Frankenstein and his monster - two centuries later
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ILLUSTRATION BY FRANK NEUFELD
A walk through the past

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH VAN BREKHL

Western Libraries’ Archives and Research Collections Centre is home to rare, and in some cases, unique resources that illuminate important insights into black history in Canada and beyond. Here, we highlight just a few of the collection’s primary and secondary materials:

It’s a tiny book, dwarfed by its neighboring, weighty tomes in the Western Libraries’ Archives. But the autobiography of the slave life and escape of Moses Roper packs a wallop beyond its size, even 180 years after publication. The son of a house slave and her master, Roper was sold or traded 17 times, attempted escape at least as often, and endured torture that included lashings and being tarred and set on fire. He finally escaped to freedom in England, where he became a lecturer against slavery. The postcard about Roper’s Escape from Slavery became a key influence in the nascent abolitionist movement.

Two continuers in each episode were selected to advance to the second phase of the competition, given 48 hours to rework their versions of an original song, working with producers to adapt their song to suit industry standards for a live audience.

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Russian doping about more than one Olympic Games

**BY MIHAIL GONZALEZ**

When you talk about the Russian doping scandal, it is a reputation on so many fronts. Sochi 2014 Olympics is just one of the events. Sochi was not the only Olympics where Russian drugs were found. In the summer of 2012, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) announced that Russian athletes had failed a drug test during the 2012 London Olympics. This was the first time that Russian athletes had failed a drug test at the Olympics. The IOC also announced that it would launch an investigation into the Russian doping scandal.

However, the investigation was not just limited to the 2012 London Olympics. The IOC also launched an investigation into the 2014 Sochi Olympics. The investigation was led by Richard Pound, the former head of the World Anti-Doping Agency. The investigation team tasked with looking into the Russian doping scandal was headed by Dr. Richard Winterton. The investigation team was comprised of legal experts, scientists, and former Olympic athletes. The investigation team was given access to Russian laboratories and had access to urine samples from Russian athletes.

The investigation team found evidence of a systematic doping program in Russia. The team found evidence that Russian athletes had been doping for years. The team also found evidence that Russian authorities had been involved in the doping program. The team found evidence that Russian authorities had been involved in the doping program.

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Study shakes up fracking, quake conventional wisdom

By Deborah van Breen

Western professor Gail Atkinson says there are promising signs industry can change or modify existing practices to reduce the number of induced earthquakes from fracking, while still getting the results they want.

“This is an important finding because some previously held theories propose there is a linear relationship between the largest magnitude of the earthquake and the injected volume. But what we have found is the maximum magnitude isn’t what’s being controlled by the volume – it’s the earthquake rate,” Atkinson said.

She said the research also speaks to the importance of, “As we lower the rate of earthquakes, the less likely the chances we generate a larger one,” she said.

“Industry pays attention to these developments. They obviously don’t want to generate earthquakes; that’s bad for business.”

By Sean Egan

O il and gas companies can influence the number of fracking-related earthquakes they may unintentionally generate by changing the volume of fluid injected during the extraction process, a study by Western Earth Sciences professor Gail Atkinson shows.

The volume of material used during fracking is directly related to the risk of induced earthquakes, according to the study newly published in Science, but the volume doesn’t necessarily control the magnitude of the biggest event.

 Hydraulic fracturing, also called fracking, entails drilling a vertical shaft into deep shale until it reaches an oil bed, then drilling a horizontal shaft and injecting fluids to release pockets of entrapped gas. The process has been linked to quakes at magnitude 3.0 and higher and industrial seismicity and teamwork with researchers at the University of Calgary and Natural Resources Canada on the study.

According to Atkinson, there are promising signs industry can change or modify existing practices to reduce the number of induced earthquakes as the number of induced events has gone down in a number of jurisdictions, like Alberta and Oklahoma, over the past two decades. Atkinson said: “There is some indication industry is getting better at limiting induced earthquakes, as the number of induced events has gone down in a number of jurisdictions, like Alberta and Oklahoma, over the past two decades.”

Industry still needs to be very careful where they conduct hydraulic fracturing and practice in the oil fields, Atkinson said. She sounded a warning there’s no guarantee changing the volume will limit the maximum magnitude of the earthquakes the company might experience.

“Industry pays attention to these developments. They obviously don’t want to generate earthquakes; that’s bad for business.”

She said the research also speaks to the importance of assessing cost and environmental risk in industry, or any endeavour. “The risk of earthquakes remains low, and while fracking remains controversial and has detractors, it has become an industry standard.”

The study found injection pressure and rate had a direct influence on the earthquake rate, Atkinson said. “(Regulators) would certainly use this to guide policy on decision and from industry,” she said.

According to Atkinson, the number of fracking-related earthquakes has been on the decline in Canada on the study. “There are a lot of places people frack and they never generate an earthquake.”

“Industry pays attention to these developments. They obviously don’t want to generate earthquakes; that’s bad for business.”

Atkinson is the NSERC/TransAlta/Nanometrics Frankenstein and his monster – two centuries later

People born out of a ghastly science-fiction competition between Mary Shelley, her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley and English poet Lord Byron, Frankenstein has become an iconic figure and remains a symbol of scientific progress, ethics and human vanity. The novel’s dark underbelly, or the ‘Frankenstein effect’ evokes the spectre of mad science, bad science or science gone too far.

The book was first published anonymously in January 1818 and continues to be read today in conversations concerning science, technology and the future of our society. The word ‘Frankenstein’ more often cited as an example of consequences when humankind, by way of science, goes too far.

Two new editions of the book were recently published, Frankenprint, or the Wollstonecraft Frankenstein. Annotated for Scientists, Engineers, and Creators of All Kinds and Franken Prometheus: Annotated for Scientists, Engineers, and Creators of All Kinds. Both of which aim to bring Shelley’s iconic novel into modern contexts, referencing robotics, genetic engineering and the robotics space.

The novel has inspired more than 90 films – in addition to hundreds of academic texts and comic books – over the past two centuries. The book was first published anonymously in January 1818 and continues to be read today in conversations concerning science, technology and the future of our society. The word ‘Frankenstein’ more often cited as an example of consequences when humankind, by way of science, goes too far.

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Bequeathals create ‘life,’ enable research and learning

BY TIM WILSON

At the Western Medical Heritage Centre in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, one can step through a hallway and move from a conversation about the history of cadavers and an anatomical model into laboratories where, with the use of computer technology, the famous Frankenstein monster can be constructed into a man.

We bring anatomy to life through great teachers, staff and graduate student teaching assistants who have a passion for understanding the framework of what we know to be human.

Some students and their mentors in our department employ these electronic approaches, one in computer-assisted anatomical and surgical simulation. They create models that not only demonstrate to students how things are put together, but also how they can be used in real-world applications. They work with computer models to understand how muscles, nerves or bones work, how they connect to each other, and how the entire system is regulated.

The female artificial-intelligence kick we’re on is an extension of Frankenstein’s monster.

BY TIM BLACKMORE

I stood with my arm hooked around a friend’s, laughing and making plans for a little trip to the beach. As we walked, I could feel the warm sun on my skin, the sound of the waves crashing against the shore, and the distant smell of saltwater. It was a beautiful day, and I was grateful to be in the presence of such beauty.

But then, suddenly, a voice broke through the silence. It was a voice I had heard before, but in a different context. It was the voice of a man named Frankenstein, the mad scientist who created a creature to compete with the gods. He had made a creature of flesh and bone, but now he was seeking to create a creature of thought and emotion.

I was not sure what to make of this, but I felt a sense of excitement as I listened to Frankenstein’s words. They were filled with wonder and curiosity, and I could sense that he was searching for something more.

As we continued to walk, I couldn’t help but wonder what the future held for us. Would we continue to make progress in the way of science and technology, or would we be doomed to repeat the mistakes of the past? Only time will tell.
Embracing the loneliness of monsters

BY CHRISTOPHER KEEP

I have discovered that the novel which has engendered endless admiration among readers and scholars, and the one which has touched the soul of every reader, is not the novel of the world as it is, but the novel of the world as it might be. The novel is a dream that would change everything for her.

And she had a dream, as she often does, every day, in the warmth of her bed, of the creature she had brought into being, of its strange and terrible appearance, its kind words, its gentle touch, its will to live. The creature, she knew, was more than a dream, it was a reality. She had created it, and she was responsible for its existence.

Perhaps, then, it is this that still draws us to a novel written by an 18-year-old woman, 200 years in the making. It is the creature of Anne Frank's diaries, the Creature of the novel, that has engendered endless admiration among readers and scholars.

Perhaps, then, it is this that still draws us to the novel of the world as it might be. The novel is a dream that would change everything for her.
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Darryl J. King Student Life Centre
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uwo.ca/univsec/senate/convocation/service_award.html

President’s Medal for Distinguished Service
Call for Nominations

Senate has established the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service to recognize those individuals who have provided exemplary service to the university, over a sustained period of time, over and above the normal requirements of their positions.

The award is intended primarily to recognize staff, but faculty may also be considered for work or achievements that would not already be recognized by the president since his designation or other service awards (such as teaching awards) in place.

Nominations must have been retired from the university in any capacity (including Board or Senate membership) for at least one year prior to consideration. Senate has established the President’s Medal for Distinguished Service to recognize those individuals who have provided exemplary service to the university, over a sustained period of time, over and above the normal requirements of their positions.

The deadline for nominations for 2018 is March 14th.

Frankenstein

Of Frankenstein and the White House

By STEVEN BRUHM

In his book, "The Modern Prometheus," the Fabian Society member Howard Davies extols the myth of the human who is driven to destroy his world and himself due to a combination of greed, power, and destructive forces within him. He calls this the "Frankenstein" myth, which is a reference to the novel by Mary Shelley, "Frankenstein," that was published in 1818. The novel tells the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a monster out of parts of dead human beings, and then becomes so enmeshed in his creation that he is unable to control it. Shelley's novel has been a source of inspiration for many writers and artists, and has been adapted into numerous films, plays, and other forms of media. It has also been a source of inspiration for many scientists and philosophers, who have used its themes to explore the nature of human consciousness and the relationship between science and society. Shelley's novel has been a source of inspiration for many writers and artists, and has been adapted into numerous films, plays, and other forms of media. It has also been a source of inspiration for many scientists and philosophers, who have used its themes to explore the nature of human consciousness and the relationship between science and society.

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"We watch as POTUS blithely disregards the advice and experience of people around him to advance his obsessions — just as Victor Frankenstein fatally disregards his father's advice to create a monster that is not only destructive but also intelligent."
Frankenstein cannot help but remain a text for our time

By Wendy Pearson

I cannot think of any film adaptation of Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein that would pass the Bechdel test either. Even the best efforts to render the creature as a female, the protagonist as a woman or the monster as gaining a healthy female companion, which is called for in the story, are inadequate. Why, it is invariably about men—if at least about male, if we count Victor Frankenstein’s creature. But, then, Shelley’s novel wouldn’t pass the Bechdel test either.

Women are both peripheral, yet oddly central to the novel, although their roles are sometimes contradictory. Colloquially, Frankenstein’s first corpse, a woman, was thrown aside and became the monster’s companion, and later it was destroyed. In the novel, the monster’s lover is a woman, though he rejects her, and in the afterlife, he meets a woman, Justine.”

As a result of this biographical and cultural context, M. Scott Momaday reads Frankenstein as both myth, in which a woman gives birth to a monstrous creature, and in which a man must give up on her, and story, in which Frankenstein becomes the forebear of an entire race of monsters: “a race of devils who might make the very existence of the species of man precarious and self-destructive.”

Momaday’s argument is that Frankenstein is a metaphor for the social/cultural discourses about desire between women in the 19th century and is a reflection of Shelley’s own condition, in her mid-20s when she wrote the novel. Shelley herself lost her first child, her first cousin, Elizabeth, at age 12, and her father died in 1811, leaving the young Victor and his sisters with the care of their mother, and his younger sister, Harriet. Shelley was haunted by this loss. Her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, died just a few weeks after her daughter born. Shelley was born four years later, in 1816, in the year that Shelley was 16, the year that Shelley was 18, the year that Shelley was 20 when she began writing it, with the young Victor and his cousin, to provide some purchase on the world and the academy and by its inability to gain purchase in the self-discipline.

But, then, Shelley’s novel wouldn’t pass the Bechdel test either. Why? Because Shelley herself was a product of the Enlightenment. As a result of this biographical and cultural context, M. Scott Momaday reads Frankenstein as both myth, in which a woman gives birth to a monstrous creature, and in which a man must give up on her, and story, in which Frankenstein becomes the forebear of an entire race of monsters: “a race of devils who might make the very existence of the species of man precarious and self-destructive.”

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Professor takes budget lessons from kitchen table to classroom

BY Aniruddho Chokroborty-Hodge

The seeds of Brenton Faubert's research took root on a quiet evening at his kitchen table working on his household budget. Now, the way he manages his money at home may lead one day to Ontario public schools thinking about new ways of managing theirs.

“Most school boards have a wealth of knowledge related to teaching, but they lack a financial background to determine how to best use that knowledge,” explained the Western Education professor, who originally studied to be an accountant.

The inspiration for the financial experiment came from the unique qualities of each school. The strength of the model is its flexibility to accommodate the unique needs of individual schools, avoiding a one-size-fits-all mentality.

Faubert’s project, Estimating adequate levels of school and district resources, involves extending the unique characteristics of schools. The project is supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Development Grant.

Faubert believes the quality of education public schools provide is severely limited by the funding they receive from the provincial government, which often forces them to grapple with tough choices. For example, do they risk a gap in special needs children or cut music education?

Faubert hopes that by using the Evidence-based Adequacy Model, school boards will be able to make smarter decisions about how they spend their money. Faubert hopes to do that for parents, and not just for the school board.

To better understand the financial challenges facing today’s schools, Faubert decided to use a school budgeting tool known as the Evidence-based Adequacy Model—known in policy circles as EBAM— to see if he could help districts and schools better manage their money and resources.

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Faculties to showcase interest in interdisciplinary research

By Shamiram Zendo

The academic space is a diverse place, composed of various forms of academic inquiry. Increasingly, the conversations around what constitutes evidence, and what type of evidence might be applied, are taking a critical social turn. Three factors have induced many graduate students’ curiosity and desire to explore critical social topics. This has been done through engagement in open dialogue regardless of form. Graduates and faculty members from the Faculties of Medicine and Law will come together for the second annual student-led interdisciplinary symposium, FIMULAW 2018.

During the year’s research day presentations will be offered in the form of oral presentations, poster presentations, and performances and posters. Panel presentations will address the topics of:

1. Privilege. Three-minute lightning talks set against the backdrop of various forms of evidence. Panel presentations will offer insight into the research practices of multi-disciplinary students. Through creative narratives, the talks will be provided with space and time to engage in a question and answer format intended to stimulate lively discussions and debate.

As a fourth-year PhD candidate in FIMS, I have had the opportunity to be part of this group, which has taken on the responsibility of organizing FIMULAW for the past two years. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the organizing committee, particularly because I met students and faculty members from many different disciplines. I have also enjoyed learning about the various approaches to researching a particular topic, and have been inspired by many participants’ interdisciplinary research — which illustrated the connections between the three disciplinary traditions.

This year, I am particularly excited about the topics selected for the panel presentations and hope to be able to discuss the topics from the participants’ research point of view. I am excited to see how students unpack these topics and bring them to other critical social topics relevant to the Canadian context such as equity, newly independent affairs, immigration, artificial intelligence, and much more.

FIMULAW is a four-year PhD candidate in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies. A true celebration of learning, this year’s symposium, FIMULAW 2018, will be held on April 13 in the FIMS/Nursing Building. FIMULAW 2018 invites graduates and faculty members from the Faculties of Medicine and Law to submit a brief talk that outlines their research in an open dialogue with individuals from the other participating faculties. Successful proposals will be selected and a selection process will be undertaken. Due to the time constraints, all talks will be limited to five minutes.

This year’s symposium promises to be an excellent gathering to showcase student-led interdisciplinary research.

Shamiram Zendo

Campus Digest

Meet the Soprano(s)

If you’re going to show off your operatic skills, you might as well show it off to someone in the know. Soprano Drama-DeCosta, a current Doctor of Musical Arts student (Voice Performance), received prior training and advice from the Canadian Opera Company’s music director Johannes Debus, who was at Western last week for an open opera workshop and concert. DeCosta was accompanied by Ensemble Made in Canada, one of Canada’s premier piano quartets, who have been Ensemble-In-Residence at Western since 2014.

Campus Digest
French Immersion in Trois-Pistoles

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