YEAR IN PHOTOS

2017

A CELEBRATION OF WESTERN NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY

PAGES 7-10
Campus and Community

Experiential learning gets provincial boost

By ADELA TALBOT

Experiential learning at Western is getting a welcome boost from the provincial government, support officials and fellow students at an already strategic priority on campus.

In response to a proposal developed by Western administrators, the Ontario Ministry of Education has committed $500,000 over two years, to support student opportunities, such as work study and internships, and to embed experiential learning throughout the curriculum.

“This major focus on the provincial level is ongoing experiential learning and the funding is on a number of initiatives at Western. It is a definite priority for Western education leaders in the province,” said Chen Doerksen, associate vice-president (academic) at Western.

Western will now expand an experiential learning program in the near future to consider with the campus community overall the issue of the next year on strategy direction, ensuring the university reduces any barriers for students participation, he explained.

The funding from the province will support the enhancement of Western’s Learning and Teaching Centre by expanding the community service learning opportunities on campus, Doerksen said.

“Western will look at the province’s willingness to work with us to expand those opportunities in both the community and on-campus community engagement activities,” he added.

“You will see us expanding the number of paid work opportunities for students,” he said. “There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes, in doing Learning and Science through the funding, and we will look to ensure we increase the number of opportunities in both spaces.”

Another area is the development of online tools and resources for our faculty colleagues who are interested in embedding experiential learning in their courses – there is a further development there supported by this funding,” he noted.

“A great opportunity for experiential learning is available on campus,” Doerksen said. “We will be looking at all the work that we do locally and work that extends beyond the campus. We will build on the existing partnerships and networks that we have already and we will establish some new partnerships and relationships to help us understand, reflect on and articulate the kinds of skills they are learning through all of those placements.

“We are looking to broaden its definition of experiential learning,” he added, and not just consider experiential opportunities students might pursue internationally as part of their curricular or co-curricular initiatives.

“This is recognized by the ministry and by Western,” Doerksen said, “that a lot of international experiences can have a big experiential learning component, and that we need to capture that in the curriculum. So we will be looking to establish that experiential learning is a part of our curriculum and not just in the classroom.

“We will be reviewing what we do to ensure that we are providing students with a really meaningful experience,” he added.

Some of the funding will be going to helping and building opportunities for students to participate elsewhere, Doerksen said.

“These are key initiatives that will roll out in the next six months and then the next year on campus. It does mean lots of going on at the provincial level, and more broadly here at Western,” he added.

BEST BETS

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

TUBA CHRISTMAS

Have a spare tube lying around? Why not join the annual London Tuba Christmas show at Covent Garden Market and share some of the season’s newest songs.

DEC. 7 | 8:00-9:30 a.m., University Community Centre, Mustang Lounge

THERAPY DOGS: DE-STRESS EVENT

Meet the dogs, and their families, and learn about the St. John’s Therapy dog program and the benefits it provides.

DEC. 8 | 10:30-2:30 p.m., Physion Athletics Building, Room 100

THE FIRST INTERSTELLAR ASTEROID

For the first time ever, astronomers have studied an asteroid that has entered human space. If you find this exciting, then you’re going to love the second annual Pillar Community Innovation Award in the category of Community Impact.

DEC. 7 | 8:00-10:30 p.m., Talbot College, Room 100

VOICE FRIDAYS

Voice Fridays, at the Don Wright Faculty of Music, is a weekly symposium by singers for singers. This week’s learning sessions will focus on the Opera Masterclass.

DEC. 9 | 12:30-2:30 p.m., Physics & Astronomy Building, Room 100

SEASON FINALE!

Seasonal event concludes with a program of music from across the West.

DEC. 8 | 8:00-10:30 p.m., University Community Centre, Mustang Lounge

RESIN TRACY

Weekly opportunities (until Dec. 23) to relax, recharge and restore your wellbeing using yoga in a calming and soothing environment.

WESTERN NEWS

Western News, the campus newspaper, is published weekly in the fall and spring semesters and bi-weekly during the summer. Adela Talbot is the editor. Helen Connell is the editorial services coordinator. Western News is also available online at westernnews.ca.

University of Western Ontario

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Adela Talbot

Jennifer Granger, MLIT’08, partnered with publisher Bibilwus – founded by Dan Wells, M.T.H. (History) – in writing and curating From the Vault: A Photo-history of London, a book that features 1,000-plus black-and-white photographs drawn largely from the London Free Press Collection of Photographic Negatives at Western Archives.

One thing Londones might today be curious to find while perusing the photos in the book, is that city, with its history, used to have an electric streetcar system that ran all the way to the Bosun’s Bank Park!

“Western’s history, and the discussion we are having about location and urban area, is relevant for all students today,” Granger said.

“You might ask how it might have been a good idea to get it because it was clean and energy efficient, or might have got a few people out of their cars. It got shut down in 1945 because more people were buying automobiles and improving progress, it made a kind of move around this area now, it just makes for some fun stories and things that might appeal to the electric streetcar system along. ”

“Riding the waves, Granger shares the loss of iconic works, as the London-based, the Architectural Conservation Office of Ontario, helps others take note of what the city has lost over the years, as well.

“Even as you go through the various collection housed at Western Archives, including images representatives of London as people, events and places throughout the city.”

The photographs are organized in thematic chapters with headings such as architecture, business, hospitals and medical, industry, transportation and even Western University.

“When you look in the Free Press archives, you can see images documenting life on the various campuses and illustrate the prominence and civic pride Western University.”

“She combined through the negatives collection housed at Western Archives, looking for images representatives of London to people, events and places throughout the city. The photographs are organized in thematic chapters with headings such as architecture, business, hospitals and medical, industry, transportation and even Western University.”

Granger says, “It was a bit of a struggle, along with the architectural challenge, there is a lot of impressive and interesting buildings that have disappeared. The only way to look at them now is by looking at photographs in a book.”

“With that said, perhaps the most unique way to meet our city’s past is to look in terms of architecture? When we look at the past, we have no choice but to accept the fact that the great, as well. I hope people will think about this.”

Granger said.

Archives, alumni bring London’s past to page

READ ALL ABOUT IT! From the Free Press History of London, a local series of the Free Press printed in 1939, readers can find out how the London Free Press and University are connected, and in what contexts and dates.

The free copy is available online, in the form of books and their Bibilwus.

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A hard-to-believe, but Western’s Friends of the Garden (FOG) is 33 years old next year.
I began when I was only 20, all in Western, it was a meaningful way to give back to the university.
The planting and planting of the landscape Garden showed us to give vent to our creativity. In addition to our own wild plants, shrubs and small trees, members cooperated a path through the landscape in order to do volunteer gardening.

I needed to move away from my home in London and couldn’t think of anything else.

So, why not Western?

We had encouragement from the university for our own wild plants, shrubs and small trees, members cooperated a path through the landscape, which became a place where people could come and talk to each other.

Crytal Mackay // Western News

Our Festive Buffets and Brunches Have Returned!

Grand Hall Festive Lunch Buffet
(Monday–Friday)
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Garden still planting history across campus

BY FRANCES HOWEY, BA’40

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**Study: Moderate delays safe in treating colon cancer**

BY PAUL MAYNE

Despite longer treatment wait times from diagnosis to surgery for patients with colon cancer – some even exceeding the 38-day recommendation by an additional two months – there seems to be no adverse impact on survival rates.

Along with the anxiety caused by a diagnosis of cancer, a patient’s cooperative behavior in removing the tumor as quickly as possible will improve the odds of curing the cancer.

However, delays in surgery are becoming more common. Some patients benefit from additional testing and preparation. Others might attend to work or family priorities first. Delays could also be due to the availability of operating room time is a shared public resource.

No matter the reason, patients may benefit if their operations reasonably delayed without any evidence of harm compromising treatment outcomes, explained Dr. Kerollos Wanis, a third-year General Surgery resident with the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

His study, *Do Moderate Surgical Treatment Delays Influence Survival in Colon Cancer?*, was published in the December 2017 issue of *Diseases of the Colon and Rectum*.

For his study, Wanis collected data on 968 patients undergoing elective surgery for stage I, II or III colon cancer from 2006-15, with a median surgery-to-tumor time of 38 days. Patients who were operated on within 30 days of diagnosis had similar disease-free and overall survival compared with those who waited longer than 30 days. There was no association between stage and outcomes, even for patients who waited up to 90 days to receive treatment.

"Assuming that surgical consultation occurs regardless after diagnosis, the results of this study do not support the existing recommendations, because patients treated several weeks later had no worse outcomes," Wanis said. "Patients who wait longer for surgery tend to voice more dissatisfaction with their overall care, when compared to those who receive immediate treatment. However, wait times are usually only one of many factors that disrupt patient satisfaction. Delays in surgery may help reduce anxiety and improve systemic satisfaction."

"Patients who have longer delays may experience greater anxiety about their treatment, and other studies have shown they report less satisfaction with their care," Wanis said. "This portrays patients as having a small but non-negligible impact on delay of any treatment delays."t

Cancer is an easier reason to study be continued, because the current treatment is surgical removal without preceding chemotherapy or radiation.

The treatment for other cancers is not always straightforward and, that said, there have been studies examining treatment delays for many other cancers, but the findings have been mixed. Some patients benefit from additional testing and preparation, while others do not.

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2017 Favourite

Championship tradition continues

Everywhere the football was thrown this season, a jumping, diving or leaping Harry McMaster was not far behind. The third-year Social Science student pulled in seven touchdowns and added up 1,010 receiving yards this season to help the Mustangs bring home the Vanier Cup for the first time in 23 years. McMaster was just one of so many outstanding student athletes this year at Western as the other Mustangs teams—Men’s Tennis, Women’s Softball, Men’s Lacrosse, Women’s Rowing and Cheerleading—as well as the Mustangs. It’s OK to be offended

This was from the Jordan Peterson event on campus in early spring. Whereas his other campus appearances garnered much protest (and some were cancelled pre-emptively as a result), I was pleasantly surprised at how Peterson’s visit to Western played out to a packed audience, stimulating a pointed discussion on free speech and more. Nothing was a major cause for concern, however. For the record, I don’t agree with Peterson’s politics, but a university campus is the one place where difficult, uncomfortable and even controversial conversations can—and should be able to— take place. I was pleased to see Peterson on campus while preparing for protests—on the one hand, having him here was seen as welcoming Peterson’s viewpoints while protesting the event might have been seen as opposing free speech. Tough spot. But I was happy with how this played out in the end.
Neufeld
2017 Favourite
Anything for the shot

This image really cost me a camera and lighting equipment. It was taken after the photo was taken, one of the worst storms of the summer hit. Breaking the rule of my subject to sacrifice our dryness and color the picture. The worst was, it made sense, but ended up producing my favorite image of the year, completely

involved in various fieldwork projects
worth it.

favourite image of the year - completely

madness, but ended up producing my

to sacrifice our dryness and scramble

was taken, one of the worst storms of the

lighting kit. Two minutes after this photo

This image nearly cost me a camera and

Anything for

2017

westernnews.ca

Western News

December 7, 2017

' My god, they had it bad.' New book remembers the Halifax Explosion

BY JASON WINDERS

K en Cuthbertson grew up hearing the story of the explosion.

With roots running deep in Nova Scotia, the senior journalist spent countless summers as a boy on the coast visiting his mother’s side of the family. He was fascinated by their tales of “The Explosion” that took place on December 6, 1917.

Born in 1917, his mother had lived on the South Shore throughout the tragic events that day. During that week in the early 1920s, the damage was still evident in the area. “Some of her schoolmates had lost brothers or sisters, other family members had disappeared,” Cuthbertson said.

It was only when he learned about the explosion that he realized the extent of his family’s involvement in the event.

Recounting the events, he allowed the world into the world. His mother often used to tell the tales of the tragedy. “My god, they had it bad.”

To a day

Cuthbertson

(namal), has returned to the stories of his youth with the most detailed exploration of the event to date in his newest book, “The Halifax Explosion: Canada’s Worst Disaster.”

A century ago, this week, the French battleship Mont-Blanc and the Norwegian warship Imo collided in the harbour of Halifax, Nova Scotia. That accident sparked a fire that resulted in an absolute explosion, a shock wave and tidal wave that claimed as many as 2,000 people and injured another 1,200. Because of limited forensic tools, and the overwhelming carnage, the true number of people in this country was never to be known. Some people “simply disappeared,” Cuthbertson said.

Concluding the credo of the explorers of the time, “The great wave of the explosion took down the Mont-Blanc,” the Mont-Blanc’s massive 90-mm gun leaked six kilometres to the north, and its bullet torched the homes of three houses south. It was a tale of delusion, Cuthbertson said.

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To a day

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A Korean Grill featuring ...korean table noodles.

BY ADELA TALBOT

Western Canada, London is seeing a large influx of highly educated immigrants. But the Forest City has any hope of retaining its highly skilled population Western needs to be in a good place of effort, according to one Western researcher.

Statistics Canada released its census data last week, indicating nearly 22 per cent of Canadians are recent immigrants, the highest share the country has seen in 85 years. From 2011-16, the country welcomed 1.2 million new immigrants. Statistics Canada also estimated that the recent immigrants have settled up to 30 per cent of all Canadians by 2023.

When less than half of those coming to Canada are more educated than other Canadians, with rates of postsecondary education more than double their Canadian-born counterparts, it is already making nearly half of the labour force already made up of recent immigrants. I don’t know why the city of London, or Vancouver, or Toronto, why do they have the same thing? Haan continued.

This is a good news story for London — which sees itself as a microcosm of Canada — Western needs to play a role in not only attracting international students, but helping retain these individuals once they complete their studies. Western could think more about trying to see itself as a population growth engine and a population within the local economy,” Haan said.

“The census release was confirming a lot of what we were coming down the line about. There are a lot of educated immigrants. About half of recent immigrants have bachelor’s degrees or higher when they come — and that’s just to London. That’s far higher than the rate of less recent immigrants or the Canadian-born. I think it’s a good story of immigration education is among the Canadian-born population in London. This is one of the areas, in terms of education, that’s really growing in terms of the local population coming in, will help us a lot.”

Western needs to contribute to the city’s effort in attracting and retaining immigrants. Data collected for the 2016 Census, released by Statistics Canada last week, indicates nearly 22 per cent of Canadians are recent immigrants, the highest share the country has seen in 85 years.

While manufacturing was a big part of the pasture in London, life sciences has continued to grow. The local food and health sciences are exciting growth opportunities for London, and ones that are now being brought in by immigrants coming in, and we learn more about the types of immigrants coming in, which we don’t know who we are attracting. This is the London story for London, and the university is not providing them with the supports, he continued, and the story is because Western hasn’t thought of itself as being part of the innovation and population growth engine in the region, as the data paints London as an attractive place to work and live.

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New compliance role aims to keep researchers on track

BY CRYSTAL MACKAY

E ven the most seasoned and successful physicians experience that nagging feeling of self-doubt so many of us – anxiety times of personal struggle or when confronted by an error, according to a study from the School of Medicine & Dentistry.

The study was recently published in the Journal of Academic Medicine, and was co-authored by Dr. Kaori Watling, a research fellow in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry who is completing her PhD in health sciences.

The research was led by Dr. Catharine G. Law, a professor of medicine and senior associate dean of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry.

The study’s findings could soon lead to the creation of the Anima, a new role assessing any compliance gaps across campus. She is taking a one-year secondment from her role as a Research Ethics Officer to ensure Western’s researchers continue to promote integrity, accountability and public trust by following ethics, safety and best practices guidelines in research when it comes to humans, animals and conflicts of interest that can potentially arise.

“While all areas of compliance are currently being addressed, the group studied very successfully put the right pieces in place and are now able to measure that work and understand the many facets of research and regulatory policies. Compliance is subject to internal and external review. Compliance is important. Regulatory bodies and funders require us to adhere to a high bar of requirements, and it’s very important we are successful,” Kelly added. Kelly, who has been in her new role for three months, looks to kick off a year-and-a-half tenure in her current capacity.

“While all areas of compliance are currently being addressed, the group studied very successfully put the right pieces in place and are now able to measure that work and understand the many facets of research compliance at Western. Non-compliance not only impacts the university and its reputation, but it also negatively impacts the many bodies of research compliance accountable to Western. Non-compliance is not only an issue for the university as it participates in the community of researchers, but also for the researchers themselves. The study results are based on a survey of various academic departments across the university that were interviewed about their experiences. Twenty-eight practicing physicians were interviewed about their experiences, and the research indicates that physicians often either don’t know what the data collection process entails or don’t understand the many facets of research and regulatory policies. Compliance is subject to internal and external review. Compliance is important. Regulatory bodies and funders require us to adhere to a high bar of requirements, and it’s very important we are successful,” Kelly added. Kelly, who has been in her new role for three months, plans to take a year-and-a-half tenure in her current capacity.

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We are the champions ... times six

The Western community came together for a championship celebration last week, as members of the school’s six title teams were honoured in a ceremony in the Mustang Lounge. A walking parade, led by the Western Marching Band, marched the teams from Alumni Hall to the University Community Centre. The honoured teams included Men’s Football; Men’s Tennis; Women’s Softball; Men’s Lacrosse; Women’s Rowing; and Cheerleading. Here, Mustangs football running back Cedric Joseph grabs a quick photo with the marching band after the celebration.