Western receives $11M to reduce greenhouse gases

Retrofit construction will start in July and be completed in March 2019. For Western, the project is the first step in shifting energy systems towards renewable energy sources. “We want to use waste heat to heat buildings,” said Paul Martin, Director (Business Operations). “This project has the potential to recover waste heat from buildings like Thompson Arena and the (Western) Student Recreation Centre enabling us to bring renewable sources of energy to the rest of campus.”

Through renovations and new construction, Western facilities are more efficient than ever. Proposed upgrades, however, have the potential to reduce the amount of steam required for heating and improve efficiencies in the central power plant, reducing the amount of natural gas used for generating steam and chilled water.

“The current system creates high-temperature steam which uses an intense amount of gas. By shifting to low-temperature systems, Western can introduce a much wider range of renewable and re-captured energy sources,” Martin said.

“We want to be leaders in retrofitting existing infrastructure and creating relevant case studies for both institutional and commercial sectors.”

- Paul Martin, Director (Business Operations)

Studies: Amputee brain rewires to embrace artificial limb

University efforts to radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions received a multi-million-dollar boost thanks to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Program from the Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Western officials announced this week. The $11.6-million grant will help fund a necessary retrofit to modify heating systems from steam to low-temperature water in the Spencer Engineering Building and the Claudette MacKay-Lassonde Pavilion. The change will result in a 12 per cent reduction in emissions from 2016 levels at an estimated cost savings of $1.5 million annually.

This investment is part of Ontario’s Climate Change Action Plan and is funded by proceeds from the province’s cap on pollution and carbon market. A total of $85.2 million was available to all Ontario universities and administered through a competitive application process. Western was one of eight provincially funded projects that demonstrated innovative plans and approaches to increase campus sustainability and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“We want to be leaders in retrofitting existing infrastructure and creating relevant case studies for both institutional and commercial sectors.”

- Paul Martin, Director (Business Operations)
Strike out Ernest Hemingway

The book you find you reading tonight.
Who would you want to write your life story?
What is the best line you have ever written?
What book might people be surprised to find on your shelves?
Name one book you wish you had written.

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ELECTROACOUSTIC MUSIC COMPOSITIONS CONCERT
APR. 10
1:30 – 2:30 p.m., Physics and Astronomy Building, Room 100
Support Western’s talented composition students and join them for a performance of original electroacoustic music compositions.

WHAT DOES A COMPUTER SCIENTIST KNOW
APR. 5
10:45 – 11:40 a.m., McDougall Centre, Room 2018
University of Alberta professor Lisa Strohschein talks about why teen pregnancy is waning interest in the problem of teen pregnancy is warranted. University of Alberta professor Lisa Strohschein talks about why teen pregnancy still matters.

STICKING OUT ERNEST HEMINGWAY

How do you decide what to read? Reviews, word of mouth, maybe occasionally a book by a cover? I tend to read in bulk: I choose an author, theme, or topic and stick with the choice for months, sometimes for years. I go through book reviews and will manage my scheduled "bucket list" for books that catch my attention or haven't been recommended by close friends.

Name one book you wish you had written.

"Big, Big, Big, Big," it contains the most beautiful and frightening poetry, but it still felt like someone's opera in "Canada." In "The long journey," my older sister's novel that is about life experiences.

You can't expect me to read everything you've read, but I will try to finish what you're doing.

"The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway.

What sort of objects are must-haves in your writing environment?

I need to know why you're being sent to another doctor, and why you're being referred to a specialist. Let the Joyce aficionados sniff at my tastes, but every big, big sale. Plus it contains the most beautiful and frightening poetry, but it still felt like someone's opera in "Canada." In "The long journey," my older sister's novel that is about life experiences.

What book do you find you reading tonight?

"What book do you find you reading tonight?"

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RETURN TO WESTERN NEWS

Kassam recently appeared on CTV's "The View" show. Her book "What Doctors Don't Tell You" is now available in paperback, and she is also writing a column for the "Toronto Star". Kassam seems kind of counterintuitive and I would say, "sign me up!"

When it comes to seeing a doctor, what is the most important factor you look for in a doctor? Kassam said.

"I don't know how or why the delays have gotten so long, but I do know that the delays are affecting patients.

The best way to avoid the Monday blues is to have a plan in place. Kassam said.

Avoid the case of the Mondays in dealing with family doc

If you have a specific question or concern, please contact the doctor's office.

The best way to avoid the Monday blues is to have a plan in place. Kassam said.

Kassam, who is not a primary care physician, said it's important to have a plan in place for when you need to see a doctor right away. Kassam said.

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Study calls attention to cyclist-motorist collisions

BY ADLA TALBOT

Athletics

The death toll from cyclist-motorist collisions are relatively rare, as evidenced by the fact that half of them can be attributed to driver fault and follow-up too closely according to Western researchers. News

A recent study looked at other risk factors in fatal collisions between a motorist and a cyclist, including helmet use, distractions and intoxication while the driver is impaired with drugs or alcohol – two key messages from the study’s lead author, Ms. Rebecca Henderson, a PhD in Health Sciences whose research team spent two years examining pre-emptive causes and risk factors related to 131 reported cycling deaths in Ontario between 2010 and 2015. The study found 43 per cent of cyclist fatalities were a result of being hit from behind.

A balancing act? That’s a good way to put it, said a student who has competed in the 19-plus triathlon races this year. For this winter’s event, the Western triathlete has a goal of finishing in the top 10.

If you do need to move over. There’s a lack of education about getting too close to people riding bikes. There’s a lack of education among motorists, it’s to be aware you stand out, Henderson explained. Even on a sunny July day, if you’re wearing a white shirt, you can’t be front of mind for all, and cyclists need to be aware of the dangers of cycling without safety equipment and knowledge of the rules of the road.

The majority of cycling deaths occurred at intersections and in the city. A recent cycling master plan, an advisory committee’s recommendation to improve cycling safety and to make it easier for cyclists because it creates movement.

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Ideas in bloom
Green Awards turn attention to sustainability

This year’s winners of the Western Green Awards are all about reduce, reuse and recycle when it comes to environmental sustainability.

Established in 2008, the Western Green Awards celebrate individuals and/or teams who initiate or support activities with positive environmental outcomes, encourage participation and involvement, work together with others to demonstrate an environmentally friendly effort. The purpose of the awards is to help raise awareness of sustainability at Western.

Announced Tuesday, the 2018 winners include Anatomy lab technician Kevin Walker, Environmental Engineering professor Clare Robinson, and Student Experience staff member Yvonne Fuller.

Sustainable thinking on campus took centre stage once again this year, as winners of the 2018 Western’s Ideas for Sustainability and the Environment (WISE) competition brought new insights to old problems.

Launched in 2014, WISE asks graduate and undergraduate students to come up with innovative and high-impact ideas to reduce – or even eliminate – some of today’s most pressing environmental problems.

This year’s WISE winners included Annabelle Laurin, Undergraduate Category, and Dennis He and Michelle Clarke, Graduate Category.

ANNABELLE LAURIN
Don’t Throw in the Towel
Undergraduate Recipient

Environmental Science student Annabelle Laurin believes innovative ideas should be simple, concrete and practical. Her proposal involves reducing paper towel waste through composting using a ‘paper-towel only’ bin set up in all washrooms on campus. While this idea is not entirely new, Laurin’s Western-specific plan aims to start on a small, local scale with the ultimate goal of eventually eliminating all compostable material from landfills.

MICHELLE CLARKE AND DENNIS HE
GreenYards
Graduate Recipients

Masters of Environment and Sustainability students Dennis He and Michelle Clarke hope their concept GreenYards, a model for urban cropshares, will ensure a sustainable and resilient future for London. With a business plan to encourage homeowners to donate their yards to plant productive vegetable gardens, the crops of which would then be sold to local businesses and farmers markets, GreenYards aims to make a small, but measurable, impact on a local scale by generating partnerships with businesses and encouraging community collaboration.

CLARE ROBINSON
Environmental Engineering professor

Clare Robinson has been active in supporting environmental awareness and sustainability initiatives since starting at Western in 2009. She has worked on several initiatives to raise awareness and engagement around environmental issues through her teaching, research and service and inter-disciplinary activities on campus, as well as the broader community. As a professor in Environmental Engineering, Robinson has played a key role in developing and directing courses focused on sustainability and environmental issues. Beyond Western, she works to raise the profile of Western as a leader in Environment and Sustainability.

YVONNE FULLER
Student Experience staff member

Yvonne Fuller’s passion for sustainability directly and consistently contributes to Western’s environmental goals helping to lead her team in addressing environmental behaviours. Through her work with employees, students and volunteers in the Student Development Centre, Fuller’s focused and tireless efforts have resulted in green conservation, collective consciousness and environmental awareness among all.
A MATTER OF ACCEPTANCE

Study: Amputee brain rewires to embrace artificial limb

BY DEBORA VAN BRENK

O

ne-handed people who use a prosthesis regularly are more likely to be brain-rewired to perceive their artificial limb as part of their body, a new study shows. Co-authored by Western neuroscientist Judy Culham of the Brain and Mind Institute, the study suggests visual pathways of the brain can wire themselves and help ease motor pathways to use an artificial limb more often and more effectuall

The study included 32 people with one hand – half of whom were born with one hand and half who had lost a hand due to amputation – and a control group of 24 people with two hands. Participants were shown images of prosthetic hands (including photos of their own prosthesis) as well as real hands, while functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scan assessed participants’ neural responses. For one-handed participants who used prosthesis most often in their daily lives, the area of the brain that recognizes body parts showed a weak response to these photos. Thus, they recognized them as hands. For the control group, and those who used prosthetic hands infrequently, the part of the brain that recognizes body parts showed a weak response to these photos.

The study was unclear whether more frequent use prompts brain recognition, or whether brains are more likely to recognize prosthetic body parts. Regardless, researchers report the more one-handed people use their prosthesis, the more likely their brain is to recognize it as part of their body. The sensation is similar, regardless of whether the artificial limb actually looks like – or just as the brain would recognize – their other hand.

The study was conducted by researchers at Oxford, in collaboration with researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Radboud University Nijmegen and Western. The study was supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the European Research Council. The study was also supported by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Radboud University Nijmegen and Western. The study was funded by the Wellcome Trust (London), the European Research Council, the Royal Society, the Cogito Foundation, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.

One study participant, who'd had one hand amputated, told researchers during the study, "Logically I know my prosthesis is not my missing hand – it's a tool, it's a new sensation and I accept it. But psychologically, the more I use my prosthesis, the more familiar it becomes a part of me." The study was conducted by researchers at Oxford, in collaboration with researchers from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Radboud University Nijmegen and Western. The study was funded by the Wellcome Trust (London), the European Research Council, the Royal Society, the Cogito Foundation, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada.
Brescia team helping hands end harvest

BY DEBRA VAN BREUKEL

As the rice, millet and other grains from the northernmost tip of Canada make their way south to deliver a much needed food package to family and community members — on the same day that the boxes arrive, their journey north will be prohibitively expensive. In Iqaluit, it would be 5-to-10 times more expensive to send everything else. It’s also a cause for celebration.

“Everyone in our (Western) program is strong. I feel that there are so many other student journalists out there who are so open-minded and willing to learn. I feel proud of my colleagues. But for me, to be the first time, I’m nervous — but at the same time, I’m not. I’ve been the best of the best and I’ve been the best of the best,” said the Master of Media in Journalism and Communication student.

“I have really appreciated Joan Donaldson’s work. She’s a very talented journalist and her work has been inspiring to me. I’ve always wanted to be a journalist and I’ve always wanted to be a journalist. And I’ve always been the best of the best and I’ve been the best of the best. I’ve been the best of the best,” said the Master of Media in Journalism and Communication student.

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“What if journalism is too harsh a field?’ Now I can finally be the first time. I’m nervous — but at the same time, I’m not. I’ve been the best of the best and I’ve been the best of the best. I’ve been the best of the best,” said the Master of Media in Journalism and Communication student.

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Proposing cutting-edged solutions to combat health inequities

Infectious disease is seldom thought of as a major health threat by many Canadians. Unfortunately, this is not the case for all Canadians, as some Indigenous populations are significantly affected by infectious diseases. For example, Indigenous rates of tuberculosis are almost three times as high across Canada's Indigenous populations. These populations typically live in remote areas, have poor access to healthcare procedures and have lower health literacy rates compared to urban places. Four main areas of the technology could benefit infectious disease management in Indigenous areas.

The first is the creation of an electronic medical record database. Blockchain would enable patients to have control over their own personal health records, such as medical history, results of tests and other information. This system would enable patients to have access to their medical records when they needed them. It is particularly important for patients who have had to travel long distances to see a doctor.

The second benefit is the ability for physicians to contact patients from satellite locations. This is particularly important for patients who live in remote areas, as it makes it easier for doctors to keep track of their patients.

The third benefit is the ability for physicians to store data on a highly secure network, when compared to current systems. In addition, blockchain technology has the ability to increase accessibility and allow patients to be able to access their records quickly and easily. These features make it easier for doctors to track and manage medical records for both patients and providers.

The final benefit for Indigenous populations is the potential for the system to incorporate data on the social determinants of health, such as socioeconomic and environmental conditions. This would allow researchers to address health inequalities and problems at their root cause. The information on the blockchain could be used to create evidence-based public health interventions to prevent the further spread of the disease, as well as to develop programs to address the root causes of health and disease.

One major concern though, is the level of internet access currently available in remote areas, where a majority of the cases are recorded. This could however be changed by the Canadian government committing billions to the implementation of internet services through the Telecommunications Administration. Internet access has become a right of all citizens. The team hopes policy-makers see this and put projects back on track to the forefront of solutions in isolation.

The Canadian government has recently set mandates to improve the quality of life and health status across Indigenous areas. Blockchain technology has only recently been discovered. There are many reasons health-care professionals have not turned to blockchain technology, providing patients, doctors and researchers with important information to their treatment and data. Blockchain technology has the ability to store data in a highly secure manner, allowing patients to have sovereignty over their information. Patients would have the right to control who has access to their records, and be able to update their records as their health status changes. This would enable patients to have access to their medical records when they needed them. It is particularly important for patients who have had to travel long distances to see a doctor.

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Fashion offers new window into ancient Roman society

Most of our knowledge of ancient Roman society comes from inscriptions written by men—poetry, sculpture, and literary works. Women have been recorded as new historical footnotes—until now.

Classical Studies professor Kelly Olson is giving a voice to the mostly silent and forgotten women of ancient Rome. After years hidden in plain sight in a broad set of works, Olson is uncovering women's lives through another woman's lens. In studying these works, Olson is removing the construction of modesty, prohibition, and personal records written by women exist in ancient Rome.

"I think the history of fashion is really a history of women's lives," Olson explained. But few, if any, intimate records written by women exist in ancient Rome. Over the past four seasons, she has been studying works by female artists, in an effort to capture the "true self" of women in ancient Rome.

"It's a really important part of the story, because it tells us the stories of women that are not in written records," Olson said. "It gives us a window into their everyday lives, which is really important, because we don't have a lot of written records about the lives of women in ancient Rome, especially Roman women."
More than two-thirds of southwestern Ontario residents recently polled on behalf of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) believe university courses should be taught by professors who have job security.

The recent province-wide poll, which surveyed roughly 2,000 individuals across the province, found 68 per cent of those who live in the region want university courses taught by professors who have job security and benefits. Support was even higher among Ontario youth considering a postsecondary education, with 71 per cent stating this as their preference.

“It is pretty clear southwestern Ontario residents see the issue of fair working conditions at universities as being of concern and has a direct connection to the quality of education at southwestern Ontario universities. Ontarians believe good work conditions are necessary for continued strong education,” said Gyllian Phillips, president of OCUFA, at a news conference in London.

Unfortunately, what we’ve seen across the province is an increasing, and disturbing, rising dependence on the use of contract faculty or precarious faculty,” said Phillips.

Since 2000, the number of courses in the province taught by contact faculty has doubled, according to OCUFA estimates. Recent data suggests more than two-thirds of southwestern Ontario university courses should be taught by professors who have job security.

According to Karen Campbell, Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy, and Faculty), 66 per cent of teaching at Western is done by full-time faculty. Of these, two-thirds are tenured or tenure-track, while the remainder are full-time faculty with varying contract lengths, some of whom have long-standing contracts with Western.

Contract faculty with more than 14 years of service at Western no longer have an end date to their contract. Approximately 15 per cent of teaching at Western is done by part-time teachers who are active professionals (e.g. musicians, dentists, nurses). Another six per cent of teaching is done by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who teach on a part-time, course-by-course basis and are not eligible for a full-time role.

“The remainder, representing approximately 13 per cent of teaching at Western, is done by individuals whose main current activity, to the best of our knowledge, is part-time university teaching,” Campbell said.

The OCUFA poll’s regional results show strong support for better working conditions for contract faculty, with 89 per cent supporting equal pay for those teaching the same courses as their full-time colleagues and 85 per cent supporting equal access to benefits, including health insurance and pensions.

“As a faculty association, we have been working hard to improve working conditions for our contract faculty members,” said Stephen Pitel, president of the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA). “When we invest in the faculty who teach our students, we invest in the quality of education, our students, we invest in the quality of education, we invest in Western, and we invest in southwestern Ontario.”

Poll data shows the public understands faculty working conditions correlate to student learning conditions, he added. When faculty working conditions decline, it negatively impacts the quality of education.

Issues of precarious employment are a focus for UWOFA as it prepares for its next round of negotiations later this month. Pitel hopes to see more momentum in continuing teaching appointments at Western and limited-term contracts with no end date. Fair and equitable pay for part-time faculty is also a concern.

“It’s comforting to know contract faculty aren’t alone in feeling their working conditions should be fair,” added Ann Bigelow, former UWOFA President and a lecturer in the DAN Management and Organizational Studies program.

After more than a decade of contract-to-contract work at Western, last year Bigelow was able to secure a limited-term contract with no end date, a newly established employment avenue for Western faculty.

Job security should not be so elusive for those who have worked hard to make themselves indispensable to their departments and their students, she said.

Part-time and contract faculty are forced to re-apply for jobs they have done year after year, for lesser pay and no benefits, Bigelow stressed. Some are hesitant to speak out against working conditions for fear of not having their contract renewed. For the students hoping to pursue an academic career, there is no hope on the horizon.

“We have hundreds of young minds, eager to learn what you have to teach them. How do you encourage them to strive for something that has been a complete disappointment to you? You can’t be a role model to students,” she said.

Founded in 1964, OCUFA represents 17,000 faculty and academic librarians in 28 faculty associations across Ontario.

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**Campus and Community**

**Poll calls for more job-secure faculty: OCUFA**

**BY ADELA TALBOTT**

More than two-thirds of southwestern Ontario residents recently polled on behalf of the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) believe university courses should be taught by professors who have job security.

The recent province-wide poll, which surveyed roughly 2,000 individuals across the province, found 68 per cent of those who live in the region want university courses taught by professors who have job security and benefits. Support was even higher among Ontario youth considering a postsecondary education, with 71 per cent stating this as their preference.

“With an election on the horizon, it is time for all political parties to make postsecondary education a priority and commit to investing in good jobs at our universities.”

According to Karen Campbell, Vice-Provost (Academic Planning, Policy, and Faculty), 66 per cent of teaching at Western is done by full-time faculty. Of these, two-thirds are tenured or tenure-track, while the remainder are full-time faculty with varying contract lengths, some of whom have long-standing contracts with Western.

Contract faculty with more than 14 years of service at Western no longer have an end date to their contract. Approximately 15 per cent of teaching at Western is done by part-time teachers who are active professionals (e.g. musicians, dentists, nurses). Another six per cent of teaching is done by graduate students and post-doctoral fellows who teach on a part-time, course-by-course basis and are not eligible for a full-time role.

“The remainder, representing approximately 13 per cent of teaching at Western, is done by individuals whose main current activity, to the best of our knowledge, is part-time university teaching,” Campbell said.

The OCUFA poll’s regional results show strong support for better working conditions for contract faculty, with 89 per cent supporting equal pay for those teaching the same courses as their full-time colleagues and 85 per cent supporting equal access to benefits, including health insurance and pensions.

“As a faculty association, we have been working hard to improve working conditions for our contract faculty members,” said Stephen Pitel, president of the University of Western Ontario Faculty Association (UWOFA). “When we invest in the faculty who teach our students, we invest in the quality of education, our students, we invest in Western, and we invest in southwestern Ontario.”

Poll data shows the public understands faculty working conditions correlate to student learning conditions, he added. When faculty working conditions decline, it negatively impacts the quality of education.

Issues of precarious employment are a focus for UWOFA as it prepares for its next round of negotiations later this month. Pitel hopes to see more momentum in continuing teaching appointments at Western and limited-term contracts with no end date. Fair and equitable pay for part-time faculty is also a concern.

“It’s comforting to know contract faculty aren’t alone in feeling their working conditions should be fair,” added Ann Bigelow, former UWOFA President and a lecturer in the DAN Management and Organizational Studies program.

After more than a decade of contract-to-contract work at Western, last year Bigelow was able to secure a limited-term contract with no end date, a newly established employment avenue for Western faculty. Job security should not be so elusive for those who have worked hard to make themselves indispensable to their departments and their students, she said.

Part-time and contract faculty are forced to re-apply for jobs they have done year after year, for lesser pay and no benefits, Bigelow stressed. Some are hesitant to speak out against working conditions for fear of not having their contract renewed. For the students hoping to pursue an academic career, there is no hope on the horizon.

“We have hundreds of young minds, eager to learn what you have to teach them. How do you encourage them to strive for something that has been a complete disappointment to you? You can’t be a role model to students,” she said.

Founded in 1964, OCUFA represents 17,000 faculty and academic librarians in 28 faculty associations across Ontario.