Student questionnaires 
set to open

BY PAUL MAWE

Students are once again ready to have their say when it comes to the direction and planning of future courses at Western, with the Student Course Evaluation and Teaching (SCET) scheduled to be conducted Nov. 20-28.

Student feedback plays a major role in improving courses, informing program development and helping students in future course selection, said John Doerksen, the deans’ advisor for academic affairs. "Many of my colleagues take the feedback seriously. It shapes future offerings of the courses and teaching strategies," Doerksen said. "It just involves feedback, of course, but it gives a voice to students, who are partners in the learning experience."

There are two new survey options available for faculty this fall. The first involves a smaller pool of questions for which the online system only generates a statistic. The second involves two additional questions of their choosing to the end of course questionnaire, instructions are the only ones to see feedback on the optional questions.

"My hope is faculty will see merit in getting feedback related to priorities in their teaching practices," Doerksen said. They are both options are entirely at the discretion of instructors. Because of that, there remains the fact students can complete the questionnaire online, which may help to keep it from going around as a widely shared document.

Doerksen is pleased by the success of the transition to an online system, which he said has broadened and guided many colleagues across campus. He feels students are taking advantage of the three-week window and are now more willing to use the online system. "The system generally works well and generally instructors who emphasize the importance of the process see class feedback rates," he said, adding that it is important to get student feedback as it is an "important gauge."”

For the 2017-18 academic year, students are not only allowed to write longer comments, but are also asked to provide email addresses when possible. Doerksen is pleased with these changes, which have the potential to increase the rate of response. "It allows them to follow up and ask for more. They are able to do something for them, to empower them to find their voice and place in the world," Doerksen said.

"I'm a little bit more relaxed because of the online system," said Helen Connell, the Academic Affairs, is published every Thursday. "Students want to see their comments, we need to make sure they do. We want to see it as a start."

"I'm pleased to have the option," said Adela Talbot, the associate dean of academic affairs. "We hope you will comment. We hope you will engage."
Mental Health Crisis Clinic earns community backing

By Delina Arteaga

Western students experiencing a mental health crisis have access to a confidential walk-in clinic on campus three evenings a week as part of a growing change program funded through the London Community Foundation. The project is a collaboration between Canadian Mental Health Centre-Windsor-Middlesex (CMHC-Windsor-Middlesex), Humber College, University of Western Ontario, Western Student Health, SAGE Health and the London Community Foundation.

“You recognize the crisis room on campus, students have, particularly during high-stress times, come to the space and meet with different staff. It’s a really good space for students at all ages, in all locations across Canada, and we want to provide access that makes sense for them during those times,” said Joanne Doerksen, Western President and Vice-Chancellor.

The University Student Council (USC) sought the partnership after recognizing the need for services offered at the Walk-in Crisis Centre opened by CMHC-Windsor-Middlesex and the USC Mental Health Alliance in 2017. Building on recognition from last year’s students’ mental health Town Hall, CMHC-Windsor-Middlesex broadened the scope of its program and partnered with Western Student Health for an experimental pilot program last year.

This year, the clinic is being held on-campus, Monday to Friday, from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

“The value of services offered at the Walk-in Crisis Centre opened by CMHC-Windsor-Middlesex and the USC Student Mental Health Alliance is being realized,” said Mac McIntosh, USC Student Programs Officer. “The clinic on campus demonstrates the value of services offered at the Walk-in Crisis Centre operated by CMHA-Middlesex, an example of how innovative partnerships are working to reduce mental health stigma and increase accessibility to mental health services.

"It is great to see students and institutions coming together to identify key needs and to fund the most promising and cost-effective solutions. I am particularly impressed by the collaboration of the USC, the CMHC, and Western which has resulted in this pilot project. It is a truly a collaborative effort, and one that will be truly beneficial to our student community.""}

McIntosh’s new book takes Canadians behind the lines

By Paul Mayne

W hen stories rapped from the battled field dominate most histories, the contributions of Canada in remembrance of Vimy Ridge’s legacy still remain. Released this week, Behind the Lines, Canada’s Home Front paints a detailed picture of the war’s impact from the perspective of diverse communities across Canada — from First Nations and women in the workforce, to Japanese internment camps and German prison of war facilities. The 350-page book features hundreds of letters, diaries and other primary sources. The book is the culmination of the opening exhibition of the Vimy Memorial, in 1992, and Behind the Lines, an exhibit that provided a glimpse into the personal side of the war for people of different backgrounds.

McIntosh’s new book, Behind the Lines: Canada’s Home Front, is the result of the Vimy Memorial’s mandate to explore the stories of Canada’s history from the perspective of all Canadians. "I wanted to tell the story of the war from the point of view of the people who were affected by it," McIntosh said.

"I really like the idea that this collection presents an authentic, relatable story of the war through the eyes of those who were there. It is the stories of the volunteers, the soldiers, the nurses, the wives, the children, the mothers, the fathers, and the stories behind the stories. It is the stories of the people who were affected by the war," she added.

"I hope that people will find something in Behind the Lines that they can relate to, that they can understand, and that they can reflect on. It is the stories of the people who were affected by the war, and it is the stories of the people who told those stories," she said.

The book is available for purchase at the Vimy Memorial in Ottawa, and online at brownanddickson.com. 

"It’s my hope is that people will take these stories with them, and that they will find stories with their own family ties," she added. 

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HISTORIC ROOTS

Trio of oaks from historic battle field find new home on campus

BY PAUL MAYNE

A trio of oaks from historic battlefields in western Europe during the First World War will mark the beginning of Canada’s First World War legacy through the creation of a living memorial, planted for the 100th anniversary of the armistice in 1918.

The trees are also in honour of the 17 Western students and alumni who died during the four-day battle at Vimy Ridge. The story of how the oaks made it to campus is not without its own war story.

In Flanders Fields, the poppies were first seen as a symbol of sleep. As the war progressed, the red poppy became a token of remembrance it was traditionally planted on the graves of those who died in the First World War, and then subsequent conflicts. The poem of the scarlet corn poppies that inspired the poppy, “In Flanders Fields,” was written by Lt.-Col. John McCrae.

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

To you from failing hands we throw

The wreath; as from our heads you throw.

Our sons are dead. Curse shall their deaths

Be forgot, the wrongs and slavery

That made them die. Be yours to hold it high.

The torch; be yours to hold it high.

BY DAVID BENTLEY

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In Flanders Fields

By Lt.-Col. John McCrae (1872-1918) write in Flanders Field in May 1915 during the Second Battle of Ypres in western Belgium, where he was serving as a Brigadier Surgeon and Major, and interpreter of the 3rd Brigade of the Canadian Field Artillery. The poem was initially published in the British satirical magazine Punch on Dec. 8, 1915, and quickly became widely known. In this stanzas, McCrae wrote: “In Flanders Fields” – turns of the final statement by the collective requirements; it must consist of three the first stanza, McCrae wrote: “The significance of the stanzas, and the story behind them, didn’t want to miss the opportunity. There is a special meaning behind this poem. The story of the 3rd Brigade made it to Western in April 1917 with the final stanza, McCrae wrote: “The significance of the flowers, and the story behind them, didn’t want to miss the opportunity. There is a special meaning behind this poem. The story of the 3rd Brigade made it to Western in 1917 with the last lines of the second and third stanzas based on two rhymes only, and the stories of the scarlet corn poppies that inspired the poppy, “In Flanders Fields,” was written by Lt.-Col. John McCrae.

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Plaques celebrate rich history of research across campus

BY PAUL MAINE

The campus community had its say and Western is now sharing it. A first-of-its-kind research celebration honoring two decades of scholarly achievement has been launched with the unveiling of 10 inaugural plaques, reflecting Western’s top research moments from 1999 to 2019.

The first two historical plaques recognizing Western’s top research moments were affixed to their respective buildings this week. One plaque is outside the Engineering Building, while another is outside the Science Building.

The first two plaques honor the contributions of Zoology professor Helen Baker and the pioneering work of the Centre for Environmental Research and Environmental Studies.

Western staff and faculty were invited to submit nominations recognizing important contributions to research excellence at Western.

Plaques recognize research contributions as a way of recognizing and promoting the diversity of research taking place at Western, and to inspire future generations of scholars.

The research moments were named by selecting one from a wide range of disciplines, including social sciences, natural sciences, and the arts. The research was selected by a panel of faculty and staff.

The first two plaques honor the contributions of Zoology professor Helen Baker and the pioneering work of the Centre for Environmental Research and Environmental Studies.

The first plaque, located outside the Engineering Building, recognizes the work of Zoology professor Helen Baker and the pioneering work of the Centre for Environmental Research and Environmental Studies.

The second plaque, located outside the Science Building, recognizes the work of Dr. John Daramo and the pioneering work of the Centre for Environmental Research and Environmental Studies.

Plaques will be added in future years, recognizing additional important contributions to research excellence at Western.

Baker’s contributions to the field of environmental research are recognized, and the plaque highlights her work in water quality and environmental studies.

Daramo’s contributions to the field of environmental research are recognized, and the plaque highlights his work in water quality and environmental studies.

The plaques are part of a broader effort to celebrate Western’s rich history of research and to promote a culture of excellence in research.

Western will continue to celebrate its research excellence through the installation of additional plaques in the future.

Plaques will be installed on the exterior of buildings, ensuring that they are visible to the campus community.

The plaques are a reflection of the university’s commitment to excellence in research and to recognizing the contributions of its faculty and staff.

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In addition to the plaques, Western will continue to celebrate its research excellence through a variety of other initiatives, including research awards, grants, and fellowships.

Western is committed to supporting its faculty and staff in their research endeavors, and to recognizing the contributions of its research community.

The plaques are a reflection of the university’s commitment to excellence in research and to recognizing the contributions of its faculty and staff.
A celebration with living art

Recent MFA graduate Paul Chartrand works in his studio at the John Labatt Visual Arts Centre preparing to install the Canada 150 living art wall next week. As part of Canada 150 and International Week celebrations, Western will unveil an original piece of living art created by Chartrand at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 15 in the International and Graduate Affairs Building Atrium.

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