining in populations per se, but it may be just an avoidance of ecotourists.” But he knew his reasoning wasn’t conclusive, being that traditional camera traps only provide correlative data, without experimental controls. He needed a better method to understand what was behind the cats’ behaviour. And while studying at Oxford University, he found it, through a chance meeting with Western Biology professors Liana Zanette and Michael Clinchy, who were there on sabbatical.

And it was Zanette that drew Mugerwa to The Africa Institute at Western as a master’s candidate in Biology & Collaborative Program in Global Health Systems in Africa. “Liana is the expert, she is the authority in these kinds of questions in the playback experiment world,” he said.

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“Animals don’t lie, they tell us who they’re afraid of.” Zanette said this with great authority. And, she earned it, having studied the many dimensions of predator-induced fear on animals around the world. Her lab has demonstrated although fear in animals can help restore ecosystems, it is also powerful enough to reduce the birth and survival rate of songbirds, and can cause cascading effects down the food web.

“But I knew there had to be other things you can be afraid of—and one of those is people,” said Zanette. “I wondered if this was the case.”

“Animals know who their enemies are, and they are able to tell us,” she explained. “Even though it’s all people, they can discriminate, and know which ones they should fear.”

QE II SCHOLARS

In 2015, The Africa Institute at Western was awarded the prestigious scholarship. Since then, Western students have taken part in experiential learning experiences in Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, and Tanzania. University-wide, several faculty at Western have also hosted graduate students from Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania enrolled through the Collaborative Graduate Program in Global Health Systems. This year, 21 students took part in the program, supervising African-protected areas and the main source of Uganda’s ecotourism revenue.

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INTO THE WILD // CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
Mahon to take SASAH from classroom, to world, and back


By Adilia Talbot

Adriaan Mako is a switch-gears kind of guy—a skilled actor, and now a professor of theatre. Having spent most of his career working in the theatre industry, Mako is now leading the School of Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities (SASAH) at Western University.

“When I got this job, I thought, this is going to be a change for me,” Mako said. “But I’ve been working in the arts for so many years, and I’ve been thinking about education and the role that the arts can play in society.”

At SASAH, Mako has been able to combine his passion for theatre with his interest in education. “I’ve always been interested in how we can use the arts to engage students, to challenge them, and to help them think critically about the world around them,” he said.

One of the main goals of SASAH is to bring together artists and scholars from across disciplines to engage with complex issues and to promote interdisciplinary collaboration. “We want to create a space where artists and academics can work together to explore new ideas and to challenge traditional ways of thinking,” Mako said.

The program offers a range of courses and workshops, as well as opportunities for students to engage in research and to develop their creative skills. “We want to give our students the tools they need to succeed in the arts, but also to think critically about the role of the arts in society,” Mako said.

Mako’s own work has been focused on exploring the role of theatre in society, and he has been able to bring this perspective to the classroom at SASAH. “I’ve been able to use my experience as a professional actor to inspire my students and to help them develop their own creative voices,” he said.

The program has been well-received by students, and Mako has been pleased to see how they have engaged with the material. “Our students are really curious and they’re really willing to explore new ideas,” he said.

While Mako is excited about the program, he is also aware of the challenges that he and his colleagues will face in the years ahead. “We’re working in a field that is constantly changing, and we need to be flexible and open-minded,” he said.

But Mako is confident that SASAH can play a crucial role in helping to shape the future of arts education. “We’re at a unique moment in time, and we have a unique opportunity to make a difference,” he said.
Research

Western pushing cutting-edged hearing aid

BY DEB VAN BREKEL

Researchers at Western's National Centre for Audiology (NCA) are testing how invisible light pulses transmitted sound to the wearer. The Earlens is a state-of-the-art technology that transduces sound waves into light and converts it back to sound in the inner ear.

The NCA is a state-of-the-art audiology teaching, research and clinical services. It has developed national protocols for patient's hearing assessment, found new ways to improve hearing technology. It is the first trial of its kind in Canada.

During the research and testing project, Kuboki will manufacture injection molded plastic using the graphene as an additive. Kuboki's latest polymer composites, he added, which has large enough improvement that could possibly want to know how much we can improve these chemical properties of the new product. We testing has returned good results.

“Also, graphene enhanced electrical properties of composites may present unique and diverse applications for the use of graphene in the future,” Kuboki hopes to have promising results of his latest research by spring.
Zimmerman Lab provides revamped space for students with disabilities

By Anjiruddho Choudhury – House of Student

The Linda and Walter Zimmerman Lab provides revamped space for students with disabilities. The lab is located on the ground level of The D. W. Brown Library. Activist Rachel Forrest, who is pursuing a master’s degree in Philosophy (philosophy), is surveyed with upgrades made to the space.

"Now it is spacious & obvious and says to students with disabilities, we not only value you, but we have a space for you to work with your peers and mentors," - Wendy Dickson, Acting Associate Director of Access & Disability Services.

"We are hoping it will provide a meaningful place to work," said Forrest. "I hope it will provide the students the space for studying comfortably."

"Our students will enjoy the lab, as well as be able to complete their assignments without any hindrances," said Forrest. "It is a space where all students can come together and feel comfortable."
Team has the World by a string

Teams from across campus turned their attention to the global burden of mental illness in low- and middle-income countries at the local final of the Western World’s Challenge Challenge, held as part of International Week celebrations. The team comprised of Education PhD student Robyn Masters,left, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry student Michelle Quaye and Education PhD student Richelle Bird took home top honours for CREATE Kenya. Community REcovery Achieved Through Entrepreneurism (CREATE) looks to develop a business specifically designed to employ people with mental illnesses and provide an accompanying toolkit of psychological and social supports that promotes recovery and successful reintegration into society. The students will now prepare to compete in the International World’s Challenge Challenge, held at Western next June, with a top prize of $30,000.

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