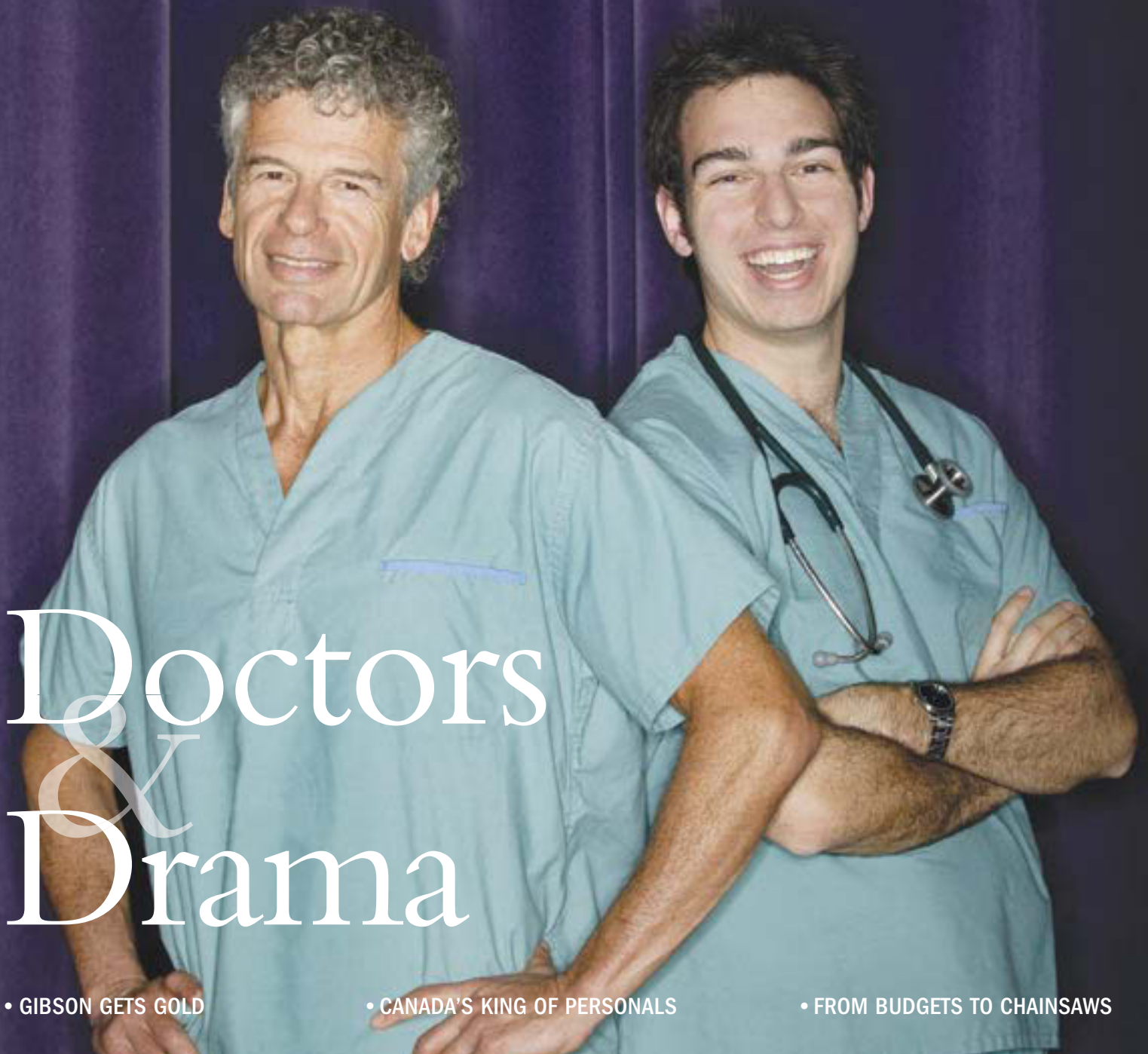


The University of Western Ontario

Western

spring 06

ALUMNI GAZETTE



Doctors & Drama

• GIBSON GETS GOLD

• CANADA'S KING OF PERSONALS

• FROM BUDGETS TO CHAINSAWS

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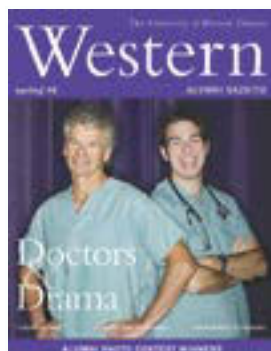
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On the cover: This photograph by Shawn Simpson of Dr. Jeff Nisker and medical student Josh Landry was taken at Alumni Hall. See related feature story on page 12.

www.alumnigazette.ca

By T. Robin Sutherland, BA'90



New approaches can lead to wonderful results

It's been a long winter – too long for an editor with a broken right thumb. Maybe when the splint comes off, real spring weather will actually be here.

Like spring cleaning, sometimes dealing with perennial issues can be tedious. We usually take an approach we're familiar with because it's always worked. When we take the time to look at things

from a completely different way you can end up with wonderful results. Dr. Jeff Nisker took the bone-dry topic of ethics and breathed life into it by combining medicine with humanities. Western now benefits by graduating young doctors who are more cognizant of patients' feelings, conditions and circumstances – all from taking a new approach to an existing topic.

The Western campus is getting more life breathed into it as a mega building boom awaits full approval from the Board of Governors. This new approach to existing space will see expansion, renovation and new construction over the next seven years with a proposed price tag of \$230 million. It's believed to be the largest multi-year investment towards new construction and renovation in the University's history.

In a new approach on presenting important information that sometimes gets lost in a sea of type, we introduce a new feature entitled "By the Numbers" with the theme this issue being the "Changing Face of Western" capturing the planned building boom.

From building buildings to building relationships, Bruce Croxon (BA'82) took the concept of meeting people and brought it into the next millennium by creating Lavalife – Canada's number one online dating site. Currently, Lavalife has more than six million members with 600,000 active users, exchanging over 1.3 million messages per day. Lavalife's head office is based in Toronto and employs more than 270 staff with annual revenues exceeding \$100 million.

Someone whose approach has always worked is Jack Fairs (BSc'46, LLD'05). As one of the founding fathers of Western's physical education department he has remained a role model for teachers, coaches, students and countless others for more than half a century. His love of coaching has made the Western squash team one of the most successful teams in Canadian university sports history.

New approaches to existing positions might also be taken by two people filling leadership roles at Western. One is Helen Connell (MBA'96) taking the helm as the new chair of Western's Board of Governors. And Jeremy Adams (BA'94), incoming president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Both are no strangers to Western and have been actively involved leading up to their present appointments.

Outgoing Executive Director of Foundation Western, Jim Bristow, sets the sights high for his successor with a challenge of increasing endowments to \$1-billion in the next decade. His leadership and approach has been critical in the increase of endowments for both the Foundation and for the University.

The approach to the W Club has changed over the years from an all-male athletic alumni organization to a more encompassing celebration of athletics at Western with all graduating athletes given membership. A more prominent Web presence and maybe even a new location for the Sports Museum could be part of the W Club's approach to the future.

Here's hoping to a warm spring. (And no more ice in the parking lot to slip on).

David Scott
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Disgusted by Clitheroe coverage

(Re: From power to prayer, Fall'05)

I am disgusted by your front page and article on Ms. Clitheroe. If she is a Christian and beginning a new life she should forget about the \$30-million suit. Who is next on your cover Alan Eagleson, Conrad Black? Shame.
John Cernik, BA'68

Clitheroe's criminal statistics misleading

(Re: From power to prayer & Questions and Answers with Eleanor Clitheroe, Fall'05)

While I am not a former Western alumna, my son is and the Western Alumni Gazette still comes to him at my home. While I would normally not take the time to read this publication, the front cover certainly caught my attention, enough that I read the articles.

First let me explain that I have been a lifelong member of the Anglican Church of Canada. I can only say that I found the information concerning Ms. Clitheroe's ordination extremely offensive. How nice that the Right Reverend Ralph Spence "...would always back a quest for justice." That same justice has two sides and perhaps it would have been a bit more prudent if Ms. Clitheroe had dealt with the matter presently before the courts prior to seeking her appointment.

Having worked in the courts of this province for 30-plus years I found it interesting the comments made in the questions and answers section. Statistics, as we all know, can be cooked to say anything you want them to say. The statement "The majority are in for

non-violent crimes involving alcohol, drugs, or non-payment of fines," is totally misleading. If one wants to get a true feeling for the offenders who are committed to correctional institutions I would suggest you spend some time in an actual courtroom. Offenders come before the courts numerous times, for numerous offences and are given every opportunity to turn their lives around, before ever being committed to an institution. This is not to say our justice system is perfect. To the contrary, I am sure Ms. Clitheroe would have some excellent suggestions for positive changes.

The Church for many years now has been struggling to deal with the large drop in attendance. This latest move certainly isn't going to have people returning in droves. In fact, it really makes one wonder what has happened to "true religion"? Perhaps the Anglican Church is hoping if "Ellie" wins her wrongful dismissal suit (heaven forbid) she will feel compelled to turn over the 30 million dollars to the Anglican Church of Canada. Lord help us all. (Certainly the Church isn't).

Elaine Husband

Important prison statistic left out of article

(Re: From power to prayer & Questions and Answers with Eleanor Clitheroe, Fall'05)

The most recent Alumni Gazette contained two articles about Eleanor Clitheroe and her career change to work with prisoners. The state of prisoners is enumerated in various statistics but you have managed to avoid the most blatant fact, i.e. they are well over 90 per cent male.

If they had been female I imagine that you would not have shrunk from putting this statistic front and centre and calling for social change to correct this gender bias in our society. Putting this fact together with the others provided, it can be seen that society's response to jailed men's obvious problems is physical and judgmental, in Clitheroe's religious terms "Old Testament." In many cases, the first step for men to receive any help in coping with their problems is to get arrested.

Hiding the truth about the gender makeup of the prison population is

merely a symptom of the institutionalized and systemic psychological violence that our society commits on its men. They continue to suffer in anonymity.
Brian Latham, BSc'70

Fall issue restores reader's pride in Western

(Re: Fall 2005 Western Alumni Gazette)
Your Fall 2005 issue has restored my pride in the University of Western Ontario.

Your articles on Eleanor Clitheroe, John Vandertuin, and Peter Johnston affirms for me that Western is interested in more than money, business and politics.

I have felt a bit distant from the school as I continue to read articles that focus on business successes and little on spiritual value or artistic achievements. As a minister and member of Equity, both, you have restored my support for Western.

Ken DeLisle, BA'71

Reader questions value of multiculturalism in Canada

(Re: Holding on to the creative class, Fall'05)

I read your article "Holding on to the creative class" and while I have not read Richard Florida's book I question whether the multiculturalism as practiced by Canada is working to move Canada to enjoy a creative class. There is a bland assumption that multiculturalism is good yet nobody examines the hypothesis to determine what is good about the Canadian practice and what is not good.

Under the American system, as it was developed, immigrants arrived, dispersed and then were assimilated into the society which had a strong Protestant work ethic to succeed. This is no longer in place according to Samuel P. Huntington (Who Are We?). Should we not examine the way in which integration occurs or assimilation develops because since I arrived some 45 years ago I have seen mostly ghettos develop all around Toronto and even in nearby St. Catharines. Are the immigrants dispersing and enriching society through displacement from their first landing amongst fellow country people or are the problems of

the big cities a lack of understanding of the problems created by the immigration legislation?

What is the best about multiculturalism and the worst and how do we engage in practices to achieve the best? First we have to examine it and not be afraid of looking at the racial aspects of our country. Do we want ghettos that never disperse their people across the country or do we want movement to create assimilation and enrichment?

What I see are small groups like tiny Quebecs forming to change the very nature of Canada with demands for recognition of their language, ethnicity and religion. We are a regional country by definition (original BNA) not a patchwork of ghettos. How can a country have a creative class of people if assimilation and integration is not practised so that there are shared ideas and a blending of the best of cultures into an achieving society? I ask would not the University be the best place to examine multiculturalism in order to determine how to develop a creative class?

Douglas Johnson, MBA'71

Alumnus stops donating over name change

(Re: Disappointment over medical school name change, Fall'05)

I would like to agree with the sentiments of my classmate Phil Stuart in his opposition to the renaming of Western's Faculty of Medicine. I would further add that I back this sentiment up with my wallet. I have previously donated generously to the medical school but do not intend to continue this practice. I have no idea how other alumni donors may feel about this, but I presume that the University will get the message when they don't get my money.

Daniel T. Laidley, MD'82

Not all empty nesters taking cruises and playing golf

(Re: Saying 'No' in a culture of hours, money and non-support, Fall '05)

I agree with Higgins' and Duxbury's article that one solution to finding a work-life balance is to learn to say 'no.' However, given the challenge of finding a work-life balance, I was surprised by the bourgeois tone of the article. Higgins and Duxbury write, "Thirty years ago, men worked while women tended home and children." This is a common myth cited by those whose point of reference is the birth of the feminist movement in the late 1960s.

Women have always worked, especially in low- to middle-income families, and the work-life balance is

nothing new for them. In addition, not all empty nesters "have time and disposable income." Many empty nesters still work because they have to for financial reasons and some are helping to support grown children or elderly parents. Most are not taking cruises and playing golf every day. The article might have been more helpful if it spoke to a more global audience.

Robin Bailey-Chen BA'87, MA'89

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Where

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Time

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The Western community lit up the 2005 United Way campaign with a record-breaking gift of \$430,620. With candles from a celebratory cake are President Paul Davenport, United Way Executive Director Helen Connell and campus co-chairs Gary Blazak and Elizabeth Skarakis-Doyle.

Western Blasts Past Goal for United Way

Students, faculty, staff and retirees at The University of Western Ontario blasted past their \$400,000 goal and unveiled another record-breaking gift to United Way of \$430,620. The announcement was made January 19 at a presentation in the Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building at Western.

“Once again, Western has proven its commitment to assisting those in need in our community,” says Helen Connell, Executive Director of United Way of London & Middlesex. “We have exceeded last year’s total by \$55,000 which speaks to the generosity of those who make up the Western community and their desire to ensure that United Way services and programs continue to be there for those in need,” says Paul Davenport, Western’s President, who served this year as the city-wide United Campaign chair.

Once again, Western led the way with 150 Leadership donors (those who give \$1,000 or more), an increase of 48 per cent over last year. This is also the second year in a row that Western has given more than any other business or organization in London and Middlesex.

Western campaign co-chairs Gary Blazak, Director of Alumni Relations, and Elizabeth Skarakis-Doyle, Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, led the 2005 fundraising drive, supported by a committee that included Former Dean of Dentistry and Western Retiree Dr. Wes Dunn (Retiree Chair) and USC Charity Commissioner Ashley White. Colleen Thody of Western’s Advancement Services was loaned to United Way for more than three

months during the Campaign as part of the Sponsored Employee program.

Priority boost may revamp student services

With her renewed appointment as Western’s Vice-Provost (Academic Programs & Students) and Registrar, Roma Harris brings a renewed commitment to the improvement of student services on campus. A member of Western’s senior leadership team, Harris says her focus on quality of the student experience hasn’t changed quite so much as the emphasis.

“The quality of the student experience is front and centre now for the whole university community,” says Harris. Her term runs to August 2008. “We’ve embraced the idea of the best student experience, we’ve embraced the idea that we want to expand our graduate enrolment, and we now have to focus on how we are going to deliver on that commitment for our undergraduate and graduate students.”



Artist’s rendition of proposed recreation complex.

Students say ‘Yes’ to complex

A new \$34 million facility, complete with five gymnasiums, five squash courts and Olympic-sized swimming pool, will become a reality at Western after students voted in favour of financially supporting the project. Scheduled to open in 2008, the sports and recreation centre will double the aerobic and weight facilities offered by Campus Recreation. University Students’ Council President Ryan Dunn sees this as a huge step in bringing the student’s needs to fruition.

“The most exciting part of the process has been the ownership and initiative students have shown,” says Dunn. Students will contribute \$23.3 million in project costs over a 30-year period, a contribution that will be reflected in a \$60 student fee. Western has agreed to contribute \$10.6 million to the project. A \$17 fee will also be initiated to maintain the vacated space in the UCC, which will be converted for student use.

Health Sciences Dean, Jim Weese, says the state-of-the-art facility will “set our campus apart” and he is proud of the students for “answering the bell.” “The students, staff and faculty will make excellent use of this facility,” he says. “We’re going to see a strong presence now on the south side of campus, which will open up a great deal of space at the centre of campus. This really is exciting news for Western.”

MP Finley wins cabinet post

Western alumna Diane Finley (BA’79, MBA’82) has been named Minister of Human Resources and Social Development by Prime Minister Stephen Harper. The Hamilton-born Finley will oversee education initiatives of the federal government, including the Canada Student Loans Program.

First elected in 2004 for the Ontario riding of Haldimand-Norfolk, the 48-year-old Finley’s previous career positions encompassed health care, transportation, agricultural equipment manufacturing, printing and publishing, and aviation. Finley was named “one of Canada’s future leaders” by the Governor-General’s Study Conference 2000.

Other Western alumni elected federally include: Paul Szabo, BSc’70, Liberal, Mississauga South; Cheryl Gallant, BSc’82, Conservative, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke; James Peterson, BA’63, Liberal, Willowdale; John Cummins, BA’66, Conservative, Delta-Richmond East; Irene Mathysen, BA’74, BEd’75, NDP, London Fanshawe; Sue Barnes, LLB’77, BA’74, Liberal, London West.

Gibson gets gold head first

Oldest Olympian ever to win individual gold

By Jeff Renaud

Duff Gibson, BA'89, charges through life head first, managing curves along the way, so it makes sense that his greatest achievement in sport occurred after he made the switch to skeleton – an Olympic discipline that demands this type of personality, quite literally.

The Western alum grabbed the gold medal in men's skeleton Friday, February 17 at the 2006 Olympics in Torino after edging his Canadian teammate and fellow Calgarian Jeff Pain by 0.26 seconds.

At the age of 39, Gibson became the oldest individual gold medalist in Olympic history, summer or winter. Skeleton is the oldest competitive sledding sport and features a solo competitor driving a one-person sled, in a head first position, down an icy track, in this case 1.4-kilometres long complete with 19 curves, and eclipsing speeds of over 125 kilometres an hour.

Gibson said “What I had done (winning Olympic gold) hit me right a way. My wife Jennifer was there and my sister from Australia and an old speed skating coach of mine, so many of my family and friends. And whenever I was interviewed, and still to this day, I get choked up because it made such a huge difference that those people, all so close to me, were there to support me.” He continued, “I couldn't have won without having two terrific runs and I was having excellent training runs all week. Earlier in the year, I was experiencing some technical difficulties with my sled, so those strong training runs were good indicators that those had been corrected. All this put me in an excellent position that winning was a possibility.”

Gibson, a firefighter, graduated from Western in 1989 with a degree in

Physical Education. While at Western, the Calgary native was a rower with the Western Mustangs and was coached by Dr. Phil Fitz-James and Don McLean.

According to Gibson, another fellow Mustang contributed to his

He later competed as a speed skater and a bobsledder before settling on the skeleton in 1999, looking towards the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City where the discipline was to make its long overdue return to the international stage. “I didn't take a direct route to where I am today, but I learned from every sport I competed in or had exposure to,” explained Gibson. “When I was bobsledding, I hired a track coach so I could learn to run faster. My dad was an educator and coach and all those drills and exercises he taught me played a role in this, as well.”

Gibson's father passed away, as a result of cancer, prior to Christmas.

When the Olympics were held in St. Moritz, Switzerland – the site of the skeleton's origin – in 1928 and 1948, the sport was included in the program. It was not until the 2002 Games that skeleton was re-introduced, a 54-year hiatus. Gibson placed 10th in 2002, but immediately set his sights on Torino.

Gibson won gold at the 2004 world championship and settled for bronze in 2005.

Following his Olympic gold medal-winning race on February 17, Gibson immediately announced his retirement. “It's funny but prior to the Olympics I took some races off and it was the first time in seven years I was able to sit down and watch the Super Bowl,” quipped Gibson. “I am looking forward to spending more time at home and starting a family. I also want to get more involved with the University and maybe spend some time mentoring some student-athletes and sharing some of my experiences with them.”



CP Photo by Michael Sohn

Duff Gibson begins his gold medal skeleton run in Torino.

success Friday.

“Prior to Torino, I participated in the Olympic Excellence Series – a program designed to bring Olympic hopefuls together and give them exposure to some of the successes previously enjoyed by Canada,” explained Gibson. “Bar none, the best speaker was Marnie McBean. What she said had a great impact on me. We share a lot of the same philosophies. Later, we were able to reconnect and she gave me some helpful advice and we were able to swap some old stories from our Western days. It was a really neat time and I really respect her.”

Always an advocate

New board chair learned art of listening in newspaper career

by Christine Roulston, MA'03

Photo by Strawn Simpson



Helen Connell

When Helen Connell (MBA'96) took the helm of Western's Board of Governors in December 2005 she brought all her zest for advocating for social issues with her. While for some, social advocacy and university administration may seem unrelated, it isn't that way for Connell.

"When I look at Western I don't see an ivory tower. I see international leaders on many social issues, I see the University being the key driver in the local economy and the leader in an international knowledge-based economy."

As a child, Connell says her father stressed the importance of education and though her parents didn't talk about social issues, she said she was always aware that not everyone was presented with the same opportunities in life. In her role as editor and columnist at the *London Free Press* Connell for more than a decade worked to make readers aware of important social issues. As Executive Director of the United Way of London and Middlesex for the past six years, she led campaigns to raise record amounts for social welfare organizations in the area.

Connell takes leadership in a period many are calling an "exciting time for Western." By this fall, the board will finalize a new strategic plan to determine the direction the University takes over the next five years. In May 2005, after years of Ontario universities being the lowest-funded in the country, the provincial government announced a

plan to give post-secondary institutions a 39 per cent increase in funding for 2005-06. "The funding is greatly appreciated," Connell says. "But the demands on us to invest that money are enormous. The demands are going to outstrip anything we've received."

Connell says it is important to constantly make the case to the government that universities need additional money. "Universities have to anticipate the needs of researchers and students who will be the drivers of this knowledge economy. If we want Western to become the finest research intensive university in Canada, if not North America, that will require attracting more graduate students and faculty. And the market for these people will be fierce."


Connell says a major priority will be investing in space to house the new graduate students, faculty, staff and equipment. Five projects, totaling approximately \$80 million have been approved in what will be the largest multi-plan investment in University history.

Locally as well, Connell believes there is a message to get out about Western. "People who know Western see it as an innovative, creative place where people are committed to education and research but also to this community," she says. "But there are also people who have never been through the gates to whom it can still seem a bit ivory tower-like."

She says the simple fact is, often people just don't know what is going on at an organization as large and decentralized as Western and that makes it easy for them to criticize.

"The same thing happens at newspapers," she says. "You will never have everyone liking what you do and you will never be able to do enough. I think you have to strive to be the best that you can but you also have to have a thick enough skin to know that you will be constantly striving. This is not something that can be totally perfected." She says part of her job as board chair is to listen to the voices that are the community and make sure they are being heard.

Connell, more than anyone, recognizes the importance of listening and the ability to voice opinions. During days around an editorial table at the *London Free Press* she was often known for taking an unpopular stance on certain issues.

"The Board, like Western, is made up of such a cross-section of members of the community, students, faculty and staff. And when they sit down at the table, they have an equal voice," she says. "Universities are not a place where the President or board chair makes all the decisions. Universities are places where the process is very important, and bringing everyone's ideas to the table is an important part of this process." 

By the numbers

The changing face of Western

A dramatic plan for campus expansion is being considered by the Board of Governors in May.

230,000,000

projected cost in dollars of campus renovation and new construction until 2013. The growth will accommodate more graduate students, shift academic space to the campus core and boost services for students - believed to be the largest of its kind in the school's history. The plan includes 14 proposed or approved new buildings or major renovation.

76

existing buildings spread over the 86.9-hectare main campus (not including Saugeen and Elgin residences, Althouse College, Huron Flats or Westminster College).

5,825

total number of first year students (including affiliate colleges) forecast for 2010-11 compared to 5,822 in 2001-02, virtually unchanged.

27.5

percentage of probationary and tenured women faculty (2005), compared to 20.5% in 1999.

15,000,000

dollars approved for a new Science building in 2007 for undergraduate instructional laboratories, graduate student space, faculty office space and research space for Chemistry and Physics & Astronomy.

56,260,000

value in dollars of capital projects completed in 2005 exceeding \$1-million. This includes Thompson Engineering, Clinical Skills, Middlesex College renovations, Law Building expansion and South Valley Building expansion. The amount is more than 2.5 times the \$20.5-million completed in 2001.

3

number of old Western Road houses to be demolished to make way for a 150,000 square foot Support Services building in 2008 to house Physical Plant, Human Resources, Financial Services, Institutional Planning & Budgeting, Information Technology Services, Internal Audit and Research Western.

1

number of roofs under which a variety of student services now housed in numerous offices and buildings will be gathered if a Student Services building is approved as a one-stop student service centre.

85

average entering grade in 2005-06 compared to 78% in 1985-86.

1,660

number of full-time PhDs forecast to graduate in 2011 compared to 838 in 2002.

From budgets to chainsaws

Ten questions with Paul Davenport

By David Scott

With major changes on the horizon for the Western campus, a commitment to more graduate students and a new Strategic Plan to guide a multi-million dollar building boom, these are interesting and exciting times for President Paul Davenport. The *Alumni Gazette* recently caught up with the president to pose some questions about his unprecedented third term including his thoughts on both the University and personal life.

Q. What has been the most challenging issue to deal with in your terms as President?

A. The gap between our resources and the outstanding potential of our faculty, staff, and students. Spring is budget time at Western, and each year we have to make tough decisions on the creative requests for resources coming from faculties and support units, requests that are all well-supported and designed to improve education and research at the University. A great University must make good choices, and I believe we are doing so at Western. We called our 2001 Strategic Plan "Making Choices" in order to underline the need for clear priorities and bold decisions.

Q. You are currently co-chairing a Strategic Planning Task Force designed to set Western's directions for the years ahead. What are the key issues?

A. A key issue for the Task Force is building on our mission: "the best student experience among the research-intensive universities of Canada." Among the large research universities of Canada, Western has ranked first in all four years of the University Report Card, a survey of student satisfaction published in the fall by *the Globe & Mail*. We also ranked first in the survey of university alumni conducted by *Maclean's* in 2005. We are doing well, but we know we can do much better.

Our commitment to the student experience includes the outstanding work of our faculty in teaching, as well as activities outside the classroom: from amateur drama and music, to athletics and volunteer work, to the 150 clubs run by the University Students' Council. The Task Force is working to find new ways to enhance that broad experience, such as combining learning with community service, and increasing student engagement in the classroom. We will also be focused in continuing the

growth and excellence of our research and scholarship on campus, which contribute so much to the betterment of society and the learning of our students.

Q. Why do you think it's important to have a presence amongst the staff and students?

A. No one on campus wants an absentee president: faculty, staff, and students want to see me not only in formal meetings, but also at celebratory and sporting events, at drama and music productions, and buying my soup at noon at Lucy's, the cafeteria nearest my office. And they are right: no one should take this job who does not love the university's people and want to be among them as much as possible.

Q. Tell us about your jazz show on the campus radio station.

A. From 1997 to 2004, I appeared on Barney Booth's jazz show on CHRW about every six weeks. Barney was retired, a leader in the jazz community of London, and a delightful man with an encyclopedic knowledge of the history of jazz. He was a wonderful example of the volunteers, both students and non-

continued on page 21

Doctors

& Drama

**How Dr. Jeff Nisker is changing
the way we practice medicine**

By David Scott

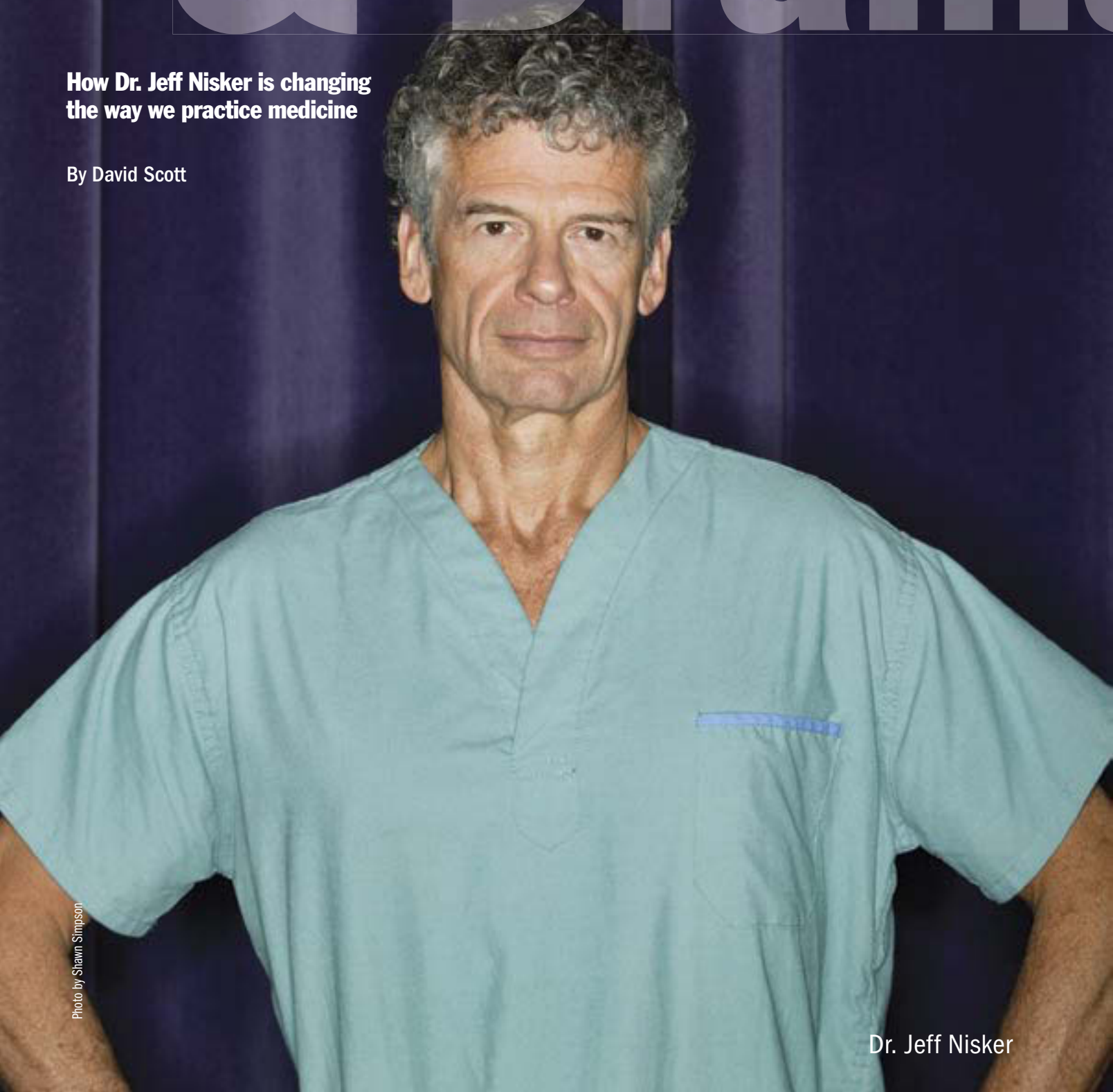


Photo by Shawn Simpson

Dr. Jeff Nisker

One of the “best minds of our time”* is pushing barriers and bridging gaps between medicine and the humanities creating an approach to health care that evokes empathy, ethics and an emotional connection with patients.

Dr. Jeff Nisker is Coordinator of Health Ethics and Humanities and Professor of Obstetrics-Gynaecology and Oncology at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, at Western. His research is transdisciplinary, centering on public engagement for health-policy development, particularly regarding emerging genetic technologies. Similarly, his educational initiatives embrace the humanities and social sciences, such as in his narrative bioethics and health ethics through film courses. Dr. Nisker has written many scientific articles and book chapters, as well as six plays and several short stories to explore health issues and encourage compassion in healthcare. His plays have been performed throughout Canada, as well as in the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia and South Africa.

The Western Alumni Gazette spoke with Dr. Nisker recently about his unique blended approach to teaching medical ethics in health care.

Q. Describe the medical ethics course you teach.

A. My idea of exploring ethics through humanities stems from the first story I read to my children one night called *The Little Prince*. In *The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry writes, “It is only with the heart that one can see truly for what is essentially invisible to the eye.” I believe I can engage my students and the general public, whoever I can bring to moral exploration, much better through the arts than I can by giving a lecture. And it has really worked.

I teach a medical ethics and humanity course that runs throughout the entire medical curriculum. We have approximately 30 hours in first year where we talk about the backgrounds, the theories, the ethics and the professionalism. We focus on the physician-patient relationship and the obligations the physician has to the

patient, to the family, to their community, to society. Obligations that transcend just the delivery of optimal health care. But actually in the promotion of health and advocacy which is especially important in a system where we have about a quarter of the number of doctors that we’re supposed to have according to the Hall Report in 1965 and are functioning in the frustrating position where the physicians really are so time-constrained it’s difficult for them to give (patients) the care they would like to.

Starting with first year, with every exploration of ethical or professional issues is preceded with something from the arts and humanities such as a play, a film, a reader’s theatre of a short story or poem. We’re the only place in the world where health care, ethics and humanities are merged. Other universities have separate departments of medical ethics or separate departments of medical humanities. Here at Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry we do it all together. We put the medical student in the position of the patient or their family member to see what it is like to live with a condition or fear of a condition through the use of the arts.

“We put the medical student in the position of the patient or their family member to see what it is like to live with a condition or fear of a condition through the use of the arts.”

The students themselves by second year are writing their own narratives. We not only teach student narrative, but we evaluate student narratives. And it’s published widely on this innovative approach to health care education. In second year we focus more on the individual subject material. So, if we’re studying kidney disease, we look at specific ethical issues involved with renal

disease such as dialysis, transplantation. But again always using story to surface the ethical issues.

In third year while students are having their clinical experience we have smaller group sessions because the students rotate through each clinical service and spent a month or two on each. And in that we try to have one exploration at least one afternoon on health care ethics and humanities.

In fourth year our entire course is taught using film. I call it “Ethics through Film.” The students view two or three films a week on video and then discuss a particular ethical issue and the students draw upon their experience of the film. For example, if we were talking about resource allocation, we would use films like *The Barbarian Invasions*. It’s a wonderful Canadian film to look at, as well as American films such as *John Q*. It serves as a wonderful discussion.

The evaluation in fourth year is the students writing about an ethical dilemma they experienced on a clinical service. I presented this work widely, anonymously of course. Educators from around the world have thought this concept of students actually being evaluated through narrative as well as being taught through narrative (is very unique). And the quality of the narratives that our students do (students sometimes choose to do drawings or paintings or make films or music) is outstanding.

They use the arts in many ways. In fact, the Social Science and Humanities Conference was at Western last June and every night the medical school opened its doors to the delegates of this huge, probably the largest scholarly convention in Canada. Each night we used the arts to explore specific ethics themes. One night was performance poetry, one night was music, one night medical student Josh Landry (funded by AMS) performed his play. Each night it was something: poetry, short story, story telling. It was just amazing the way our students embraced the arts. We have a medical student poet (Josh Mayich) who is going to publish his poetry that he has written over the course of his medical education. Just brilliant work.

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Gillian Bayley helps a nurse named Rosa suture the head wound of a patient at a posta.

Science grad gets taste of medicine volunteering at Peruvian posta

By Kym Wolfe

Gillian Bayley, BSc'05, is keen to practice medicine, so when she wasn't accepted into medical school last year that didn't stop her from pursuing her goal. From October 2005 to January 2006, Bayley worked in a clinic in an impoverished village in Peru, and that three-month stint confirmed for her that being a doctor is her calling.

Bayley received her Bachelor of Medical Science degree from Western

last May. Shortly afterwards she learned about Volunteer Abroad, a Canadian Federation of Students initiative that connects people with not-for-profit organizations, communities and government agencies in need of assistance around the world.

"I applied in July and from there it all happened pretty fast," says Bayley, who had to raise the \$4,000 program fee and \$1,500 airfare before flying

off to Peru last October. For the first month she lived with a family in Lima and learned basic Spanish. Then she and two other volunteers were assigned to work in a clinic or posta in Ancahuasi, a small village on the outskirts of Cusco in southern Peru.

Bayley was prepared to be run off her feet, but found the posta had more staff and a lower patient load than she expected. "We were positioned at one

of the poorest stations around Cusco, but because they were so poor they tended not to go to the doctor. When you are fighting to feed your family, taking a day to go to the doctor is sometimes too hard, especially since for some people it was a three- to four-hour walk. Sundays were busier because there was a market. People came down from the mountains and came to the doctor as well."

Still, she did get the hands-on experience she was seeking. "They really just throw you in and let you learn. On the first day we watched an autopsy. I gave some needles, helped stitch up a couple of head wounds, and watched a couple of births."

Bayley has studied anthropology, and was interested in seeing the influence that North America has had on Peru. She found Lima to be the most Americanized part of the country, and not always for the better. "When TV came to Peru, everyone saw this better life and thought they could get it in Lima. There are not enough jobs and Lima is surrounded by shantytowns of poor people who came with nothing, hoping for more. But they ended up with less."

As she travelled to different communities to help vaccinate children at schools and in their homes Bayley saw the destitute conditions that people live in. "You hear of poor people, but it is really different to see it. We take so much for granted in Canada, it's hard for us to understand what true poverty is."

These difficult conditions appeared to influence attitudes toward health. "It was sad because they tended to neglect not just themselves but their children. We met one child whose arm was grotesquely twisted because it had broken over a month before, but no one took him to the doctor. When his parents finally took him to the clinic they were told to go to the hospital in Cusco for surgery, but I don't think they would spend the time or money to get into Cusco."



A few of the 2,000 children given free measles vaccinations during Bayley's time in Peru.

Before Christmas, when they learned that some children would spend a few nights on the streets in Cusco in hopes of salvaging a toy somewhere, Bayley and the other volunteers purchased toys for some of the children in the area surrounding the posta. "It was great to see the smiles on their faces," she says.

Bayley's most memorable experience occurred when there were complications with a birth. Riding in the ambulance into Cusco, "I helped the obstetrician get the placenta out of the woman. I'm not sure if this would ever be done in Canada, but it's what we did there."

She was impressed by the cleanliness of the clinic, ("although it was by no means up to our standards, they usually used gloves and cleaned up blood as well as they could"), but found herself questioning how things were done on more than one occasion.

"Most deaths were blamed on sclerosis (thickening or hardening of tissues or arteries) as were most health problems. One time a man came in unconscious. He wasn't breathing and had no pulse. They didn't try to resuscitate him, we basically just watched him die. That was hard. They said it was because he wasn't responding that they didn't do more, but the language barrier prevented us from really understanding what happened that day."

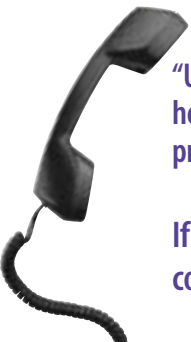
Bayley kept a journal of her experiences, and is interested in comparing her hands-on work at the posta with the formal training she receives in medical school. As for her future, she can see herself making other trips, "but not until I have a few years of medical school under my belt. I know Peru is not as bad as it gets. There are lots of people around the world who need some relief, and I would like to help with that." ❧

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Looking for love in all the right places

Photo courtesy Lavalife



Bruce Croxon

Getting personal with Canada's King of Personals

By Michael Rappaport

Bruce Croxon, BA'82, is a cofounder and the CEO of Lavalife – Canada's number one online dating site – but don't expect to find his personal ad posted there.

"I've used the system for years and had a lot of fun, but I have a partner and two children under the age of three now," he says. After some gentle prodding Croxon confides that he met his spouse by more conventional means. "I actually found my partner the traditional way, through a friend of a friend." He adds, "against the odds."

Croxon graduated from Western with an economics degree in 1982. Although he claims that he kind of fell into economics because he didn't know what he wanted to do, his entrepreneurial streak manifested itself while he was still a student. As an undergrad, with a group

of friends, he bought, renovated and sold a house in London. He also started a business selling stereo equipment. "Western was a very good training ground for how to socialize and get along with other people, which are essential skills for business," Croxon says. He also played rugby and led an active social life.

After graduating, Croxon worked as a tree planter in Western Canada for a year and traveled for a few months. Returning home to Toronto, he launched a series of small ventures. His first business was publishing a guide called *The Best of Toronto*. Later he created a series of jigsaw puzzles which he sold to toy stores.

Five years on, he stumbled upon a new technology: interactive voice response (IVR), a system which

generates automated telephone messages and records voice mail. In 1987, Croxon licensed IVR and started Phoneworks with three other partners. Originally, Phoneworks provided information lines for businesses, which listed automated responses and hosted message boxes.

On an information line, set up for *Toronto Life Magazine* to list restaurant reviews, he was surprised to learn that the most popular option for callers was listening to and leaving messages. It turned out callers were using this feature to make dates with other callers. "The customers really showed us the service could be used for social interactions, such as setting up dates," Croxon recalls. "We didn't really predict that it would be as popular as it turned out to be."

He and his partners transformed Phoneworks into Telepersonals, a voice

mail dating service in 1990. Advertising in major dailies, alternative weeklies and late night television, Telepersonals expanded from its home in Toronto to over 40 cities in North America and Australia by the late-90s. In 1996, the partners decided to add an online component to Telepersonals and purchased Webpersonals. "The web site was a good complement to the phone message service. People could either interact by leaving messages on the phone or sending messages online," Croxon explains.

In 2001, they merged Telepersonals and Webpersonals into one brand: Lavalife. "Lava evokes a warm feeling," Croxon enthuses. "We wanted to create a place where singles can hang out, connect and find happiness." Currently, Lavalife has over six million members with 600,000 active users, exchanging over 1.3 million messages per day. Although Lavalife dominates the Canadian personals industry, about 70 percent of members are in America and they also have a strong presence in Australia.

Lavalife attracts a young, hip, urban demographic. The bulk of members are 25-39 while the fastest growing segment is the 19-25 age group. Membership is fairly evenly balanced with about a 50/50 male to female ratio. Lavalife organizes members by community depending on whether they're searching for casual dates, long-term relationship or intimate encounters. Unlike other sites, there is no subscription fee. Instead, users buy credits as they need them to communicate with other members. Members can post personal ads, pictures and even video clips of themselves. Users can search for other members who match their criteria and send messages, chat online or leave voice mail.

In 2003, Lavalife partnered with America Online's ICQ network to create an instant messaging community, which allows users to hold several conversations at once. In 2004,

Lavalife began offering service over mobile phones, allowing members to send text messages and even pictures. "What we're finding is that aside from our success with cell phone service, the market isn't really looking for lots of bells and whistles," Croxon explains. "What people are

searching for is a lot of choice, people who match their criteria. Our focus is not on creating five different ways to do the same thing. Our focus is on doing basic things better."

In March 2004, Vertrue Inc. (formerly MemberWorks Inc.), based in Stamford, Conn., bought Lavalife for over \$150 million. Croxon says that the sale gave Lavalife the leverage necessary to make headway in the U.S. and internationally, though getting used to having a boss for the first time in his life has been an adjustment. In the hyper-competitive world of cyberspace, such mergers are often necessary for survival.

Lavalife's head office is based in Toronto and employs over 270 staff with annual revenues exceeding \$100 million. In order to continue to grow, Lavalife spends a large slice of its budget on wooing new customers. "The way to market sites on the internet is to make partnerships with other sites or portals which have a lot of traffic. We've partnered with Microsoft MSN.ca to be their online personal provider," Croxon says.

Besides their ubiquitous ads in alternative weeklies and late night television, Lavalife also has unique advertising campaigns to connect with their target market. This spring, Lavalife in partnership with Cineplex Odeon Theatres launched a new promotion called "Lavalife Click at a Flick" in which Lavalife sponsors singles parties before the main feature.

Hmm...Dinner and a movie. Who'd have thought you could actually meet that special someone that way?

Michael Rappaport is a freelance writer and a second-year law student at Western. ☺



Illustration by Marcos Chin

Millions of Memories...

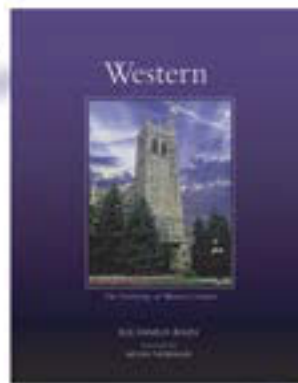
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Life, laughter & light



2005 Arlie Laxton Photography Contest Winners

This year's judges: Professional photographers Shawn Simpson of London, www.swsphotography.com, Lynne Greenaway

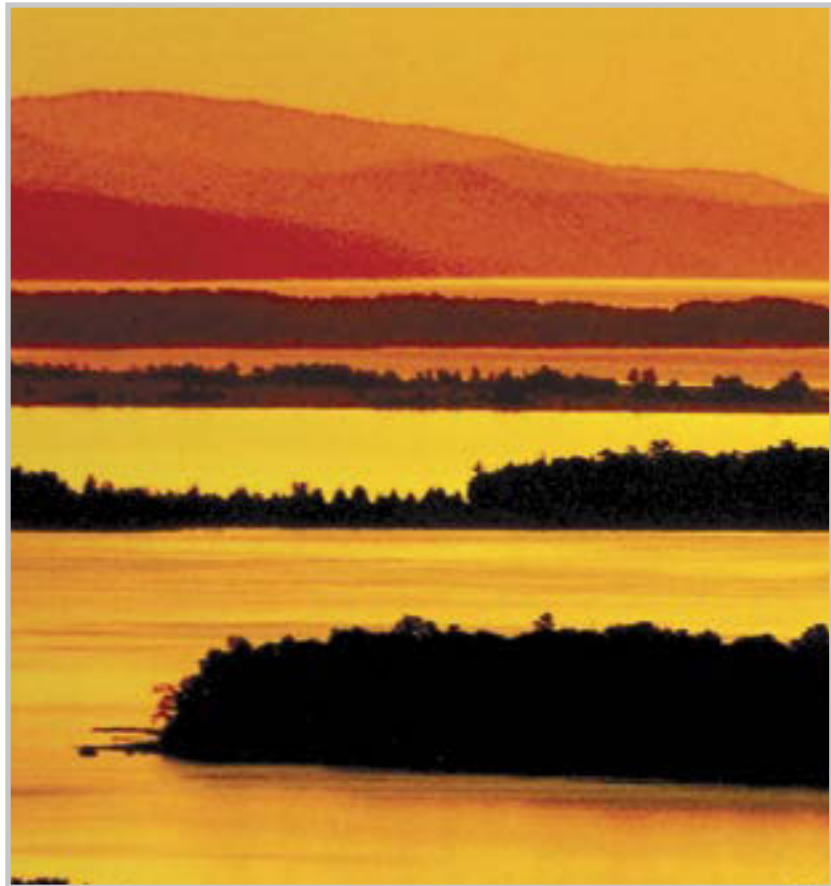
of Toronto, www.lynnegreenaway.co, and Casey Lessard of Crediton, <http://caseylessard.com>.

*Please note that judges determined there were not enough entries in the newly created "Digitally enhanced" category this year to award any prizes.

WINNER—OTHER

John Goldstein, BA'92, MBA'94, Mississauga

"Dawn Over Manitoulin Island" – This photo was taken atop MacLean's Mountain near the town of Little Current early on a summer morning overlooking numerous peninsulas that jut into Georgian Bay. Judges' comments: has good composition, colour, repetition – all out of the textbook; quality landscape; the colour from the sunrise creates very nice lines of contrast between the shadows of the trees and the sun's reflection; nice that you don't actually see the sun, but rather its effects; depth of image creates a nice layering of foreground and background; the image is very rich with warm colouring, very soothing.



TIE—RUNNER-UP—OTHER

Andrea Mok, BSC'01, London

“Morning Glory”—This photo was taken in the photographer’s backyard early in the morning during the last summer days. Since these are delicate flowers, careful patience was taken to snap the picture at the exact moment the breeze died down. This photo was shot using a Fuji S3 Pro camera with a 105 mm micro lens, F32 at 1/4, and a polarizing filter, mounted on a tripod. Judges’ comments: It has a soft beauty that draws the viewer’s eye into the centre sun surrounded by a blanket of blue; abstract qualities, minimal with interesting detail; classic complementary colour scheme; very lovely contrast between blue/purple and yellow; nice flow, nice framing of image, good balance.



TIE—RUNNER-UP—OTHER

Glen Webster, HBA'93, MBA'98, Toronto

“Arguing Sea Lions in Make-up” – The photographer was on an adventure trip in the Galapagos Islands when he took this photo on the beach of Floreana Island. The sea lions were wild but not threatened by people so he was able to get very close. It was taken hand-held with a Nikon D50, with a 55-220mm zoom lens, with a full zoom. Judges’ comments: nice moment caught between two creatures; close shot which puts all focus on the mouths and whiskers of the animals; reminds me of an old married couple.

WINNER—PEOPLE

Bob Pluss, BACS'05, London

The photo was taken in a mock studio set up in the photographer's kitchen. A plain white sheet was hung over the patio doors which acted like a big soft-box behind the subject making a nice white background. The photo was taken with a Sony F-828 Cybershot, 48mm lens, F2.4 at 1/20. Judges' comments: nice moment, didn't get to see that in other entries; simple, clean, well composed; even though it's contrived, the imperfections make it strong; the sepia tone of the image adds to the softness of the moment; any moment caught of childhood interaction is always a winner; it is a Hallmark moment, very cute.



RUNNER-UP — PEOPLE

Michelle (Cheung) Kwan, BA'91, Toronto

This photograph was taken of the photographer's daughter while visiting the Waterloo Regional Children's Museum. The moment was captured during a quiet moment with a Canon Powershot G2. Judges' comments: like the colours and leading lines are good; the saturation is good, exposure almost perfect; mysterious; a child stuck in a world of infrastructure, steel, condo living, linearity; the hands on the window add a sense of longing, loneliness; I like how you can see the building across the street, it adds to the meaning of the image; to me the image is a statement about how children who live in the city grow up, they should be in a playground and running in open fields, but instead stuck in a high-rise lifestyle.

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From budgets to chainsaws
continued from page 11

students, who make our clubs at Western such a vibrant source of a great student experience. We played the tunes of my favorite jazz performers from the 1950s and 1960s: (Charlie) Parker, (Thelonious) Monk, (John) Coltrane, (Miles) Davis, and others. We joked, told stories about the musicians, and did phone-in contests. I stopped this activity after Barney's death in early 2005; it just wasn't the same without him.

Q. What is your best memory as a student?

A. As an undergraduate at Stanford University in 1967, I spent six months at the Stanford campus in Tours, France, in the Loire Valley. The experience opened my eyes to the importance of second language, to art and culture, and to the diversity of politics and people which Europe represents. It was the most enduring part of my Stanford education. I also met my wife Josette in Tours, and that certainly qualifies as a best memory. When we sit down to Christmas dinner with our three children and two grandchildren, I know that it all started in Tours.

Q. Can you describe the course you teach for Continuing Studies?

A. The course is entitled, "In the Footsteps of the Impressionists." I fell in love with Impressionist painting in the museums of Paris in 1967, and have maintained a keen interest ever since. Over six evenings, I take the class through the various districts of Paris and into the suburbs, discuss the paintings, music, and dance of the period 1850 to 1890, and show them my own slides of the Impressionist sites as they look today. We visit Courbet and Baudelaire on the Left Bank, Degas and Offenbach on the Grands Boulevards, Manet and Monet at the Saint Lazare Station, Renoir and Van Gogh in Montmartre. It is a popular course and I have a lot of fun teaching it.

"There is nothing like a little physical exhaustion to take your mind off woes at the office."

Q. What do you do to manage stress?

A. I bike: on a stationary bike in the basement during the winter, and outdoors during good weather. There is

nothing like a little physical exhaustion to take your mind off woes at the office.


Q. What do you like least about your official duties?

A. E-mail.

Q. We understand you have a chainsaw. Tell us more.

A. When I arrived at Gibbons Lodge (the president's house at Western) in July of 1994, I bought a compass and walked east through some 30 acres of forest and swamp that is part of the University property. My impression was that no one had been back there in decades: I certainly would have become lost without the compass. During my first five years at Gibbons, I cut three kilometres of trails using a chainsaw and hand tools. Now about twice a month on weekends I can go out the back door, light a cigar, and walk "my" trails—they are lovely and peaceful, day and night.

Q. What would you tell your successor about Western?

A. That she, or he, has the best job in Canada. 

WESTERN HOMECOMING 2006

September 29 to October 1

The date has been picked. The planning is in motion. Now all that is needed is you. Return to Western and celebrate your university days!

All alumni and friends are welcome at Homecoming. The weekend is your chance to reminisce with classmates, root for the Mustangs, and rediscover your old haunts.

If you graduated in a year ending in a 1 or 6, you're celebrating a milestone reunion in 2006. Class leaders are currently being recruited to rally classmates and plan reunion gatherings.

Please contact our reunion co-ordinator at (519) 661-2111 ext. 85739 if you're interested in becoming a class leader.

Details about Homecoming 2006 will be posted on www.alumni.uwo.ca/homecoming.





David Baguley

David Baguley: Palmes Académiques

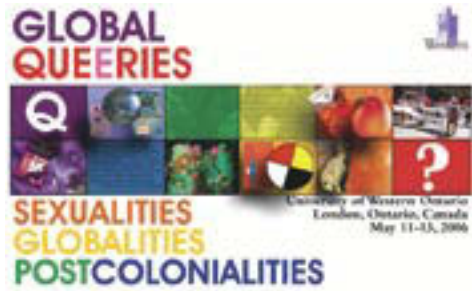
Professor Emeritus of French David Baguley recently received a major distinction from the French Government, *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques*, an award established by Napoleon in 1808 to honour members of the university community. Baguley joins three other Arts and Humanities professors with the title of “Knight in the Order of the Academic Palms”: Clive Thomson and Jean-Paul Brunet in French, and John Thorp in Philosophy. The Palmes Académiques recognize contributions to the promotion of French culture worldwide.

David Baguley taught in Western's Department of French from 1968 to 1995, serving as Chair from 1977 to 1980. During his career at Western, he established a reputation as a world-renowned scholar on Émile Zola and Naturalism. He retired from Western in 1995 and continued his teaching and research career while serving as Chair of French at the University of Durham in his native Great Britain, until his retirement from that position in 2005.

Global Queeries conference hosted by Department of English

The Department of English is hosting an international conference May 10 to 13 entitled: “Global Queeries: Sexualities, Globalities, Post Colonialities.” Sexuality and globalization are currently pressing sites of scholarly and creative inquiry. The crisis of AIDS in Africa, the complicated relations between the local and the global, between decolonization and sexual liberation struggles — these represent some key areas of interconnectedness. The organizers of the conference encourage a diversity of political, theoretical, cultural, and practical responses to these areas of critical inquiry. Key questions to address include: Where and how do queer, postcolonial, and anti-racist representations, theories, and practices intersect and diverge? How is heteronormativity implicated in the history of imperialism and colonization, as well as in current neoliberal and global practices? How are sexuality and desire imagined and queered across global spaces? Alternatively, how do sexualities destabilize or resist economic and political structures of globalization? How do lesbian and gay liberation struggles travel theoretically and politically across the globe?

The conference will include a range of presentation formats: panels and individual presentations; research workshops on specific themes or topics; performances, readings, screenings, and exhibits; and round table discussions. Primary interest is in generating spaces for dialogue and connections across geopolitical contexts, and submissions and suggestions for these and other formats are welcomed. For more information, visit: www.uwo.ca/english/global/



'Teacher of teachers' wins award

Department of English's Mark McDayter is winner of the Marilyn Robinson Award for teaching. McDayter has been described as a double agent: both a compelling intellectual and an excellent teacher.

His consistent high ranking in student evaluations reflects not only his successful use of creative teaching methods and his ability to create an exciting learning environment, but also his generous commitment to students as a trusted advisor and counsellor. The assistant professor who teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in Restoration and 18th Century literature and “hypertext” literature, is this year's recipient of the Marilyn Robinson Award of Excellence in Teaching.

McDayter is characterized by colleagues as “our teacher of teachers.” Outside the classroom, McDayter strives to stimulate and inspire students, building an active community of young scholars through the Western Early Modern Society (which he founded) and the Undergraduate English Society. “I remain amazed and deeply gratified that there is a profession which will employ me to do what I would otherwise, in other contexts, willingly do for free: to talk about great literature,” says McDayter. “To be recognized by this award for doing so well is just the icing on the cake.”



Mark McDayter



Relationships – the neglected ‘Fourth R’ – gets national boost

Begun as a research project at Western, The Fourth R is led by David Wolfe of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health Centre for Prevention Science and Peter Jaffe of the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children in the Faculty of Education. It brings “relationships” – the neglected ‘R’ – into the classroom and promotes healthy relationships as a means to combat violence, substance abuse and high-risk sexual behaviour in teens.

Funded by a \$1-million gift from the Royal LePage Shelter Foundation to the Faculty of Education, the relationship-based violence prevention program was launched in Saskatchewan and British Columbia in fall 2005 and expanded to 29 of the 30 high schools in Ontario’s Thames Valley District School Board, where it was piloted. The roll out of the program across Canada will continue over the next five years.

Interim evaluation of The Fourth R shows that the program is 50-per-cent more effective than traditional programs at lowering incidences of physical dating violence among Canadian adolescents. The program also impacted student awareness about drug and alcohol use, showing 82 per cent of students in The Fourth R reported learning new information compared to 63 per cent of students in traditional classes. Other findings included 72 per cent of Fourth R students reporting strong conflict management skills versus less than half (48 per cent) of students in traditional classes.

The playful side of mathematics

George Gadanidis, Chair of Continuing Education at the Faculty of Education has won a Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Award together with Marcelo Borba, Professor of Mathematical Education, the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Both Gadanidis and Borba share the belief that using the new tools provided by on-line technologies changes the way we think, that text learning limits us, and that the tools we use to learn mathematics reorganize our thinking and change the way we see and talk about the subject.

Inspired by his wife, Janette Gadanidis, who is working with contemporary Canadian poets researching digital “performance poetry,” Professor Gadanidis asked himself, “What is performance mathematics?” From there, he took the leap to seeing mathematical education in a digital environment through the artist’s lens of performance. The result was a series of interactive digital poems about math such as: “I see it! It’s invisible!” and “If Parallel lines never meet.”

<http://publish.edu.uwo.ca/george.gadanidis/MATHpoetry/figures/START.html>

Coulter addresses lack of women in politics

Why is there a lack of women in the House of Commons? What, if anything, should be done? Those were some of the questions posed to professor Rebecca Coulter, Maureen McTeer, and professor Elisabeth Gidengil when *Globe and Mail* hosted a series of online discussions in February on women in federal politics.

Rebecca Coulter, professor of education at Western, says there are many reasons for the lack of women in federal politics. Women have traditionally been excluded from the dominant power structures and from the processes where many of the “real” decisions get made in a political party. Coulter also says there are questions about child care and family obligations and whether or not one’s partner is supportive of, or threatened by, a strong woman.

As a lifelong activist, Coulter has learned about politics in a variety of venues, including a two-year term on the board of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women in the late 1980s and service to faculty unions at the local, provincial and national levels. She was an NDP candidate in the 2003 provincial election in Ontario.



Rebecca Coulter



Paul Davenport, President, (left) and Franco Berruti, Dean, Western Engineering (right) presented Keith Zerebecki with the L.S. Lauchland Engineering Alumni Medal.

Western's Engineers Without Borders receives Chapter of the Year honours

Increasing from 15 to 400 members in one year, Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Western received top awards at the EWB National Conference in Ottawa, Ontario January 18-22.

The group was presented with *Chapter of the Year* (tied with Waterloo) and Dean Franco Berruti was acknowledged with *Dean of the Year*.

"I have been inspired by a tremendous group of students that have created a vigorous Western Chapter of Engineers Without Borders," says Berruti. "Engineering is a helping profession. As a centre for engineering education, we are pleased that our students embrace the mission by sharing their expertise and social awareness. Our students are actively contributing to the improvement of living conditions to the less fortunate, globally."

Highlights of EWB Western's accomplishments over the past two years include:

Working with Berruti to declare Make Poverty History Week within the Faculty of Engineering;

Establishing a relationship with Pearl Jam to allow EWB to promote the Make Poverty History campaign at all stops in their Canadian Tour;

Incorporating a six-month design project aimed at providing innovative solutions to today's human development issues enhancement to Western Engineering's first-year curriculum;

Increasing chapter growth from 15 members in September 2004, to 400 members today.

Canadian astronaut is Western's Engineer-in-Residence

In September 2005, Canadian astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason joined Western Engineering as an Engineer-in-Residence (Visiting Professor) from the Canadian Space Agency. He is establishing a research facility at Western Engineering, collaborating with faculty members and graduate students in his field, and sharing his phenomenal experiences with our undergraduate students.

The newly proposed "Engineer-in-Residence" program encourages the development of mutually advantageous partnerships. Companies have the opportunity to place professional engineers in the faculty for a period of time, where they would be able to engage in contract research, co-supervision of graduate students and take advantage of research facilities and expertise to facilitate their product development. In addition, participants could be involved in undergraduate teaching and/or design project supervision. Students will have a chance to learn from experts in industry, giving them an edge as they enter the job market.

For more information on the Engineer-in-Residence program, contact Hesham El Naggat helnaggat@eng.uwo.ca or George Knopf gknopf@engga.uwo.ca at 519-661-2128.



Canadian astronaut Bjarni Tryggvason is Engineer-in-Residence.

Zerebecki receives prestigious alumni medal

Keith Zerebecki, PEng, BESC'72 was presented with the L.S. Lauchland Engineering Alumni Medal at the annual engineering Homecoming dinner October 1 at The Greek Canadian Club. He received this recognition for his many accomplishments and contributions to the profession of engineering, Western Engineering and the community at large.

"Over the years, Keith has served on the External Advisory Council for Western Engineering and has supported his alma mater by promoting student internship and co-op job placements at General Dynamics Land Systems and by hiring Western Engineering students when they graduate," said Dean Franco Berruti. "Keith is also a leader in the community through his involvement in the United Way and Junior Achievement. His contributions to the community go far beyond his profession, and we are honoured to award him with this medal."

To nominate a Western engineering graduate, please contact Virginia Daugharty at 519-661-4209 or vdaughar@uwo.ca.



Jason Teixeira, Masters student in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, spent last summer in Ghana working on a water and sanitation project.



Kimi Maruoka, Coordinator, Graduate Program Liaison

New four-year plan emphasizes ‘best graduate student experience’

In consultation with the faculties, departments, programs, and administrative units and in response to the results of the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey and the Survey of Earned Doctorates, the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) has introduced a number of initiatives in a coordinated attempt to improve Western’s graduate students’ experience in relation to their academic, educational and professional goals. The overarching goal of the new four-year plan is to ensure that Western provides the best graduate student experience in Canada from application to employment.

Some of the plan’s specific targets include:

- decreasing withdrawal rates, particularly at the doctoral level
- leading initiatives to increase the number and diversity of international students
- promoting existing and future interdisciplinary graduate programs and working with the Teaching Support Centre to provide continuing preparation,
- professional training, and mentorship throughout students’ graduate careers

Promoting best practices in graduate education

FGS considers broad consultation a particular priority, especially in a time of rapid growth in graduate studies and active development of new programs, including interdisciplinary and collaborative programs. As the only Faculty with a university-wide mandate, FGS strives to be a leader in fostering dialogue across disciplines, at the faculty and administration level as well as among the graduate student community. In an effort to promote clear and efficient communication and consistency across programs and disciplines, the Faculty of Graduate Studies has recently appointed Kimi Maruoka as Coordinator, Graduate Program Liaison. She will be working with over 70 graduate programs to promote effective communication and best practices.

What can I do with a graduate degree?

To assist graduate students in answering this question, Clare Tattersall, Coordinator, Graduate Student Recruitment and Retention, organized and ran a series of workshops to provide graduate students with the tools and confidence needed to succeed in both the academic and non-academic job search. The workshops were well attended by students from across all disciplines and covered topics ranging from networking to effective resume and CV development, and negotiating job offers. FGS is working to create and expand these types of workshops. “It is important to prepare our graduate students for successful careers both inside and outside of academia” explains Martin Kreiswirth, Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

New programs help decode Canadian classroom

International graduate students come from around the world to Western, with the two largest groups being from China and the Middle East. Currently, there are more than 320 international and 210 permanent resident teaching assistants (TAs) at Western, which represents just under half of the total international and permanent resident students enrolled in graduate programs.

International TAs (ITAs) now have a dedicated resource to help them gain language skills and knowledge of Canadian classroom culture. Nadine Le Gros joined the Teaching Support Centre (TSC) last summer as Language & Communications instructor. With 11 years experience as an English as a Second Language instructor working and studying in Canada, Europe, the Middle East and Asia, Le Gros has been instrumental in developing two new programs: Communication in the Canadian Classroom and Advanced Communication in the Canadian Classroom.

Both programs offer a series of workshops to improve spoken and written English skills of ITAs. Registration in the classes is free and voluntary. Class size is limited to 20 students, with two beginner and two advanced courses offered in the winter term. More classes will be offered in May and June.

For more information on the program: www.uwo.ca/tsc



International TAs develop classroom skills in workshops.



Health Sciences building named for Arthur, Sonia Labatt

Western has named its newest campus building for Arthur and Sonia Labatt in recognition of a \$5-million gift to Health Sciences. The Arthur and Sonia Labatt Health Sciences Building houses state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities, including a simulated hospital ward, a simulated home care unit and a 3-D Virtual Theatre.

The \$5-million gift has been allocated to the following:

- \$2.5 million to the construction of the building
- \$1 million for the Ontario Women's Health Council Chair in Rural Women's Health - the only research position in North America to focus on rural women's health
- \$1 million in support of Ontario Graduate Scholarships (OGS) and Ontario Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology (OGSST) for masters and doctoral students in the Faculty of Health Sciences
- \$500,000 in support of The Western Fund

"This building reminds us of how fortunate Western is to have supporters such as Arthur and Sonia Labatt," says Western President Paul Davenport. "They believe in this University, in the value of post-secondary education and in supporting the fields of health and research."

Arthur and Sonia Labatt are widely recognized for their philanthropic activities. "There are so many worthwhile causes in the world - it is difficult to select those to focus on," says Arthur Labatt, who also serves as Western's Chancellor.

Arthur Labatt grew up in London and his parents, Bessie Labatt and Ontario brewer John S. Labatt, were generous donors and volunteers. Labatt is a recognized leader in finance and investment. Sonia Labatt earned her doctorate in environmental studies in 1995 and is an associate faculty member at the Centre for Environment, the University of Toronto.

"Quality and innovation are integral in the Health Sciences and Arthur and Sonia's gift has helped to realize this beautiful new building with its state-of-the-art features," says Jim Weese, Dean of Health Sciences. "We are a growing Faculty. This new building and exciting amenities will allow us to effectively attract and uniquely prepare the best students. The research labs will serve current and future health science researchers well and help them maintain their competitive position and advantage."



Sonia and Arthur Labatt tour a simulated hospital ward housed in a new building that bears their name.

Unique approach to help manage osteoporosis

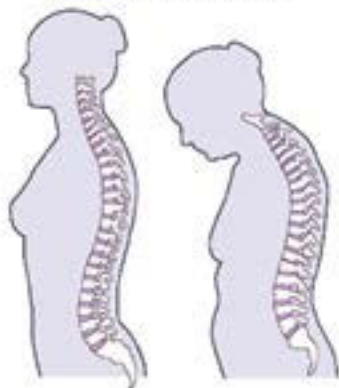
Researchers at Western have launched a research program aimed at identifying and managing osteoporosis care in a community of seniors in London.

One in four women - and one in eight men - suffers from osteoporosis and approximately 50 per cent of women living with osteoporosis in the community are not being treated. To help remedy this problem, Marita Klooseck and Richard Crilly lead a research program that works closely with seniors in the community to provide information about osteoporosis prevention, treatment, management options and available local resources, as well as how to identify individuals at risk. This aspect of the project builds upon previous research in the Cherryhill community and with the Cherryhill Healthy Aging Program.

The project's primary goal is to develop a senior, peer-led program to identify and improve the treatment of osteoporosis in communities of seniors, with peer-led support groups and resource materials developed collaboratively within the community.

Wamsley steps down at Olympic Studies to concentrate on Health Sciences

After six years at the helm of Western's International Centre for Olympic Studies, Kevin Wamsley has left his role as director to concentrate more on his position as Associate Dean (Programs) in the Faculty of Health Sciences. While an internal search for a replacement is ongoing, Professor Emeritus and the Centre's founding director Robert Barney will act as the interim director through June 30.



Osteoporosis in the vertebrae



Nicole Baer holds one of David Vienneau's Western jerseys during the presentation of a journalism scholarship in his name.

New scholarship established from million-dollar donation

Canada's largest media company, CanWest Global Communications Corp., has donated \$1 million to Western's Faculty of Information and Media Studies to establish the CanWest Global Fellowship in Media, and The David Vienneau Journalism Scholarship.

The role of the CanWest Fellow will be to enrich academic programs in the study of media, expand research on significant topics in Canadian media, and promote public discussion on a range of issues related to the nature of Canadian media and the media industry within Canada, including the business of media in Canada.

The position will be advertised widely and successful applicants may include media professionals and/or academics with interests in the media. Appointments to the Fellowship will be for one term (4 months) during each academic year.

David Asper, CanWest Executive Vice President and Chairman of the National Post said this two-pronged gift will be beneficial to the long-term health of Canadian journalism. "Western has been producing some of the best journalists and media professionals for some time now. This is an opportunity for CanWest to contribute to the additional growth of those graduates by giving them access to a mid-career media executive or academic which they otherwise would not have," says Asper.

Students entering the Master of Arts in Journalism Degree program will have the opportunity to be considered for The David Vienneau Journalism Scholarship, the most valuable and prestigious award in the Journalism Program at Western.

Vienneau, who graduated from Western's Journalism Program in 1975, covered federal politics for 23 years. He died a year ago after a brief battle with pancreatic cancer. He was well known to viewers as Global TV's Ottawa Bureau Chief since 1998. David's wife, Nicole Baer, was on hand for presentation of the scholarship.

"David made a tremendous contribution to journalism in Canada, and he embraced the new world of multi-media reporting. Western was always proud to call him an alumnus, and we are honoured that CanWest has selected Western as the home of a scholarship in his name," says Catherine Ross, Dean of the Faculty of Information and Media Studies.

The first recipient of the David Vienneau Journalism Scholarship (\$2500) is journalism student Quentin Casey.

Lynne McKechnie appointed Cleary Visiting Professor

Lynne (E.F.) McKechnie, Associate Professor and Acting Associate Dean in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, has been appointed as the first Cleary Professor (Visiting) at the Information School at the University of Washington.

The Cleary Professorship is believed to be the first fully endowed professorship in children's libraries/children's literature in the world. In announcing this appointment, Dean Emeritus Mike Eisenberg describes McKechnie as a "dynamo [who is] a wonderful and highly knowledgeable teacher in the children's and youth arena, an experienced children's and youth public librarian, a strong advocate for services to children and youth, a very active and respected researcher in children's reading behaviour and development and a leader in major organizations.

McKechnie's tenure as Visiting Cleary Professor runs from January 2006 through August 2007. She will travel to the University of Washington several times during this period, including the week of April 10 - 14, 2006 when she will give a keynote address in honour of Beverly Cleary's 90th birthday. Beverly Cleary is the author of numerous award-winning works for children including the *Henry Huggins* stories, the *Ramona* stories and *The Mouse and the Motorcycle*.



Lynne McKechnie



Exchange Tower in Toronto



Rudy Giuliani

Ivey Announces new Toronto campus

The Richard Ivey School of Business will soon have a teaching facility in downtown Toronto. The Toronto campus, located at the Exchange Tower at 130 King Street West, will be the home of Ivey's Executive MBA Program. The School will become the new occupant of this space on June 1 at which time a major renovation will begin. The renovation will create two tiered classrooms, 10 breakout rooms as well as office space, hospitality capabilities, and a reception area. The project is scheduled to be completed in December 2006.

The new facility will be the home of the EMBA program and will also provide ample opportunity to run non-residential Executive Development programs as well as other activities. Ivey (www.ivey.uwo.ca) offers full-time undergraduate (HBA) and graduate degree programs (MBA and PhD), and Executive MBA programs in addition to non-degree programs in Entrepreneurship and Executive Development. Ivey has campuses in London (Ontario), Toronto, and Hong Kong, where it was the first North American business school to establish a campus in Asia.

For more information about the Ivey Executive MBA Program please visit www.iveyemba.ca

Rudy Giuliani to speak at Crisis Leadership conference

Criticism is intense when a crisis hits and reactions aren't fast enough, or focused enough. Solid leadership in such a situation can make all the difference. Prominent leaders such as former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani are set to gather and share lessons learned at an upcoming National Conference on Crisis Leadership organized by students at Western's Richard Ivey School of Business.

Scheduled for April 21 at the London Convention Centre, Giuliani will be joined by other prominent leaders who have successfully steered organizations through recent disasters. They will reveal what they have learned and offer strategies for success in times of crisis. "In a time of corporate crises, heightened security threats, and a growing number of natural disasters, our ability to think on our feet and act strategically is becoming increasingly relevant," said Ivey MBA student and conference organizer Luzius Wirth.

The day-long conference features a combination of key note addresses and intimate breakout sessions. Speakers include the following:

- Giuliani, on his leadership after the 9/11 attack
- John Kaldeway, President of Greater Toronto Airport Authority, on his management during the Air France jet crash this past summer
- Nigel Fisher, President and CEO of UNICEF Canada, on his experiences with the tsunami relief effort
- Dr. Colin D'Cunha, Chief Medical Officer of Health, on his leadership during the SARS crisis
- Michael Coates, Stephen Harper's Chief Strategist for the Leaders' Debate and President and CEO Hill & Knowlton Canada
- Larry Kamer, President of Manning, Selvage & Lee, has spearheaded prominent crisis management assignments involving product contamination and recalls, industrial accidents, lawsuits and criminal investigations

For more information on the event, and to purchase tickets, please visit: www.iveybuilds.com

'Ivey Connects' with community

A group of Ivey HBA and MBA students is assisting the City of London's Culture Unit in developing a strategy towards making the City more attractive to students. Currently, they are looking for Western students to participate in various focus groups. This is a great opportunity for students to get involved with the University and the City - and make a difference. Limited spaces are available, and contributions will be recognized. For more information, please visit: www.ivey.uwo.ca/iveyconnects/

Dean Holloway appointed Nova Scotia Queen's Counsel

Western Law Dean Ian Holloway has become the first dean of a law school, other than Dalhousie University, to be appointed a Nova Scotia Queen's Counsel (QC). The appointment, made in December 2005 by Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor Myra A. Freeman, recognizes Holloway's contribution to legal education and his work to promote the interests of the legal profession in Nova Scotia.

Holloway was admitted to the Bar of Nova Scotia in 1986, where he practiced for a number of years with the Atlantic Canadian law firm McInnes Cooper - focusing on labour, administrative and admiralty law.

Originally appointed Dean of Law in 2000, Holloway has been re-appointed through June 30, 2011 to provide leadership and strategic direction to a faculty with more than 500 students.

Before joining Western, Holloway was Associate Dean of Law at the Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra. He holds both Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Laws degrees from Dalhousie University. In 1992, he completed a Master of Laws at the University of California at Berkeley, and was awarded a PhD from ANU in 1992.

Nova Scotia is among the jurisdictions to have reformed the QC appointments process. They are now made by the Crown on the recommendation of an independent committee - which is chaired by a judge of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia.



Dean Ian Holloway

Two law alumni re-elected

Western Law Alumni Sue Barnes (LLB'77) and Jim Peterson (LLB'64) were both re-elected in the recent federal election.

Sue Barnes was first elected Member of Parliament for London West in 1993 and was re-elected in 1997, 2000 and 2004. Most recently, she was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. Prior to this position, she served as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada with special emphasis on Judicial Transparency and Aboriginal Justice.

Jim Peterson was first elected to the House of Commons in 1980. He won his second term in the 1988 general election and has been a member of the House since then. In 2003, he was appointed Minister of International Trade. He served as Secretary of State (International Financial Institutions) from June 1997 until January 2002. Between 1993 and 1997, Mr. Peterson was Chair of the Standing Committee on Finance. Previously, he served as Parliamentary Secretary to three Ministers.

CAW funds internship in labour law

The Canadian Auto Workers (CAW), one of Canada's largest unions, is generously funding the Robert White International Student Internship in Labour Law. In November 2005, Western Law hosted CAW President Buzz Hargrove and former President Bob White at a reception to announce the Internship. Applications for the first internship closed in February. This is part of Western Law's commitment to enable its students to succeed in an increasingly global legal system.

The Internship is worth \$12,500 which will cover airfare to Geneva, living expenses for the summer, and money towards next year's education. The successful student will be placed with the Equality Office of the International Labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, the agency of the United Nations that works to create better workplaces across the globe. The intern will assist the Equality Office with the preparation for the ILO's 2007 global report on equality in the workplace. The Internship will run from early May to late August. For more information, please visit: www.ilo.org.



Bob White



Dave Hill

Curing diabetes focus of \$1.8 million donation

Losing a loved one to diabetes has led to a \$1.8-million gift to the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. The generous donation was made by the Estates of Wallace and Betty Weinstein in memory of their son, Sheldon H. Weinstein, who died prematurely after a lengthy battle with diabetes.

David Hill, who is internationally recognized for his work in this area, has been appointed to the *Sheldon H. Weinstein Chair in Diabetes Research*. He is a professor in the Departments of Medicine, Physiology & Pharmacology, and Paediatrics, and is Scientific Director of the Lawson Health Research Institute.

“We want to close the circle here in London, Ontario where the discovery of insulin was made by Dr. Frederick Banting,” says Gudrun Weinstein. “Our intent with this donation is to find the cure and extinguish the flame at Banting House forever.” Wally Weinstein and daughter-in-law Gudrun previously committed \$250,000 to create and fund the *Sheldon H. Weinstein Scientist in Diabetes Research*.

Unlocking the secrets of the human genome

Two Schulich Medicine & Dentistry researchers are working on unique projects to understand how genes and proteins influence disease, thanks to new funding from Genome Canada and the Ontario Genomics Institute.

Rob Hegele, Department of Medicine, received \$15.4 million to undertake a complete structural and functional annotation of genes associated with diseases. Working with colleagues from the University of Toronto, the project aims to deliver a “new improved edition” of the human genome map. Dr. Hegele holds the Edith Schulich Vinet Canada Research Chair in Human Genetics and the Jacob J. Wolfe Distinguished Medical Research Chair in Human Gene Function and is a Robarts Research Institute Scientist. Over the past 15 years, his work has led to identifying the cause of eight diseases and more than 100 genetic mutations related to high cholesterol, diabetes and heart disease.

Shawn Li, Department of Biochemistry, is a co-investigator on a \$21.4-million project to map the dynamic interactions within human cells. Working with Tony Pawson and Jeff Wrana from Toronto’s Mount Sinai Hospital, Li will help map protein interactions within cells to determine whether diseases, such as cancer, result not only from changes to individual genes and proteins but from changes in the cellular network. The project is expected to lead to new proteomic and computer technologies as well as innovative cancer therapies.



Rob Hegele

Faculty members honoured

Several faculty members have received significant national awards over the past few months. **Jeff Dixon** (MSc’75, DDS’77), Department of Physiology & Pharmacology and Division of Oral Biology, Dentistry, received a Quality of Life Award from the CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis for the top-funded CIHR project with a focus on diseases and conditions of the musculoskeletal system.

Anthony Jevnikar (BSc’76, MSc’77, MD’81), Departments of Medicine and Microbiology & Immunology, was recognized by the Kidney Foundation of Canada with the Medal for Research Excellence, the organization’s top national award for renal-related research.

In December, Dean **Carol Herbert** was presented with the Ian McWhinney Family Medicine Education Award from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Named for Ian McWhinney, founder of the Department of Family Medicine at Western and the first Chair of Family Medicine in Canada, the award recognizes an outstanding teacher who has made a significant contribution to family medicine education in Canada.



Jeff Dixon



James McKay

McKay celebrates Mozart with new recording

CBC joined the rest of the world in celebrating Mozart's 250th anniversary with several new recordings. One of those, *Mozart?*, features the Festival Winds and James McKay as one of the bassoonists. McKay, chair of the Department of Music Performance, said the question mark refers to the uncertainty about Mozart's authorship of the works for winds. Listeners can make up their minds after hearing the octets, but McKay knows his opinion. The music falls in the tradition of late 18th century harmoniemusik for winds. The classic harmonie band of pairs of clarinets, oboes, French horns, and bassoons flourished in Mozart's last 10 years and for a decade beyond. It played an important part in the social and musical life of the Austro-Hungarian Empire from 1782 until the rise of Napoleon. The recording also includes a bonus track of Beethoven's *Rondino in E flat*.

Green in demand on world stage

Mezzo soprano Patricia Green, BMus'81, Coordinator of Voice Division in the Faculty of Music, is known for her expressive voice and three-octave range. She is much sought-after for premieres and as a result, performs frequently at top concert halls around the world. Most recently, Green sang *Puneiga*, a chamber work by Swiss composer and oboist Heinz Holliger, with the composer conducting at the St. Lawrence Centre in Toronto. The performance was broadcast nationally on CBC Radio. In December, Green was featured with Leon Fleisher by the Cygnus Ensemble in a concert of works by American Dina Koston at the new recital hall of Carnegie Hall, New York. She sang the world premiere of *A Short Tale* for voice and piano, and the second performance of *Wordplay* for solo voice to rave reviews. In February, Green sang George Crumb's *Journey Through Time* (2003), settings of spirituals for voice, percussion and amplified piano, and songs by African-American composer George Walker. Her recordings of these songs were released last spring.



Patricia Green

Faculties team up to present Musicians and their Maladies

The cause of Beethoven's deafness received much attention after a book revealed his hair analysis. Did the hearing loss affect his work? *Musicians and their Maladies* was a free lecture series presented by the Don Wright Faculty of Music and Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry in January and February. As well as Beethoven's hearing loss, the informal lectures looked at Mozart and heart disease; jazz musicians and substance abuse; and voice production and physiology.

"The series stems from our enthusiasm with the great success we had last year about Medicine and Art," said Dr. Jim Silcox, Vice-Dean of Education, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. "We were able to connect great art with the medical illnesses that the artists who produced it were dealing with. We thought we would like to make the same links between Music and Medicine by looking at the facts, or conjecture, about the illnesses and problems composers were struggling with. It will be up to the public to decide whether the medical problems actually contributed something positive to the works produced, had no effect, or held the musicians back from reaching their potential."

Wiebe performance aired on CBC

A cellist with the internationally acclaimed Duke Trio, Western music professor Thomas Wiebe, along with musical colleagues violinist Mark Fewer and pianist Peter Longworth, brought the works of Beethoven to three shows in London earlier this year. The show in Western's von Kuster Hall was recorded by CBC and aired twice on CBC Radio 2 - on Keith Horner's show *Music Around Us* and on Eric Friesen's *Studio Sparks*.



Peter Brown

Has science found rare meteorite dumping ground?

When Peter Brown and Penny King think Prairie harvest these days, they have something in mind besides wheat and barley. Last year delivered a bumper crop of meteorites for the Canadian men and women who hunt for extraterrestrial rocks. Four meteorites were found on Canadian soil of which three came from a relatively small geographic area in Manitoba.

The three Manitoba discoveries were found through an initiative called the Prairie Meteorite Search. Peter Brown, a researcher in Western's Department of Physics and Astronomy, helped launch the Prairie Meteorite Search and he's been following the finds quite closely. "A one-off find in the bush could be said to be chance but finding three is amazing," he says.

Besides their close proximity, the meteorites are also fascinating because of their age. Given their weathered condition, they have spent thousands of years on earth. Perhaps more significantly all the rocks came from different meteorite bodies. Other places in the world have been found with this phenomenon -- the Australian desert, northwest Africa, southwest United States, Antarctica -- but this is a first for Canada.

Penny King, assistant professor in the Department of Earth Sciences, says the recent Canadian discoveries are wonderful. "This finding is really important because there are a lot of dumping grounds in Canada where people haven't thought to look for meteorites before."

Senior alumni learn about nano world

Small, smaller, smallest aren't anywhere near nano-small as was discovered recently by Western's Senior Alumni. Every Tuesday, this large group meets to hear lectures -- and one recent talk concerned things that are incredibly small.

Entitled, 'Nano, Nano - Why the Buzz?' the presentation by Ian Mitchell, Professor Emeritus (Physics and Astronomy), plugged alumni into a whole new nano-world that is intriguing scientists and politicians alike, and taking the world by storm. Exactly what is a nano was the first topic on Mitchell's agenda. A nano is an incredibly small unit of measurement. It follows after milli and micro in size designation and represents one billionth.

But the nano world is more than a curiosity - nano technology is hitting the marketplace, he says. Nano technology is also impacting the energy sector, being used with fuel cells, and also in the electronics and medical sectors, he says.

Western also has a major place in the nano world. In September of 2004, the Nanofabrication Laboratory opened in the Physics and Astronomy Building. It cost \$7.5 million to build and equip and has \$15 million allotted for supporting research.

Animated about 'hungry young stars'

Two Western stargazers are gaining broad acclaim for animating the results of their research on young stars - and along the way becoming stars of their own. Shantanu Basu of the Department of Physics and Astronomy and post-doctoral fellow Eduard Vorobyov have discovered why some young stars significantly increase their brightness.

The stars in question are FU Ori stars that can brighten by as much as 300 times in one year, says Basu. The research shows there are discs of material which create clumps called protoplanetary embryos. The embryos spiral into the central star and eventually become consumed. When that happens, Basu says, a burst of light ensues. "It's kind of like throwing logs into a fireplace," he says.

On Jan. 11, Basu presented the findings in Washington, D.C. to the American Astronomical Society and, animation in hand, later spoke with 40 to 45 science reporters. After the conference, their work made it to a 'best of...' DVD presenting the top animated images. The two scientists are now responding to invitations to speak at various educational institutions, culminating with a trip to Harvard University in April.



Ian Mitchell



Shantanu Basu



Aubrey Dan

\$5M gift renames Social Science program

A \$5-million gift from Western alumnus Aubrey Dan, BASC'85, will rename one of the most popular programs in the Faculty of Social Science.

"This gift will substantially improve the quality of teaching and research in our faculty," says Faculty of Social Science Dean Brian Timney. About one-third of Social Science students are enrolled in the program which offers business education within the framework of various social science disciplines.

In effect, the program is undergoing two name changes. With the first, the name of the degree changes from Bachelor of Administrative and Commercial Studies to Bachelor of Management and Organizational Studies, or BMOS. In the second change, it becomes the Aubrey Dan Program in Management and Organizational Studies to recognize the sponsor.

The financial support will be allocated as follows:

- \$3 million to establish the DanCap Investments Chair in Accounting;
- \$925,000 in support of DanCap Investments Undergraduate Management and Organizational Studies;
- \$575,000 in support of the DanCap Investments Faculty Research Fund to be used for research projects, salaries and benefits for researchers, recruitment of research teams, workshops and seminars and other areas;
- and \$500,000 in support of DanCap Investments Faculty Fellowships.

This is the second donation to Western from the Dan family. In June 2002, the family – Aubrey, two siblings and his father, Leslie – made a donation of \$100,000 to Foundation Western to support the highest needs of the BACS program including student awards, research support, faculty attendance at conference and lectures, and visiting lecturers.

Two Social Science professors win teaching awards

Michael Atkinson, Department of Psychology (23 years at Western), has won the Pleva Award for teaching. "Teaching is the single most important thing we do here at the University," says Michael Atkinson. "To cultivate knowledge and watch it grow is immensely rewarding." It's that attitude that makes Atkinson stand out as one of this year's Pleva award winners. Atkinson, known to students as "Dr. Mike," is not only well known at Western, but also nationally for his expertise in teaching to hundreds of students in the popular "SuperPsych" Psychology 020 class. One of his nominators described him as "an extraordinarily gifted teacher who has revolutionized the way large classes are taught."



Michael Atkinson

Nigmendra Narain, Department of Political Science (5 1/2 years at Western) has won the Angela Armit Award for teaching. Nigmendra Narain has become one of the Department Political Science's most treasured assets. With expertise in international politics, Narain is described as a devoted teacher and team player with a model classroom presence. He is also seen by students as engaging, electrifying, innovative and a master at immersing his class in subjects both intellectually and emotionally. And now Narain is being recognized for his contributions to teaching with the Angela Armit Award of Excellence in Teaching by Part-time Faculty.



Nigmendra Narain

Western professor wins anthropology award

Regna Darnell, professor of anthropology and director of the First Nations Studies Program at Western was named winner of the 2005 American Anthropological Association's Franz Boas Award for Exemplary Service to Anthropology during the association's annual meeting in December.

The Franz Boas Award is given annually to recognize AAA members' career achievements in a science or in service to anthropology. This award is the association's highest honor. Beyond her service to the AAA, Darnell is committed to scholarship, having published several books and contributed to other works on the history of anthropology. Her anthropological research focuses on linguistic interactions in Native American communities.



Margaret Banks

Law Library opens new conference room

The Law Library has a sumptuous new conference room showcasing its collection of legal humour books. Located on the top floor, next to the current periodicals reading room, *The Margaret A. Banks Room* is richly appointed with a cherry finish conference table and jet black chairs. The room's unusual trapezoid shape lends it a cosy welcoming atmosphere. Glass fronted, custom-made wooden bookcases stand eight-feet high, lining two of the walls, housing the nascent legal humour collection including such titles as *Juris-Jocular: An Anthology of Modern American Humor*, *Looney Laws & Silly Statutes*, and *Disorderly Conduct: Verbatim Excerpts from Actual Cases*. In addition, the Banks Room is a repository for texts written by Western's law faculty as well as the law school's local history collection – scrapbooks, videotapes, and calendars.

The *Banks Room* officially opened in September, construction of which was one component of the Law Building expansion project undertaken by the Faculty of Law. Banks was on hand for the festivities to meet and reminisce with numerous friends and colleagues. Known for her wonderful sense of humour, she agreed it is fitting the room should include these (legal humour) works where she hopes many cheerful and productive meetings take place in the future. The Law Library's reference/collections librarian, Marianne Welch, who came up with the theme for collection, continues to search for and acquire suitable titles.

Banks was law librarian from 1961 – 1989.

Top Marks for Western Libraries

In the *Globe and Mail's* 2005 University Report Card published in November, Western students gave the Libraries top marks. With three solid "As" for library services, library, and online library resources, Western led the ratings of the 10 large-sized universities. Student and faculty input is key to library planning and development of services and resources, and the *G&M* Report Card provides one more indicator of how well Western Libraries is meeting the current needs of users.

Staff members are delighted with the top marks. Asked how she would rate Western Libraries, Emily Morrison, a fourth-year student at the Don Wright Faculty of Music agreed, "Western Libraries deserves the high grade they received. The staff is both knowledgeable and helpful, and the collections are extensive. I have relied heavily on Western Libraries during my studies here."



Kristina Dubois, Library Assistant at Music Library and Emily Morrison, 4th-year music student.

Libraries at Western also did well in the annual *Maclean's* university rankings in November. The library data collected in the *Maclean's* survey is quantitative rather than qualitative, focused on library budgets and holdings. In the category of medical and doctoral universities, campus libraries placed first for the proportion of the library budget allocated to updating the university's collection, second in the percentage of the university budget devoted to maintaining library services, and fourth in total library holdings and holdings per student. Overall the *Maclean's* data demonstrates Western's continued commitment to providing a top-notch research library in support of faculty and student teaching, learning, and research.



Small town life in "Stars of the Town" collection

Stars of the Town Gift

Dubbed the *Stars of the Town* by their creator, the late Reverend Leroy H. Massecar, this gift to Western Libraries from Leroy's wife, Reverend Marion Massecar, is a collection of 84 black and white films that depict day-to-day life in small town southwestern Ontario from 1947 to 1949.

In order to supplement his modest church stipend, Rev. Massecar decided to use his interest in film to generate some additional income. After seeking permission from local authorities, he would visit small towns and film as many of the people and events as he could. He would then return to the community to show the films, charging a modest admission price. Where there was interest, he would also sell copies of the film.

The collection provides a rare opportunity to view life as it was once lived throughout southwestern Ontario: a time when small towns were prosperous and self-sufficient. The communities represented were on the cusp of change, with dramatic transformations taking place shortly after the films were produced. The films are housed in the J.J. Talman Regional Collection. Alan Noon and Charlie Egleston, Media Specialists from the Faculties of Science and Arts and Humanities, have been working together to digitize this unique collection.



Andy Fantuz – the all-time CIS leader in receiving yards, receptions and TD receptions – captured the fifth Hec Crighton in Western's history in 2005 as the top Canadian player in university football.

One Hec of a Season

Western Mustang standout receiver Andy Fantuz was named the 2005 Hec Crighton Trophy winner awarded annually to the CIS football player of the year.

Fantuz, a social science student from Chatham, Ont., completed his fourth university campaign holding arguably the three most prestigious CIS career receiving marks with 189 catches, 4,123 yards and 41 touchdowns. The 6-foot-4, 220-pound Mustang wideout led the nation for the 2005 regular season with 12 touchdown receptions, tied for first with 44 catches, and finished second in receiving yards (825).

The four-time All-Canadian has garnered the attention of both NFL and CFL teams and was selected to represent Canada at the 81st edition of the East-West Shrine Game on January 21 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas the annual NCAA football all-star showcase.

Fantuz recovered from a major injury suffered in the spring to lead Western to its first appearance in the OUA Yates Cup since 1998. He required a number of surgeries after injuring his left thigh while playing in the Gus Macker 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament.

Women's Rugby repeats as national champions

On November 6, the Western women's rugby team captured their second straight CIS gold medal and also threepated as OUA champions.



Co-captain Barbara Mervin (shown in photo), a fourth-year flanker for the Mustangs, was named the 2005 CIS women's rugby player of the year.

Mustang Hockey tramples competition at JLC

The Western men's hockey team's move to their new digs – the John Labatt Centre, located right in the heart of downtown London – proved very successful as the team rattled off a perfect 12-0 home record in 2005-06, en route to an OUA-best regular season record of 21-2-1.

Captain Jamie Chamberlain, a draft pick of the Dallas Stars in the 1999 NHL Draft, picked up his 100th career OUA point on a goal in the regular season finale, a 4-2 win over Western's archrivals – the Lakehead Thunderwolves. Western's leading scorer Sal Peralta also netted a pair of goals that night and finished the

In the last four seasons, Western has claimed two CIS gold medals (2004 and 2005), one silver (2002) and one CIS bronze (2003) at nationals.

season fourth in OUA scoring with 34 points while former Erie Otter Mike Rice added a single and ended up 10th in the scoring race with 30 points.

Both Chamberlain and Peralta were named OUA all-stars for their efforts in 2005-06 as were defenceman Matt Bannan and netminder Scott Dickie, who won a Memorial Cup with the Kitchener Rangers. Rice was signed by the ECHL's Wheeling Nailers at the close of the season, which ended prematurely in the OUA West semifinals.

The defending OUA champions, playing out of Thompson Arena due to a scheduling conflict with the Scott Tournament of Hearts, fell in three games to the Thunderwolves.

With the 21 wins this season, Western's Head Coach Clarke Singer now holds a career regular season record of 144-18-7 in seven seasons with the Mustangs – an incredible 87% winning percentage. Due in large part to Western's 21-2-1 record, Singer was named the OUA coach of the year.

Netminder Brad Topping, a 2002 NHL draft pick of the New York Islanders, was named to the OUA all-rookie team as was forward Evan Kotsopolous.



Second-year forward Sal Peralta, a former Windsor Spitfire and St. Michael's Major, leads the Mustangs in scoring. Western is undefeated at their new home – the John Labatt Centre.

To purchase tickets for Mustang Hockey in person visit the John Labatt Centre Box Office, located at Gate 1 or the Mustang Ticket Office, located at The University of Western Ontario UCC Room 67 at Campus Recreation. Tickets (both season and individual game) are available by phone at 1-866-4-JLC-TIX (1-866-455-2849) or via the Internet at: <http://www.westernmustangs.ca>

PRESS

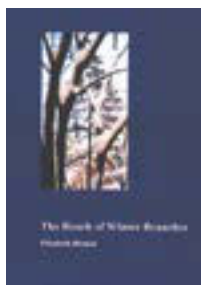
SPRING

Spring is the first novel by **Emily-Jane Hills Orford (BA'78)**. It takes elements of her music background to weave a tale of a young musician's growing career. In 1725, Antonio Vivaldi wrote the music for *The Four Seasons*. Each season has its reason, its significance, its purpose, its own symbolism. Life is like the four seasons. *Spring* is Melanie Harris's story. She is a talented young violinist with a valuable Grancino violin. There is a secret inside her violin, a secret only she and her mother should know, but somehow others have found out. The story follows a journey of Melanie's growth as a musician, the people she meets, the friends she makes, the losses she suffers. Vivaldi's music is the cornerstone of Melanie's musical career as well as her life, as she takes her instrument and her music around the world. For more information visit: www.publishamerica.com



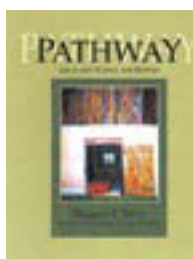
THE REACH OF WINTER BRANCHES

The Reach of Winter Branches by **Elizabeth Bieman (BA'45)** is her first collection of poems. Bieman's gift is to see in the concrete, everyday images of her present world truths that illuminate moments of insight in her past. We all dream of seeing our lives as significant wholes. What Bieman's poems present is less a single coherent drama than a kaleidoscope of meaningful patterns, intriguingly readjusted with each turn of the page. This is poetry of having lived, and living – a global assembly of nostalgia, humour and whimsy. She brings her changing environments with her like a friendly backpack. *The Reach of the Winter Branches* is available locally in London at Oxford Books, Wendell Holmes and the BookStore at Western.



PATHWAY

For **Margaret Derry (BA'67)**, life is a journey to knowledge, learning and spirit. In *Pathway* we see history as cohesive force binding childhood to mature full flourish of intellectual achievement. The death of Margaret's mother prompts introspection; a pathway to understanding that the world of knowledge is a continuum; a spectrum of inquisitiveness, investigation and revelation spanning the nostalgic moments of youth and the studied world of adulthood. For her this includes a decade of self directed painting, studies of science and history leading to artistic and academic achievement; the writing of learned papers, of books, of the raising of a family and the breeding of purebred cattle. We are treated to her metaphysical journey, touching on its way stories of dinosaurs, of barns and the critters they house, and memories of Killarney, northern Georgian Bay. For more information, visit: www.poplarlane.net



BABY BOOMER HEALTH DYNAMICS: HOW ARE WE AGING?

Baby Boomer Health Dynamics: How Are We Aging? by **Andrew Wister (BA'78, MA'79, PhD'85)** unravels the exercise-obesity paradox. Today's aging baby boomers are much better behaved, when it comes to leading a healthy lifestyle, than their middle-aged and senior counterparts of 25 years ago. But, for one paradoxical reason, they are not aging any better than their forefathers. Wister, an internationally respected gerontologist and chair of Simon Fraser University's gerontology department, says Canadians' Achilles heel is their weight: they are fatter than ever. "Comparing the baby boomers today with persons their age 25 years ago, smoking has declined by half; sedentary and infrequent exercise has dropped by 40 percent, and heavy drinking is down by two-thirds," explains Wister. *Baby Boomer Health Dynamics: How are we aging?* concludes that today's boomers may bust society's health budget if they do not reign in their waistlines. www.sfu.ca/mediapr/news_releases/archives/news09220501.htm



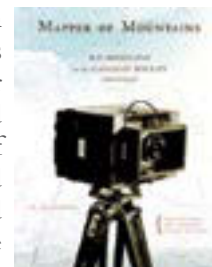
CANADIAN FRANCHISE LAW HANDBOOK

The *Canadian Franchise Law Handbook* by **Daniel F. So (BA'96), LLB**, explains the rights and obligations of franchisees and franchisors pursuant to the three governing statutory regimes in Canada, (namely those in place in Alberta, Ontario and in short measure, Prince Edward Island) and canvasses franchise regulation in the rest of Canada and the U.S. Whether you represent franchisees or franchisors or wish to purchase a franchise, this book will help you identify and resolve issues before they become problems and increase the likelihood that both sides will prosper. Additionally, a clause-by-clause annotation of a sample franchise agreement and disclosure document is offered to help decode legalese and the contract technicalities. For more information, visit: www.lexisnexis.ca/bookstore



MAPPER OF MOUNTAINS: M.P. BRIDGLAND IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, 1902-1930

Mapper of Mountains by **Ian MacLaren (BA'75, MA'77, PhD'83)**, follows the career of Dominion Land Surveyor Morrison Parsons Bridgland, who provided the first detailed maps of many regions of the Canadian Rockies. Between 1902 and 1930, this unheralded alpinist perfected phototopographical techniques to compile a series of mountaintop photographs during summers of field work, and spent his winters collating them to provide the Canadian government, tourists, and mountain climbers with accurate topographical maps. For more information, please visit: www.uap.ualberta.ca/UAPasp?LID=41&bookID=651



Q. How has this all been received by the public or the people at the conference?

A. The people at the conference loved the work. In fact they couldn't believe this type of work existed in Canada without their knowledge. The public has not yet received my medical students' work. I have written six plays that have toured Canada, United States and other countries. The public is aware of the work we do at Schulich through my plays. I'm hoping Josh Landry's play will tour.

Q. Were you surprised this course was the first of its kind in the world?

A. The reason our program here was the first of its kind in the world is the fact that ethics tended to be taught by either philosophers or physicians – or nursing ethics would have been taught by nurses. We had not come to the point where we're doing trans-disciplinary education in research. And I had a unique opportunity to bring it all through the arts when the Westminster Institute of Ethics and Human Values folded here at Western (in 1986). The Westminster Institute was at one point Canada's leading ethics research institute. And for a number of reasons, the ethicists found they had greater access to graduate students and could do their research better at other locations and eventually funding was cut by the Harris (provincial) government – from both the university and the hospital. This was something that was considered a frill and dropped. When that happened, because I'm a professor in the medical school, my salary is protected. So, the dean asked me if I would take over teaching all of the ethics. I said I'd do it. But I wanted to do it as I had always explored ethical issues and that is through compassion, through feeling, through relationships. They allowed me to do this and it's just grown from there.

Q. Have you had interest from other doctors in duplicating this program at other institutions?

A. Dalhousie started a medical school choir – and now has a Chair in Medical

Humanities. Dalhousie also has the painting of Robert Tope. So they do some medical humanities. There is a small course in medical humanities, four modules, in University of Manitoba and probably some others. I know there's interest now in trying to model what we've done in several schools, like the University of Alberta. But there's nothing anywhere in the world that approaches to any degree the scope and magnitude of what we've been doing at Western the last 10 years.

Q. Is there political interest – provincially or federally -- to have your course or something similar as a compulsory class for Canadian medical students?

A. The federal government is very interested in what we're doing and is using one of my plays, *Orchids*, to go across the country to find out what citizens think about an emerging reproductive genetic technology called "Pre-Implantation Genetic Diagnosis" (PGD). The CIHR (Canadian Institute of Health Research) is interested in what I'm doing and have funded me heavily to see if indeed theatre can, either through large audience discussions or focus groups, engage the citizens of Canada in health policy development.

Q. Why did you decide to do your play about violence against women? Do you think the general public has a good awareness of these issues?

A. My play concerning violence against women, which is called "When No Bruises Clue" stems from a short story that I wrote that was published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal that explored my experience standing behind a man at a pay phone up north where he was abusing and interrogating his wife leaving no doubt in my mind there was an abused woman on the other end of the phone but me not having the knowledge if he physically beat her or mentally abused her and decided that it didn't make a difference either way. This was spousal abuse and it dawned on me that physicians recognize bruises and broken bones but have no idea unless they search for it the emotional

abuse that can occur in relationships. So I wrote a play to explore that using the story of an activist in London, Cathy Tomanack, and I also made a play out of Susan Glasbow's *Jury of Her Peers*, and brought it all together in an interactive module where the woman comes out of the play, reads the short story, then the physician interviews her and then the audience gets caught up in it, thinks that the actor (medical student actors) is the psychologically abused woman and through what the audience members say and don't say the issues just come to the forefront about how little we understand about psychological abuse.

Q. Your courses are done for new students and new people coming through the medical ranks. Do think there's a place in these courses for seasoned doctors – as participants or audience members at plays?

A. Absolutely, for professional development. We do all the plays nationally in front of professional societies. *Sarah's Daughters* has toured in front of many, many professional societies and is still on tour doing that. People do use my plays for this. *Child on Her Mind* was done in front of national organizations. But *Sarah's Daughters*, because it's a one-woman show and it's inexpensive, has been done all over the place – in the States and in Africa.

**Dr. Jeff Nisker has received many teaching awards including the first Canadian Association of Medical Educators Award of Merit, Western's Students' Council Award of Excellence, the Douglas Bocking Award (presented to the member of faculty who, in the opinion of graduating medical students has made the most outstanding contribution to their education), and the Association of Professors of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada Educator of the Year Award. Nisker has received the SOGC President's Award for the most significant contribution to obstetrics and gynaecology in Canada, as well as other national awards. He was chosen by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's Peter Gzowski as one of the 13 "Best Minds of Our Time." TM*

Coast to coast fever

Alumni branches from Halifax to Victoria and beyond

By David Scott

The creation and launch of a new Halifax Branch in November 2005 marked a coast-to-coast achievement for Alumni Western with branches spanning from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Associate Director of Alumni Relations, Ryan Rodrigues, was on hand to help mark the launch of the Halifax branch at Juno Tower on the Canadian Forces Base. Alumni were hosted by Rear-Admiral Daniel G. McNeil (BA'72), Commander Martin Pelletier (LLB'92) and Lt. Pat Jessup (BA'72).

Sometimes it isn't always alumni who have graduated 10 or 20 years ago that show interest in keeping stronger connections. Because of Branch President Kelsey Green (BESc'04), the Halifax area now has an active organization and a new young volunteer leader. "He wanted to take a leadership role," says Rodrigues. Green graduated from Western, moved to Halifax and fell in love with the area.

He represents one of hundreds of volunteers across the country who shares a passion about Western that translates into countless volunteer hours. "I think the enthusiasm people have at Western translates to pride and nostalgia," says Rodrigues. "They want to maintain relationships from the past and make new friendships. It's a great network,"

Alumni



Participants in one of many "Off to Western" programs hosted by Western in branches across Canada and internationally.

branches at Western are defined as geographical locations and chapters are designated by affiliation. "We look to areas with populations of 1,000 alumni or greater to establish branches," says Rodrigues, noting 75 per cent of branches are in Ontario. Alumni Western also hears from individuals who come forward wanting more activity in their area. "We look at requests on a case-by-case basis. We're happy to have contacts wherever people want to fly the Western flag. That helps us because if a Western grad moves to a different region of the world, that might be the first person they contact," says Rodrigues.

In the U.S., Alumni Western often pairs up with other Canadian universities to host joint events or smaller events in someone's home. While traditional branch events might have 100 to 150 people attend, Alumni Western also likes to foster smaller get-togethers of 20 or 25 people that a volunteer might want to host in their home.

Volunteers sign an oath of confidentiality for the handling of information to contact alumni in their area. Most of the communication, like invitations to events, comes directly from the University. For those registered to the online Alumni Community, they receive e-mail invitations to events. Other ways to reach alumni include local media to advertise events. "We want to get the word out as many ways as possible and be cost efficient. We don't have current contact information

for every alumni. Reconnecting with alumni is part of our mission," says Rodrigues.

During the course of a year, Alumni Western likes to host three to four events at active branches with a variety of themes. "The age range does vary. An older demographic are more apt to go to a formal event in a private club, speaker reception or president's reception. We might also host a cocktail reception at a bar or have a Rick McGhie night or a golf tournament. Some of these events can span the gamut of ages. We encourage all ages of alumni to come to all of the events." The success of the branches and chapters rests on the volunteers, on the leadership of the Alumni Association board and the integral work that staff does, says Rodrigues.

Western is graduating more young alumni now than it ever has in its history. To attract new students at the recruitment end, more emphasis is being placed on the "Off to Western" programs run by Student and Young Alumni Outreach Officer Christina Fox. High school students from places like Hong Kong, Calgary, Vancouver or Ottawa are invited to a branch in their city for a chance to talk with alumni about their experiences at Western.

"We're creating an educational process whereby the 17 or 18-year-old students already know about the Alumni Association and should they return to their hometown or any other part of the world where we have Western alumni they become part of a larger family," says Rodrigues.

Western president Paul Davenport and senior administration travel extensively for

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Youngest president in history set to begin term

Jeremy Adams, BA'94, will head Western's Alumni Association

By David Scott

At 33, Jeremy Adams, of Toronto, will be the youngest president to serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. He is also the first graduate from outside of London to serve as president in the history of the Alumni Association. Jeremy was recruited to the Board of Directors in 1997. Before joining he was asked to sit on the Nominating Committee "because they were looking at tapping into a lot younger alumni to try and change the demographic profile of the board." His role as president takes effect in May.

Q. Why is it important for new grads/young alumni to get connected with the Alumni Association early?

A. Anytime is a great time to get connected with the Alumni Association but I think that recent grads and young alumni can benefit greatly by getting involved early. Early involvement can provide grads with valuable networking opportunities that can assist in career development through contact with other graduates with similar experiences.

Q. What are the biggest challenges you see as president and for the Association?

A. Number one, we need to connect with current students. We need to demonstrate to them the value of the alumni relationship. We need to engage them before they leave school. That means that we have an active understanding of student life, of student issues. And we can demonstrate the role that alumni can play in addressing those issues.

I think a big challenge is engaging people on a volunteer basis, specifically young

alumni. We have extremely talented staff, very committed people who work on behalf of Alumni Relations, a lot of youth, a lot of experience, a lot of energy. It's a great combination.

Q. Name one of the best accomplishments of the Alumni Association in the past 5 years?

A. Number one is Backpack 2 Briefcase. It is the quintessential alumni contribution to student life. It is phenomenally well received by the students who are involved in it. It started from nothing, grew into panel discussions and now is a regular program involving hundreds if not thousands of students across campus hearing firsthand from alumni what their experiences are – their hopes and fears and challenges as professionals.

Q. Do you think it's important for the Alumni Association to have interaction with university administration and the University Students' Council (USC)?

As a former student leader and someone who has been active in the alumni community for years, there are some significant role models I look to as people who put an alumni face on alumni interaction with administration, and with students. Two people I dealt with as a student and as an alumni are Jim Etherington and the late Wally Gibson.

To me, those guys personified a level of interaction from an alumni leader to support the University's goals and support the goals and challenges facing students.



Jeremy Adams

I think the alumni president needs to support the goals of the University administration but at the same time offer valid questions. As a former student leader, I used to question administration all the time and it led to some very productive relationships with a lot of people that I've known for many years. Paul Davenport was the first president chosen when I was on the USC board. I sat on the vice presidential selection task force, sat on the Senate for two years as a student senator, and established some significant processes on campus regarding ancillary reviews which are still in use today.

I want student leaders to understand the role alumni can play. At the same time I want to ask student leaders the same tough questions we need to ask administration about their position.

Q. Any final thoughts?

A. I'm a big believer in the value of relationships and where we can establish effective relationships with alumni. Western is a community. It thrives on the excellence of its faculty, its staff, its programs and all those things come together to create a student and alumni experience that is like no other in Canada.

W Club looks to future while preserving past

By David Scott



Existing sports museum at Alumni Hall.

The W Club, an athletic club that turns 50 next year, is looking to adopt to new technology, attract new volunteers and have a presence in the changing face of Western's campus. While its origins in 1957 were former male intercollegiate athletes who came together to keep their connection with Western and classmates alive, the W Club has grown to be more inclusive in recent years.

"Until recently you had to be a 'letter winner' to be a member of the W club – it was kind of an elitist thing. Over the years we thought that was too restrictive. So now anyone (male or female) who has played on a varsity team is a member of the W Club when they graduate," said Ted Hessel, BA'58 (Honors Physical Education). "Having been associated with the W Club for 22 years I have a really good feeling for it. It's something I really believe in."

Hessel's commitment to the organization is apparent when you see his list of posts he's held over the past two decades: past president, present curator of the sports museum and Athletic Hall of Fame at Alumni Hall,

president, vice-president, honorary officer and executive director.

"Each year there's a president's reception where all graduating athletes are invited to the president's house, before the academic year ends. At that time, we give them their first membership card to the W Club and background on the club."

The W Club now has more than 4,000 alumni members, a board of directors with eight directors and four main functions it performs: publishing a quarterly newsletter; an annual golf tournament, the Hall of Fame and Awards Dinner during Homecoming and maintaining the sports museum at Alumni Hall.

The W Club Athletic Hall of Fame began in 1978 and a place was needed to display photos. Alumni Relations helped out by providing Room 100 in Alumni Hall. When that room became too small for the growing display, pictures were moved out into the hallway. There are approximately 120 pictures of Hall of Famers in Alumni Hall. "People like June Burr, Dutch Decker and Bob Gage are the reason we have pictures and the background and knowledge for the

museum," says Hessel.

Although the location in the foyer at Alumni Hall for the sports museum is a central location for visitors during Homecoming and is one that Hessel is proud of, the growing inventory of photos and sports memorabilia is creating a need for more space for the museum and Athletic Hall of Fame. A dream location for Hessel would be the old Bank of Montreal building near the main entrance of campus, when Alumni Relations and other departments in administration move to Westminster College in 2007.

"The Bank of Montreal building could be the new museum. There are 15 parking spots. It could be done in conjunction with a new ticket office to sell tickets for art events, sports, and athletics. That would be one wish list." Hessel's other wish, even when he was executive director of W Club, is to have a picture of every athletic team that ever participated at Western (with the exception of intramural sports). He has been working to make this dream come true with the help of the staff at Western Archives.

Something the W Club board is looking at is how to get its former athletes more involved. "They don't have to be a director, they could be a member of the Hall of Fame Committee, or the golf tournament or the museum or the newsletter," says Hessel.

The newsletter goes out three to four times a year to members. The golf tournament is usually held the third week of August and will be at the FireRock Golf Club in Komoka this summer. Hessel also hopes to gather more e-mail addresses from W Club members for electronic news distribution, post more information about the history and activity of the W Club online and have a greater Web presence on the Western Web site.

For more information about how to get involved, contact: Frank Erle at 661-3629 x88102 or email: ferle@uwo.ca or Hessel at 686-6285. ☎

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conferences, fundraising calls and professional association events. It's an opportunity for University administration to keep in touch with alumni around the world. "We do a number of President's Receptions a year depending on his travel. He really enjoys meeting our alumni across Canada and internationally," says Rodrigues.


Alumni Relations Director Gary Blazak and Associate Director Rodrigues also travel to alumni events. "Our goal is to reach out to as many alumni as possible. That personal connection is unparalleled. We can send 100 magazines to a person over the years and

100 invitations to someone. But that personal handshake, having a coffee with someone, meeting them at a reception, talking to them – that's the real engagement and connecting back to Western as a representative of the institution. It's wonderful," says Rodrigues.

The Alumni Association also lends support to the chapter network. Staff is assigned to help all groups. Carolyn Lamb, Alumni & Development Officer, is dedicated to assisting the professional chapters (law, medical, nursing, engineering, education, etc). Staff also works with affiliate colleges and feature links to their events in

the monthly Purple Flash e-mail newsletter.

The more active international branches include: London, UK, where regular pub nights and quiz nights are held in competition with other Canadian universities like Queen's; New York, the most active U.S. branch that holds events like a Leafs-Rangers game or a night out at ballet; and Hong Kong, the largest international branch with a full-time staff person and monthly activities.

For a complete listing of Western's Branches and Chapters, and local contacts, please visit: www.alumni.uwo.ca/branches/ 

David Furnish, HBA'85, and Sir Elton John

Ivey grad weds pop superstar

Western grad David Furnish, HBA'85, and Sir Elton John were wed in a civil ceremony December 21 in Windsor, England. The ceremony took place in the same building where Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles were married last spring. Clair Williams, the woman who presided over the royal ceremony in April 2005, led this ceremony as well.

The parents of Furnish, 43, and John, 58, attended the ceremony. A reception was held afterwards for about 700 people at Sir Elton's nearby estate. It included celebrities Victoria Beckham, George Michael, Lulu, Donatella Versace, Sting and his wife Trudi, Hugh Grant, Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne, Naomi Campbell, Jemima Khan, Sharon Stone, Claudia Schiffer, and Elizabeth Hurley. The party is reported to have cost U.S. \$1.75 million. Instead of wedding gifts, Furnish and John asked for donations to the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

"I've always considered myself committed to Elton and he's the person that I want to spend the rest of my life with. So in that sense, I don't feel like the dynamic of our relationship is going to change," Furnish said in a November 2005 interview with the BBC.

Their civil partnership ceremony was one of 687 taking place across England and Wales on December 21, the first day they could legally take place.

Filmmaker Furnish grew up in Scarborough, Ont. and met John in 1993.



(Photo courtesy Rocket Pictures)

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Alumni News and Announcements

1930's-1940s

Francis (Boyce) Fletcher, BA'40, Jim Orr, B.A'40 and his wife, Ken Rich, HBA'40 and his wife and Marie Smibert, HBA'40 were represented at the Homecoming Dinner - the few survivors of the approximately 120 who graduated from the University in 1940. A copy of the 1940 Occidentalia sparked memories and happy reminiscing.

1950s

Elsa Marziali, BA'56 was honoured at Homecoming 2005, Brescia University College, with the Alumni Award for Excellence. As a researcher of the effects of psycho-social interventions for persons with mental health disorders, Dr. Marziali's work is influential both nationally and internationally. At present she is the only researcher in Canada involved in evaluating an internet-video conferencing intervention program for caregivers of persons with chronic disabilities.

1960's

Enid (Buckley) Edwards BA'64 taught in Northern Ontario and then worked in Human Resources. She was Chair of a Continuing Education Program at London's Fanshawe College, and for four years managed a CIDA training program for women in Jamaica to help them improve self-sufficiency skills. A decade later, her husband, Bill Edwards (Ryerson '69) had a five-week CIDA project in Fiji, and she went with him. Time with their son and family, gardening, writing, photography and extensive travel keep them busy.

1970s

Mark Innis, BEd'71, residing in Kitchener, Ont. is retiring after 22 years as a probation and parole officer for the Ontario Government on November 30, 2005. Mark would love to hear from friends at markinnis@rogers.com

David John Paul, BA'72, DipEd'73 retired from teaching in June 2004 after 30 years of service, mainly with the London/Thames Valley Board. His first book of poetry, *Trapped Moonlight*, was published by South Western Ontario Poetry in the fall of 2005.

Debrah E. Day, HBA'74, has been honoured as the 2005 Planner of the Year by the Planning Institute of British Columbia. She will be joining the city of Victoria as Planning Director in January 2006.

John Clement, PhD'75, (Pharmacology) and Andrew Rae BSc'89 founded iCo Therapeutics in Vancouver in 2005. The company was identified as one of Canada's Top Ten in the "Life Science Companies Competition." iCo Therapeutics develops or modifies existing drugs for a range of conditions within isolated biological environments, in particular the eye, but which could include the spinal cord or joints. Focusing on these systems allows a drug to reach commercialization faster and more efficiently since non-systematic distribution has the potential for fewer risks and safety issues. For more information, visit: www.icotherapeutics.com/

Jim Reitzel, BEd'78 recently opened Keller Williams Golden Triangle Realty - a first in the Kitchener-Waterloo Region. Keller Williams is a learning-based real estate company that focuses on training, coaching and consulting its member realtors. By July 1 he will be welcoming 100 new agents into the sales force. For more information, visit www.jimreitzel.com. Along with his son Jeff, Jim has also opened a Mortgage Alliance of Canada franchise.

1980s

Mark Katz, BA'82 has been hired as president of National Geographic's new giant-screen film distribution operation.

Sherry Espin, BSc'88 (Nursing), recently received her PhD from University of Toronto. Friends can contact Sherry at sespin3@cogeco.ca

1990's

Michael Copeland, LLB'93, MBA'99 was named to the position of new chief operating officer for the Canadian Football League (CFL) in January. He is responsible for football operations, finance and administration and legal functions at the league office. He will report directly to commissioner Tom Wright. Copeland comes to the CFL from Molson, where he was director of marketing for the company's national value brand portfolio.

David H. Brown, BESC'94, has recently accepted a position with Consult Limited as a Senior Mechanical Engineer and relocated to the Doha, Qatar office. He can be reached at dbrown@canult.com

Dan Simpson, BA'96 and Sandra Simpson (Root), BA'96 gave birth to their first son Tristan Daniel Simpson on October 31, 2005. He weighed 8 lbs 8oz. Dan and Sandra are currently residing in Barrie, Ont. Dan is a senior Branch Manager with TD Canada Trust and Sandra is a Branch Manager with Citifinancial Toronto.

Kelly Bourassa, LLB'98 has been named as co-recipient of the First Annual Lloyd Houlden Research Fellowship, awarded by the Canadian Insolvency Foundation. Ms. Bourassa is currently completing an LLM degree at Osgoode Hall Law School at York University. From Nov. 2002 to Oct. 2004, she was an advisor to the Standing Senate Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce. She practised at Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer in Calgary from Jan. 2001 to June 2002. Bourassa will use her half of the \$20,000 fellowship to study the definition and treatment of eligible financial contracts under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act (CCAA).

Mike Harvey, BSc'99, Nick Demko, BSc'01 and Mike Moffatt, BA'99 have a lot in common. They're each under the age of 30 and they each attended high school in London. All three graduated from Western—Most importantly, they are co-owners of Nexreg Compliance, a company founded in 2005. Nexreg Compliance Inc. is a London based consulting firm which assists companies who manufacture or distribute chemical products to comply with health and safety regulations. They are not just knowledgeable of Canadian regulations; the majority of their work has been in helping companies comply with the laws of the United States and the European Union. For more information, visit: www.nexreg.ca/

2000's

Sarah Schlote, BA'02, (Honours, Gold Medalist) was selected this past April as a recipient of a prestigious scholarship from La Fondation Baxter et Alma Ricard, a national, private foundation based in Ottawa which grants up to \$50,000 a year for a maximum of three years to outstanding students who have demonstrated academic excellence and community involvement. As an alumna of Western and current Special Student at King's College, her goal is to pursue a masters degree in Counselling Psychology.

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Share your news with fellow grads and help us keep our records up to date.

USE THE FORM OR WRITE A LETTER TO:
Gazetteer—Beth O'Donovan
Room 101, Alumni Hall,
The University of Western Ontario,
London, Ontario, N6A 5B9.

IF YOU'D PREFER:

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Fax: (519)661-3948 or
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DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN THE
SUMMER 2006 ISSUE IS JUNE 1

Have you taken a new job, received a promotion, award, degree, retired or celebrated another special event in the last six months? If so, please supply details on separate paper.

Name: Degrees:

Spouse: Degrees:

Retain Maiden Name? Yes No Ms Mrs

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To have your submission considered for publication in the Western Alumni Gazette, please include your full name, degree and graduation year, along with your home phone, mailing address and e-mail address. Due to space limitations, the Gazetteer cannot always publish birth and marriage announcements. Information provided will also be used to update our records

However, you will be able to share that news and more with classmates online at www.alumni.uwo.ca/services/online-buffer.htm.

GAZETTEER SUBMISSIONS ONLINE: <http://www.uwo.ca/alumni/gazform.html>

IN MEMORIAM

Bertha (Betty) Geraldine Bright (nee Loynes) MD'37
On November 19, 2005, in Toronto, ON

Mary Tasker, BA'40
On July 16, 2005, in Etobicoke, ON

Pauline E. Farris (Baldwin), BA'41
On September 11, 2005, in Dundas, ON

Norma (Rafuse) Brown, BA'47
On September 15, 2005, in North York, ON

Kenneth Leslie Perigoe, BA'50
On October 14, 2005, in Richmond Hill, ON

Dr. Clayton Sellers, MD'51
On January 9, 2006, in Wellesley, ON

Dr. Ronald Carl Munkittrick, MD'51
On December 8, 2005 in Orillia, ON

Doug Tomlinson BA'52
in Ingersoll, ON

Dr. William Frances Hutton, MD'52
On July 7, 2004

Shirley Brown (nee Nesbitt), DIP Nursing Educ'61
On November 25, 2005 in Jay, NY

John William (Bill) Shephard, BA'61
On November 11, 2005 in Port McNeill, BC

Dr. Gerrit DeBoer, BSc'65
On December 20, 2005, in Toronto, ON

Linda Diane (Graham) McPhee, HBA'68
On December 30, 2004, in Petrolia, ON

Stephen C. Cunningham, BEngSc'70
On June 10, 2005, in London, ON

John Fred Duck, BA'72
On October 25, 2005, in Toronto, ON

Denise Proulx-Russell, BA'79 (King's), BEd'80
On January 2, 2005, in Sudbury, ON

J. Arthur Keyes, BA'80
On November 4, 2005, in Samia, ON

OBITUARIES

Donald Clayton Scott, HBA'49, died on November 3 of cancer, age 77. A Chartered Accountant he spent most of his career with Clarkson Gordon (now Ernst & Young) retiring in 1987 after serving eight years as Chairman and C.E.O of the firm. He was active on many charitable and business boards over the years. He assisted the Ontario government in setting up the Ontario Insurance Commission in 1990 and was its Commissioner for three years.

An active sportsman, he played football and basketball for the Western Mustangs, and following graduation played for the Toronto Argonauts. He was a member of the 1950 Grey Cup championship team, which was voted the "Team of the Half-Century." In his retirement years he was an avid owner and breeder of standard bred racehorses.

Dr. Lazarus J. Loeb, MD'54, highly regarded and well loved Fort Worth allergist, died unexpectedly November 1, from complications after knee surgery. Dr. Loeb had practiced in Fort Worth since 1982. Described as the "Dean of Texas Allergy" by Texas Monthly Magazine, his credo was "Always listen to the patient." As a teaching professor he believed in only doing for the patient what you could justify to the student. As a dedicated physician for forty-one years, he was not above making house calls or meeting distressed patients at his office late at night. Dr. Loeb's medical training began after obtaining a Bachelor of Science degree in bacteriology from McGill University in Montreal. He proceeded to the University of Western Ontario for a Master of Science degree in microbiology where he lectured medical classes in bacteriology while earning his MD. He graduated cum laude earning five awards in addition to AOA Honor Medical Society. Fascinated by allergy, his post-graduate training was at Roosevelt Hospital in New York City under Dr. Robert A.Cooke, the father of modern allergy practice in North America. He returned to Ottawa, Canada, to found a five doctor allergy practice and became head of the Allergy Department at the University of Ottawa. He authored more than 60 journal articles on

allergy, bacteriology and medical practice as well as chapters in medical texts. He was elected president of the Canadian Academy of Allergy in 1965 and in 1977 he was elected president of the Ontario Medical Association. He later served on the board of directors of the Canadian Medical Association.

Mellor P. Poucher known as Mel to his family, colleagues, and friends, Civil Engineering Professor Emeritus Mel Poucher died unexpectedly on the shore of his Georgian Bay waterfront home June 18, 2004 at the age of 75. In 1946 he was back in Britain attending Imperial College in London and in 1954 graduated with a Civil Engineering degree and a Masters degree specializing in concrete technology. In 1954, he was the second faculty member to join the Department of Engineering Science and become a founding pillar of the later renamed, Faculty of Engineering at Western. Poucher married Patricia Noble (Tillson) a graduate of Western's Nursing program in 1957. He held the position of Chair of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering for over 30 years. He was a guide in the affairs of the Faculty, and served on Senate committees such as SCUP (Senate Committee on University Policy). In the Royal Canadian Navy, Mellor was a Lieutenant Commander. He loved structural engineering, participated in the concrete toboggan projects, initiated projects with the MacIntosh Gallery like "Steel, The Sculptor and Engineer" or "Wind & Wave" combining artists with engineers in the lab and Gallery, and chaired the Honours and Awards Committee in the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. In 2005, "The Professor Mel Poucher Award in Civil Engineering" was created as a lasting tribute. The annual award will recognize the accomplishments of students in Civil and Environmental Engineering.

My father, Professor **George E. Buckley**, taught English and Drama at Western from 1946 to 1976. He started the first Drama Club and directed numerous plays. Also, he initiated the Debating Society, which he accompanied on trips to competitions at universities in Canada and the US. In addition, he and my mother, Connie Buckley, were very active in the London Little

Theatre, now the Grand. In 1998, I donated the following material to Western Archives and Research Collections Centre: texts of Dad's talks on CBC radio, audio tapes, course lecture notes, newspaper articles, photos, books, a scrapbook and postcards. Graduates and students can go through the material, which is entitled 'The George Buckley Archive'. If you have papers of significance to Western or the London region, please contact the Archives' staff. If you remember my father, I would be pleased to hear from you. Enid (Buckley) Edwards, BA'64, enidedwards@rogers.com

Janice Johnson, HBA'77, MA'81

If you are one of the tens of thousands of people who chose to come to Western in the 1980s and early 1990s, chances are that Janice Johnson may have influenced your decision to do so. Johnson, a fixture at Western for more than 20 years, passed away on November 1, 2005 after a courageous battle with cancer. She joined the University's Department of Liaison Services in 1980 and became its Director in 1983. Under her leadership, Western's strategies for promoting its excellence - both inside and outside the classroom - were established and refined. Her belief in Western came through to all who heard her message. While she was Director, the University's application numbers and admission averages rose to new levels. After leaving Liaison in 1994, Janice became Western's Senior Advisor for Academic Publications, before leaving the University in 1996. The impact that Janice had on other people's lives extended well beyond the University community, and was particularly evident in her role as President of the Board for the London Distress Centre. In 1993, she received the Governor General's Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of Canada, in recognition of her outstanding community service. Chief among Jan's passions were her husband, Malcolm Finkleman (PhD'82) and their daughter, Elizabeth. She will be remembered as a graceful, committed, intelligent and vibrant woman whose significant contributions to Western continue to be recognized. A memorial tree will be planted in her name near her beloved Delaware Hall.

ALUMNI EVENTS

CANADA

Calgary, Alberta

Jazz Night May/June 2006
Off to Western Event August 2006

Guelph, Ontario

Night Out with Rick McGhie May 19, 2006
Alumni Reception September 28, 2006

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Alumni Reception June 2006

Hamilton, Ontario

Speaker Reception April 11, 2006
Off to Western Event August 2006

London, Ontario

Class of 2006 – Last Lecture April 5, 2006
Silverstangs Alumni April 7–9, 2006
Hockey Tournament
Alumni Association Annual April 25, 2006
General Meeting
A Taste of Spain May 5, 2006
Alumni Reception at June 2, 2006
Museum London
Stratford Festival Trip to June 9, 2006
South Pacific

Montreal, Quebec

Alumni Reception Spring 2006

Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

President's Reception at The Pillar & Post May 10, 2006

Ottawa, Ontario

Talk Tuesdays - Abuse of Power April 4, 2006
Wine Tasting Event April 2006
Ottawa Branch Reception and AGM June 2, 2006
Off to Western Event August 2006

Sarnia, Ontario

Tuesday Tasting with March 28, 2006
Tony Aspler, The Wine Guy

St. Thomas, Ontario

Elgin County Picnic June 7, 2006

Toronto, Ontario

Cocktails at Sassafras for 1990s Grads March 29, 2006
Alumni Reception for 1980s Grads Spring 2006
Western Queen's Park Reception May 9, 2006
Toronto Branch Golf Tournament May 27, 2006
Rick McGhie Night June 23, 2006
Off to Western Event August 2006

Vancouver, British Columbia

Vancouver Branch Casino Night June 1, 2006
Southern Ontario Alumni Reunion June 2006
Off to Western Event August 2006

Victoria, British Columbia

Alumni Western Wine Tasting Event Spring 2006

Waterloo, Ontario

Rick McGhie Night Spring 2006
Off to Western Event August 2006
Oktoberfest Event October 2006

Windsor, Ontario

Windsor-Essex Branch May 28, 2006
Detroit Tigers

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Golf day July 8, 2006

UNITED STATES

San Diego, California

San Diego Alumni Reception April 21, 2006

Tucson, Arizona

Arizona Alumni Reception April 18, 2006

INTERNATIONAL

Hong Kong

Golf Clinic April 2, 2006

London, United Kingdom

Spring Wine Tasting Event April 13, 2006
Bowling and Drinks Night, "Western" style May 18, 2006
Alumni Western
President's Reception June 29, 2006

Paris, France

Alumni Western President's Reception July 1, 2006

CHAPTERS

W-Club

Golf Tournament August 24, 2006

USC Alumni Chapter

Wine Tasting Event Spring 2006
Homecoming Event September 29, 2006
Annual General Meeting September 30, 2006

Law Alumni Association

Western Law Alumni Annual Dinner April 20, 2006

Nursing Alumni Committee

Wine and Cheese Reception March 20, 2006
Homecoming Breakfast September 30, 2006

Medical Alumni Society

South Street Medical School Reunion May 10-12, 2006
Waterloo Region Meds Dinner May 23, 2006

Dentistry Alumni Society

ODA Western Alumni Reception April 7, 2006
Alumni of Distinction September 29, 2006
Award Reception

Gazette Alumni

Reception-100th Anniversary September 30, 2006

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* prizes may not be exactly as shown



Entries must be received by: May 15, 2006.

Causing a racquet for half a century

By Paul Mayne

The late comedian George Burns once said if you want to be happy in life to “find something you love to do and get someone to pay you to do it.”

Jack Fairs, BSc’46, LLD’05, did just that in 1947 and hasn’t looked back since. As one of the founding fathers of Western’s physical education department (now Kinesiology), he has remained a role model for teachers, coaches, students and countless others for more than half a century.

After earning his Honors Chemistry degree from Western in 1946, Fairs attended Columbia University for Physical Education in 1947. A few short months later, Fairs was back at Western where he began his teaching and coaching career.

“We were all coaching in those days,” recalls Fairs. “I taught graduate, undergraduate and coached (basketball and football) as well. That’s unheard of today.”

Looking far shy of his 82 years, Fairs has long retired from the classroom (1988), but not from his love of coaching – in particular men’s squash. A win at McGill University in February gave the Mustangs a record of 33 OUA team titles – 23 of those consecutive. The team also boasts 22 singles titles and countless other accolades over the last few decades, solidifying them as the most triumphant team in Western history.

The only common denominator throughout this dynasty has been Fairs, but he is the first to deflect praise to the athletes.

“Success like that, in any sports, is related to talent and working hard. We’ve been successful over the years because we’ve been able to attract talent,” says Fairs, who received an Honorary Degree from Western last spring.

“They come for the program. Athletes are looking for opportunity and we can provide that. The ingredients for our success are cut and dry.” Continent-wide, their current success has rocketed the team to a #5 ranking in the National Collegiate Athletic Association poll, placing them among top Ivy League schools such as Princeton, Dartmouth, Harvard and Cornell. Fairs and his wife Peggy, BA’59, spend many weekends driving the team to these schools.

“People often ask me, ‘Why are you still coaching?’ My answer is typically, ‘because I love it,’” says Fairs. “Coaching has brought fulfillment and enjoyment to my life. If you enjoy something, it’s very difficult to give it up.”

Listing Fairs’ achievements over the past half century is perhaps made easier by naming what he hasn’t been honoured for. With numerous Coach of the Year honours, Special Achievement and Coaching Service Awards, not to mention induction into five Halls of Fame (Western, London, Chatham, Canadian Squash and

Ontario Squash), you would think he’s done it all.

Modest to a fault, Fairs says his enjoyment of coaching remains a source of energy and enthusiasm.

“Right now I feel great. I still have lots of enthusiasm for what we’re doing,” he says. “Coaching and teaching is something I’ve always knew I wanted to do, ever since high school. Staying with the coaching has allowed me to stay involved with what I love. I enjoy the team involvement and watching players develop as athletes. There is nothing more satisfying than seeing athletes achieve their goals.”

On campus most days, Fairs enjoys going to the courts day after day, calling it a “positive addiction.” Fairs is in no hurry to pass on the reins but Peggy has other ideas.

“She says ‘Jack you’re not coaching after 90,’” he says. “I always joke with her and say in the collective agreement at Western it says that anybody who coaches after age 90 gets to travel with a nurse. She says ‘no nurse is going to travel with you’. We have fun with that one.”

No coach in the history of Canadian university athletics has dominated a sport like he has and Fairs personifies what Western stands for – devotion, loyalty, pride and commitment.

“One of my great joys in coaching is seeing Western players develop their abilities to pursue their vocational goals,” he says. “My job as a coach is not only to assist athletes optimize their potential on the field of play, but to help them develop in the broadest possible manner.”



Professor Emeritus Jack Fairs (Kinesiology) has taken his love of coaching to a whole new level with the Mustangs squash team, one of the most successful teams in Canadian university sports history.

Name: Jack Fairs

Age: 82

Born: Tillsonburg, ON

Teaching: Western’s Physical Education Department/
Kinesiology 1947-1988.

Accomplishments: Distinguished Service Award (Canadian Squash Racquets Association), 3M Coaching Award, Dedicated Coaching Service Award (Squash Canada), ‘W’ Club Hall of Fame (Builder/Legend), Sportsman of the Year Award (City of London), Lifetime Achievement Award (National Intercollegiate Squash Racquets Association).

Endowments need to grow to \$1 billion within decade

By Jim Bristow, BA'61, HBA'63, Executive Director of Foundation Western.



Jim Bristow

When I joined Foundation Western in 1987, it had been in operation for eight years and the total assets were \$5.3 million. The alumni fundraising program was generating about \$2 million annually.

My initial long-term goal was to grow the foundation's endowment to \$25 million. Thanks to the significant increase in alumni support through major and planned gifts, spurred by Western's commitment to build a strong endowment, the efforts of Foundation and Development Office staff have grown the Foundation's endowments to more than \$100 million and the combined foundation and University endowments to more than \$200 million. This is a significant accomplishment by the fundraising professionals given all the other building and program needs funded by the Renaissance Campaign and Campaign Western.

The landscape has changed over the past two decades and the role of endowments needs to be significantly expanded to ensure the goal of the best educational experience among research-intensive universities is sustained.

Endowments are a self-renewing resource that magnifies charitable intent by offering an annual return on investment and the long-term benefit of endowments can already be seen. The Foundation has some endowed funds that have paid out more from the income generated than the original gift. An endowment is the ultimate investment in Western's future and plays a vital role in providing the stability Western needs to effectively plan for tomorrow. It's the gift that keeps on giving.

Currently, the Foundation and University's payout rate is 4.5 per cent. With a \$100-million endowment,


Foundation Western will generate \$4.5 million annually in perpetuity to support students and university programs. While the spending rate may seem low to some, it is important that it reflect the long-term real return on capital. The balance of the total return must be reinvested in the capital to provide protection from inflation that would otherwise undermine the value of the endowments.

Why are endowments so essential to our future? We live in an unpredictable world and a university is especially vulnerable to changes in government policy, economic fluctuations and changing social and cultural contexts. It is as simple as this: the more we can develop our endowments, the more we can insulate ourselves from the risk and insecurity of these external factors.

Having strong endowments is the backbone of the growth and development of academic programs. By strengthening our endowments we improve Western's ability to hire excellent faculty, develop cutting-edge academic and research programs, increase the accessibility to post-secondary education and cover costs that the University's operating budget cannot otherwise sustain. Most importantly, the growth of our endowments increases the institution's flexibility to handle the unpredictable demands for funds on a timely basis.

Endowments can be created from gifts in two different ways. Restricted Gifts allow donors to designate gifts to an established endowment fund or create a new endowment fund of their

own (allowing donors to specify areas such as student aid, program enrichment, learning tools or anything else that has special meaning). Unrestricted Gifts allow Foundation Western's Board to work with the University to decide where the income from a gift is most needed. Unrestricted gifts are essential and, in many ways, the most valuable type of gift as they offer the University the flexibility to respond to unexpected demands or opportunities.

The future offers new challenges that will require a continued focus on the growth of endowments. Despite having the third-largest alumni base in Canada, Western continues to rank tenth in the size of its combined endowments. The effort to attract outstanding students worldwide will bring Western into competition with schools with significant endowments and to be successful we must strive to reduce and eliminate the gap. The successful efforts of Ted Garrard and his Development staff have increased endowments almost seven-fold since 1991. The challenge for my successor in the next decade is to work with the University to increase the endowment five-fold to \$1 billion. 

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