Presidential Search Committee taking shape

Senators chose five representatives from more than a dozen candidates this week to represent the governing body on the universitywide Presidential Search Committee, tasked with finding a successor to President Amit Chakma. Senate members cast electronic votes in order select its half of the search committee, ahead of today’s Board of Governors meeting.

Last Friday, Senators spent the bulk of its meeting debating the constituency breakdown of its half of the search committee, arriving at a breakdown of one student, one staff member and three faculty after an hour of discussion, with varied suggestions on how to ensure diverse representation.

“This is a committee that doesn’t have a lot of instructions, relatively,” Wendy Pearson, who chairs the Senate Nomination Committee, told Senators at the outset of the Jan. 19 meeting.

“We all know it is a very important search committee. It is also a very complicated one, precisely because there aren’t a lot of guidelines. It’s five people, elected by Senate, one of whom must be a student. We operate on a number of selection principles intended to spread committee membership as widely through the university community as possible,” she added.

Prior to the Senate meeting, 33 nominations were received. Ten student names were put forward – six undergraduates and four graduate students – alongside other faculty and staff nominees. Beyond one slot mandated for a student by the UWO Act, the remaining four spots are negotiable, Pearson explained.

“We recognize there are a lot of people who want to serve, especially as we try to achieve a number of things, including gender parity and representations across various roles. We strive for equity and fairness,” she noted.

A number of choices and combinations are available anytime Senate needs to strike a search committee, she added. Does the ballot include the top-ranked student and the top-ranked nominees, regardless of their constituency? Does the committee want to designate a spot for a staff representative? Does it want to designate one for a graduate student and one for an undergraduate student?

Yet, if you put everyone into one pool, you could end up with four people from one faculty, or five men or five women, noted Janice Deakin, Western’s Provost and Vice-President (Academic). A discussion is necessary at Senate to ensure equal and fair representation, she said.

The makeup for this committee, as determined by Senate, is applicable on an ad-hoc basis for this committee only, added University Secretary Kathleen Kwan. While the only restriction Senators have is including one student, there are no restrictions on whom Senators wish to nominate or see included on the committee. The Board will strike its half of the committee from its members; Senate can nominate anyone, Kwan explained.

The next time a presidential search committee needs to be struck, the process of determining constituency breakdown will repeat again.

Senator Arzie Chant, an administrative assistant in the Department of Biology, echoed a number of Senators who wanted a spot on the committee designated to staff. Student Senators briefly debated the merits of designating a spot for a graduate student and an
We, strong, they stronger

Prehistoric women more powerful than today's top female athletes

P

rehistoric women had stronger arms than

today's top female athletes, according to

a study in the first to compare that the

relative bone strength.

The women who lived 6,000 years ago worked

longer arm bones, and more strength in their

than their modern equivalents, said the research.

ple, the repeated motion of their arms,

showed you can differentiate activities in women,

(anthropology), Jay Stock was part

of a recent study that showed prehistoric

women exceeded that of today's top female athletes.

“Achieving the same level of activity in today's

women and health.

Today's women are building their

bodies based on their bone morphology. You can tell

some activities that have lower strain and (still)

necessitates exerting high strains such as heavy

lifting, but that's not necessarily the case, he

said. "It's the type of work I intend to do here –

bridge ancient female behavior, rather than comparing

female athletes that I'm interested in –

We know hormones, influence bone remodeling,

and that hormonal differences between

male and female mean, when women exercise,

they don't necessarily build as much bone

and muscle as men do. But the women athletes

showed you can differentiate activities in women

who are men or the distance runner. Those

researchers could also look for

similarities and differences in the bones of women

who worked and exercised millennia ago, added

Stock. I started from the perspective of wanting

to understand the ancient women, but we

find ourselves asking, why are we so different, where we are.

But, we're growing, we're asking the questions,

Is this how it works? I intend to do here –

bridge what's happening with living humans to what

happened in the past, and our future ways of interpreting that," he said. "Trying to under-
Where have all the women gone?

BY SUSAN EDELSTEIN

A couple of years ago, the curator of an exhibit may have wondered what it was like in the curator’s vault of experiences. After the conclusion of the research, the works of art were placed on the wall, the curator would look at them and be amazed by their beauty. Today, the curator is a huge hole in the permanent collection, meeting awe-stricken by what appeared to be a new experience in the gallery. Working on the Looking Back exhibition, I was asked to facilitate the introduction of the exhibition. The premise for the show was to organize an overview of works that represented faculty from the Department of Visual Arts. Pieces from faculty or alumna/faculty collected by the McIntosh Gallery Director/Chief Curator Julianna C. H. McLeod were included in the exhibition. Indeed, this was an opportunity for collected faculty works to be curated together for the first time.

As a feminist, whose curatorial work is on historical texts such as Linda Nochlin’s “Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?” I left my first curatorial experience with a hole in the permanent collection. Where were all the women? Why had so few women from the time of McIntosh been represented?

I turned to long-time friend and colleague, former art historian, professor emeritus and former Visual Arts Chair Madeline Lennon to provide some perspective on these questions. She was engaged to facilitate the introduction of the exhibition. She had researched the collection, I was also able to openly discuss the concerns surrounding the exhibition with McIntosh Gallery Director/Chief Curator Julianna C. H. McLeod. The two women who asked me to facilitate the exhibition were asked to facilitate the introduction of the exhibition. They had been collecting faculty works that existed in women’s history in every field. Where such content existed in women’s history in every field.

In 1980, when I was working in Visual Arts on contract, I encountered some women professors in very specific areas such as Naming and Language (Studio) and English. In the late-1960s, a number of departments had at least one woman on faculty. In the late-1970s, a number of departments had at least one woman on faculty. In 1980, when I was working in Visual Arts on contract, I encountered some women professors in very specific areas. They were asked to facilitate the introduction of the exhibition. They had been collecting faculty works that existed in women’s history in every field.

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My role was clear: rapidly read and inform. This anniversary celebration is our opportunity to reflect on our history and to appreciate all the women who contributed to or succeeded to the development of the department.

Madeline Lennon is a feminist, art historian, professor emerita and former Visual Arts Chair. She is a very powerful tool for change.
Western anthropologist Andrew Nelson has scored a major win in verifying the age of Canada’s oldest hockey stick known to exist—a piece of wood that he found in London’s Upper Canada College Athletic Centre.

“The stick was deliberately steam-bent from a fresh piece of ash and was not simply an old stick that had conventionally grown into a hockey-stick shape,” Nelson and colleague Linda Howie determined. Their analysis, through CT scans and micro-CT scans, has placed the stick’s likely age as the late 18th century.

“By the fact of its age, nobody is going to be able to hold it in their hand,” said Nelson, a bioanthropologist whose analyses tend more toward Egyptian and Persian mummies than hockey sticks. “It’s a piece of Canadiana!”

The sticks are owned by an ancestor-collecting organization in London, and studies show they were used to design and carve hockey sticks for the UCC athletic program. The existence of the stick, and age, was known, but nobody knew how the stick had been made or whether its blade was a natural or newly cut, supple branch. Its grain pattern could have been shaped only from a hockey stick.”

Nelson said. “The trick is, is it a hockey stick made out of a found branch that had a funky natural grain pattern or one that was made deliberately? And what age is it?”

Nelson said. “We translate forensic data into something that is relatable to Canadians,” said Johnna Allen, co-founder of Material Legacy, a London-based company that explores the history of objects instead of people. The company’s work as the forensic biography of objects instead of people. The company’s work is highlighted in a new five-minute documentary following the discovery process as Western researchers explore the intriguing process of historic hockey sticks and, in turn, charge new light on what we know about Canadian hockey.

That means it was made, not just found. “This is the oldest documented stick in Canada,” said Allen, who describes her company’s work as the forensic biography of objects instead of people. “It shows the lighter side of a situation that is really dark. It shows the human element of the story. It’s a symbol of peace in a time of war.”

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Engineering his steps

Anthony Vysniauskas, BESc’74, MESc’76, talks with students in the Faculty of Engineering during his recent visit to campus.

BY SONIA FRESZCATOR

From the tobacco fields of a small town in southern Ontario, to the oil fields of Alberta and Texas, the journey for Anthony Vysniauskas, BESc’74, MESc’76, began with an idea that had nothing to do with science.

“In fact, we were dreaming up ideas for a successful business that would give us the means to extend our ski season,” he laughed.

After graduating from Western, Vysniauskas earned a PhD in chemical and petroleum engineering at the University of Calgary in 1980 and then co-founded Hyprotech, a Calgary-based company he helped grow into a world-leading supplier of process simulation and engineering software for the oil, gas and petrochemical industry.

Hyprotech was the first company to introduce interactive process simulation for the process industries. Vysniauskas and his partners figure out early on that being mentors. The classes were small and the professors, especially the late Maurice Benoit and Anthony Vysniauskas, BESc’74, MESc’76, talks about what it takes to find entrepreneurial success

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New head of Sarnia-Lambton Research Park urges partnerships

Katherine Albion, PhD (Engineering), is the new Executive Director of the Western Sarnia-Lambton Research Park.

Albion believes there are a number of opportunities for the Sarnia-Lambton Research Park and the City of Sarnia and Western. Home to the Bowman Centre for Technology Innovation, Albion feels she can help attract and attract small start-up companies to Western. In addition to her PhD in Engineering, Albion also received her Bachelor’s degree in Chemical & Biochemical Engineering from Western. She has worked at Western’s Sarnia-Lambton Research Park since completing her PhD and received numerous awards during her career, including the award for Excellence from the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Engineering Society of Toronto in 2015, and the Western Engineering Award for Recognition from the Faculty of Engineering in 2015. Albion sits on the Western Engineering Advisory Council.

Katherine Albion, PhD (Engineering), became Director of Commercialization at Western’s Sarnia-Lambton Research Park in 2012. Tenancy ballooned to include more than 20 companies working in advanced manufacturing, water treatment, ethanol production and other clean-tech initiatives. The region is thriving and she credits her time at Western and her PhD in Engineering for creating the Sarnia-Lambton Research Park.

“When I was at Western, I had a number of classmates who were graduate students. My research group was probably 30 per cent female, 50 per cent male. I’ve been participating with Western’s Sarnia-Lambton Research Park since graduating and the focus has been on helping and attracting female students and also mentorship where possible.”

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Cold-case prof wins humanitarian award

The murder stories Michael Arntfield tells are something anyone would tune in for, like a pilot in the race to solve a cold case. Arntfield is trying to make the cases, that could be consolidated as open-source data inquiry, and if we could build something like this as a dataset for profit based in Washington, D.C. called the Murder Accountability Project, using newly developed state-of-the-art software that runs an algorithm able to detect previously overlooked patterns in cases dating back to 1965.

Accountability Project, using newly developed state-of-the-art software that runs an algorithm able to detect previously overlooked patterns in cases dating back to 1965.

The work done by the Cold Case Society has been recognized with the Western Humanitarian Award. Since 2010, he has worked with Western students to research unsolved historical homicides, some of them long-forgotten or never even publicly known.

“Most of the cases in the Cold Case Society are uninteresting. They’re not interesting because they’re a collection of details. There’s a terrible case of a woman murdered in the middle of a park in the 1990s. And it’s quite an interesting story that could have been turned into a novel or a play or a film. But it’s not interesting because it’s a collection of details. And that’s why we’re trying to take these cases and consolidate them as a dataset for profit based in Washington, D.C. called the Murder Accountability Project.”

Established in 2010, the award recognizes faculty, staff who are engaged in a range of efforts directed toward improving the quality of the life for individuals and communities around the world. Established in 2010, the award recognizes faculty, staff and students who are engaged in a range of efforts directed toward improving the quality of life for individuals and communities around the world. This year’s Western Humanitarian Award was received by Dr. Ric Oudshoorn, who was recognized for his $5,000 in support of humanitarian efforts as chosen by the recipient. Make a difference in the world. Make a difference in the world. Make a difference in the world.

Richard Baird, Special to Western News

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Campus and Community

PROF ENGINEERS A NEW CRAFT BREW

Thirst for beer-brewing becomes Old South business

“I want you to start teaching three lab-intensive Engineering courses,” the dean, and if you were the Mechanical & Materials Engineering program at Western, you’d likely want to find some time to wind down and relax a bit. Or, you could go from Engineering to ‘Ink brewing’ and open up your own brewery. Welcome to Michael Naish’s world.

The Mechanical & Materials and Electrical & Computer Engineering professor—a lot of craft beer for the past 20 years—and even does beer judging—has found a love for small craft breweries, and, and, since there was nothing in this area, we wanted to be the brewery for Old South,” he said.

“Naish began talking with other brewers about the idea, spoke with investors and, a little more than a month ago, the Old South brewery officially opened its first tap. There were 13 taps, which gives us lots of room for experimentation,” said Naish.

“We're focused on being a neighbourhood brewery and, since there was nothing in this area, we wanted to be the brewery for Old South.”

-Michael Naish
The Mechanical & Materials and Electrical & Computer Engineering professor

BY PAUL MAYNE

“We don't do as much physical brewing, I'm out here more in the taproom, but the pilot batches and recipe development going forward, I will be involved in,” he said. “We'll have a tap in which going on tap really quickly but it won't be a tap that's being acted on. It's one of those dreams a lot of people have but are not acting on it, I wanted to have a business of some sort, but I had always envisioned it being some of a manufacturing thing and it’s a part-time gig.”

“I'm not planning on quitting my job at Western. Baileys is always a challenge. It's family and work first and then whatever I can do here. I have a say in what's going on in order to tweak things here or there.”

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BY PAUL MAYNE
Rising-star composer signs with top publisher

Alumna Sarah Quartel tapped as youngest major composer at Oxford Press

BY ODOROVA VAN BRINK

A rising-star composer has signed a contract with Oxford University Press (OUP). The signing confirms Quartel’s status as a “Major Composer” with the prestigious publisher.

Quartel, 34, is the newest composer signed to a contract with OUP. The signing, along with the announcement of Quartel’s appointment as an Assistant Professor of Choral Conducting at the University of Western Ontario, was made by the publisher in response to a recent article in the Canadian Herald.

Oxford University Press is the home of some of the world’s most influential and respected composers, including John Cage, George Crumb, and Marya Peter.

Formed in 1717, Oxford University Press has been at the forefront of music publishing for over 300 years.

Quartel, who is based in London, Ontario, is the youngest composer to sign with OUP. Her work has been featured in several international festivals, including the Festival of the Arts in Toronto and the Internationale Bachakademie in Leipzig.

In an interview with the Canadian Herald, Quartel said, “I am honored to have been chosen for this prestigious role. It is a dream come true to work with Oxford University Press and collaborate with some of the world’s greatest composers.”

For its part, Quartel has a “fresh, exciting style.”

“It’s a dream come true,” said the 34-year-old composer. “I have been waiting for this moment for a long time. I am so excited to see what we can create together.”

Quartel is currently working on a new piece for the London Symphony Orchestra, which will be premiered in London next month.

For more information, please visit www.oxforduniversitypress.com.
Arrrr you ready for the Pirates?

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