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The University of Western Ontario

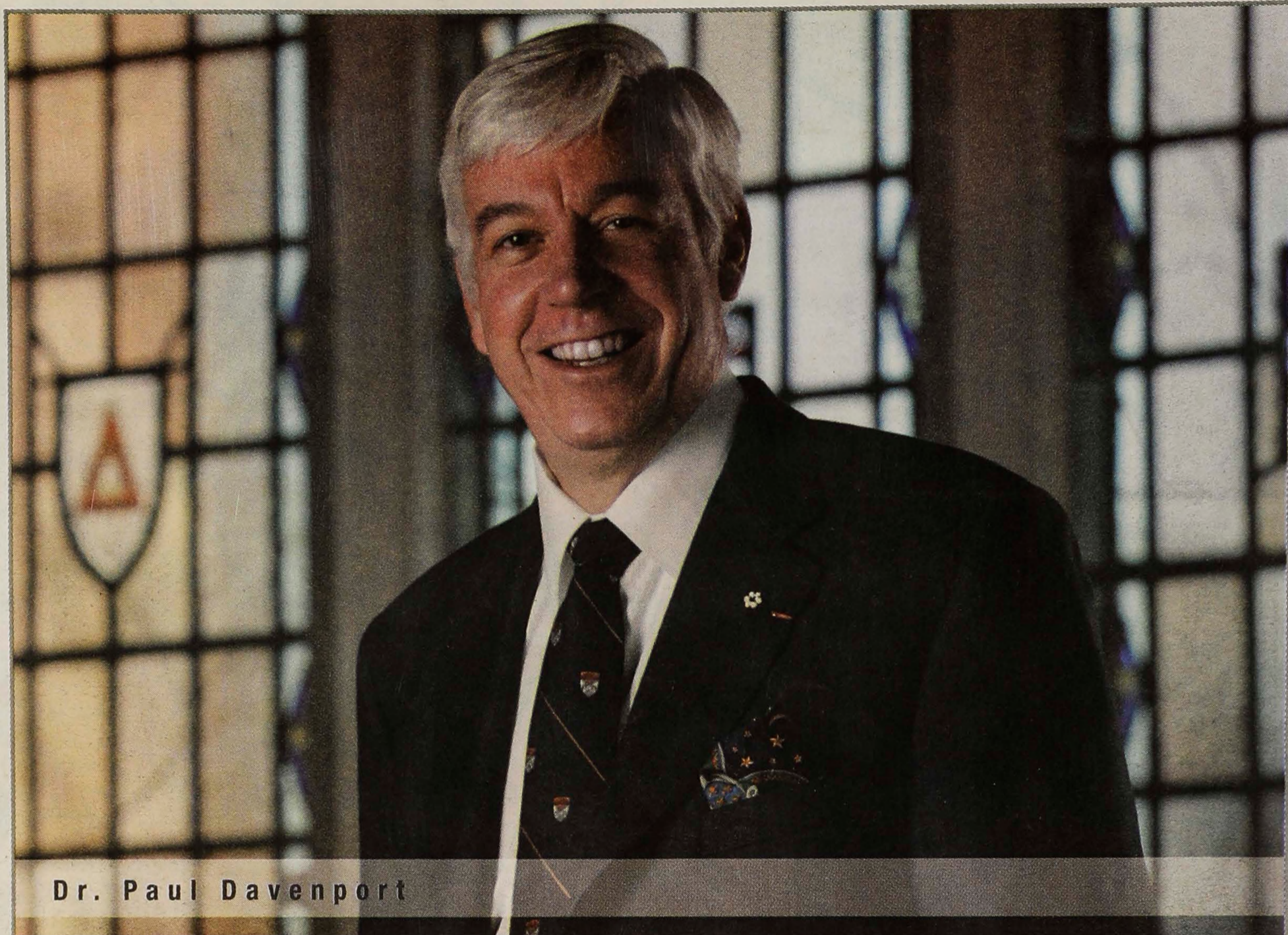
PRESIDENT'S report

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The University of Western Ontario report
president.
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The Western balance



Dr. Paul Davenport

I am often asked what distinguishes Western from other universities in Canada and abroad.

My response focuses on how well we balance the two essential elements of our academic mission: teaching and research. Western distinguished itself on many fronts in 2004, but none more important than our proven ability to provide an outstanding undergraduate student education while cultivating one of the country's top-ranked research-intensive environments.

Indications of our success on the student experience front reveal themselves in many ways, including the results of the 2004 *Globe and Mail* 'Report Card' student survey and the inaugural alumni satisfaction survey conducted as part of *Maclean's* annual university rankings issue. Both surveys support what I have thought to be true for several years and what our own internal surveys support: that Western provides the best student experience among Canada's leading research-intensive universities.

In the *Globe and Mail* student survey, Western came out on top. Receiving a grade-point average of 4.05 on a 5-point scale, Western led the country with the highest mark among ten of the top Canadian research-intensive universities. In the *Maclean's* graduate survey, Western achieved the highest average score among medical-doctoral universities. To the question, "Was your university experience a significant benefit to you?" 89 per cent of Western alumni responded "yes"—the highest percentage among all Canadian universities.

The true measures of our success, however, go beyond media-driven surveys and rankings. Western distinguished itself on several other fronts in 2004, and a few of those achievements are described in this year's report.

Dr. Bertha Garcia became Western's 18th recipient of the 3M Teaching Fellowship, the most prestigious teaching award in Canada. No other Ontario university has as many 3M teaching fellows as Western, and we rank second nationally only to the University of Alberta. Fourth-year engineering and business student Joelle Faulkner was named a Rhodes Scholar in 2004, the fourth Western student to receive this honour in the past seven years.

On the research front, the innovation of our faculty members was recognized last year with 13 new Canada Research Chair appointments, raising Western's total number to 46 since the federal granting program was created in 2000. From advanced robotics and computer algebra to neonatal health and experimental cardiology, Western is home to nationally and internationally recognized leaders across many research disciplines who collectively attracted more than \$182 million in funding in 2004.


More than 55,000 alumni demonstrated their faith in their alma mater by contributing to the success of Campaign Western, which culminated

in May after raising more than \$327 million. Taking into account planned gifts and funds leveraged through government matching programs, the Campaign mobilized more than half a billion dollars for the University. Two months prior to the funding drive's close, Canadian businessman Seymour Schulich announced a gift of \$26 million to support 110 endowed student scholarships. As a result, the newly named Schulich School of Medicine is well positioned as the most student accessible medical school in the country.

In terms of community involvement, Western was active on many fronts. Western's Ivey Business School entered into a unique partnership with the City of London to custom design a professional development program for municipal managers. In December, London's management staff began training sessions in areas including sustainable development, social responsibility, contingency management, ethics and human resource management. Western's United Way contribution was the largest single donation made by any organization in London, and we also had the most individuals making "leadership" gifts valued at \$1,000 or more. Western's faculty, staff and students clearly care about our community and are working in many ways to make London better.

What makes Western's success on so many fronts particularly noteworthy is that it has been achieved in the face of enormous fiscal challenge. The fact that Ontario's per-student level of government funding is the lowest of any Canadian province (and 40 per cent lower than public universities in the United States) is simply unacceptable. We look forward with cautious optimism to how the provincial government will respond to the report on post-secondary education recently submitted by former Ontario premier Bob Rae. Mr. Rae pulls no punches, acknowledging Ontario's higher education system is badly under-funded and that student aid is in critical need of reform.

With the consultation phase of the Rae panel now complete, our greatest challenge is to foster a climate of public support for colleges and universities. We need to explain how expansion of education and research in Ontario universities will help achieve the cultural, social and economic goals of our province, while creating value-added employment opportunities and attracting private investment. And we need to argue that failure to pay attention to higher education opportunities for the current generation will undermine our ability as a society to sustain social programs—including health care—in the future.

It is my pleasure and privilege to share the stories that follow on behalf of Western. They reflect the commitment, innovation and creativity of our faculty, staff, students and alumni. Raising the profile of higher education as a top-priority issue on the public agenda will help to assure Western's future success along with that of other post-secondary institutions across our province. 

A passion for teaching



Dr. Bertha Garcia

One look at the walls of Dr. Bertha Garcia's office and her priority becomes obvious. She is an educator.

This professor, administrator, clinician, and forensic pathologist has earned six degrees, but only her Master of Education is framed and on display. It hangs alongside the six teaching awards she has received from her medical students. Across the room hang her certificates for the 1999-2000 Edward G. Pleva Award, Western's highest honour for excellence in teaching, and the 2004 3M Teaching Fellowship, the top teaching award in Canada. With 18 3M Teaching Fellows, Western has more recipients of the award than any other university in Ontario and is second only to the University of Alberta in the country.

For Garcia, Chair of the Department of Pathology in the Schulich School of Medicine at Western and Chief of Pathology at London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care London, teaching is a lifelong calling. What started in a Sunday school classroom in Peru at the age of 11 has become a way of life, a vocation and a realization of herself.

"I love to teach. It's almost addictive," says Garcia. "When I think about retirement I think I would give up anything but teaching. It's what gets me up in the morning."

Garcia sees teaching as more than just the transmission of knowledge. It's a relationship. She strives to get to know her students and then sets out to meet their needs.

To better understand and respond to her students' needs, Garcia has consciously expanded her teaching over the years beyond the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. She has taught courses at Western's Richard Ivey School of Business and in the faculties of Science and Health Sciences. She has also taught a Grade 11 class at a London high school and led seminars at universities around the world.

"Broadening my teaching experiences gives me a complete spectrum of ways to teach, ways to learn, needs assessments and outcomes. It also makes me reflect upon and rediscover what I teach. And that gets me really excited!"

Garcia's excitement about education is evident in the teaching innovations she has introduced. As a pathology resident at the University of Calgary in the late 1970s, she developed independent learning modules so students could learn and explore without the presence of a teacher. At Western's Schulich School of Medicine she has helped implement a more integrated approach to learning through the use of curriculum objectives. Garcia has also started a concept mapping initiative to help students assimilate knowledge and understand relationships.


"I discovered early on in my career that you could make learning fun. Medical school didn't have to be the boot camp doctors of my generation endured," says Garcia. "That realization has really driven me. I continue to jump at opportunities to do things that address the different generations of students we have."

Garcia's commitment to education and her students extends beyond the walls of the classroom. For the last 15 years she has been an official and unofficial counselor and advisor for medical students. She provides academic counseling, facilitates interventions and arranges follow-up consultations for students in need.

"When my colleagues ask 'how come the students like you so much?', I tell them I love the students so they can't help but love me back. It's hard not to love somebody who loves you. And the students know I care about them. If they come to me, I'm there. It transmits the fact that the relationship has value."

Through her respectful and caring relationship with students, Garcia serves as a much loved mentor and role model.

"I hope that one day I will be able to emulate her as a teacher, a researcher and a colleague," says current medical student, Gabriele DeLuca.

Dr. George Kim (MD'03) adds "In an era when medical educators are accomplished clinicians who try their best to be teachers, Dr. Garcia has risen the ranks as an accomplished clinician who has become an extraordinary educator." 

Energizing the classroom



Clockwise from front: Ian Da Silva, Rene Frey, Jenni Denniston, Niki Healey, and Julie Harvey.

On the first day of class, a student turned to Ian Da Silva and asked, "What do you think this class is going to be like?" Little did he know he was talking to his teacher.

New to the ranks of Western alumni themselves, Niki Healey, Rene Frey, Jenni Denniston, Julie Harvey and Da Silva teach Business 020 – one of the most challenging first-year courses at the University – to about 2,000 students.

Since the 1960s, Western has provided up to six recent honors BA graduates the opportunity to teach Business 020 for a two-year term. Pre-business program director, Elizabeth Grasby, says the program is the only one of its kind in Canada.

"Most universities will either have tenured professors or PhD students teach at this level," she says, adding Western takes them fresh out of their undergrad.

And for good reason.

"Business 020 is based on the case study method, similar to Ivey's method of teaching," says pre-business co-ordinator Denise Ritchie. "It was felt that recent graduates from programs that taught the case study method would be most familiar with that method of teaching."

And students agree. First-year undergrad Will Beldman takes Business 020 with Da Silva, 23, and echoes Ritchie's sentiments. "He's more familiar with the material. He just did it, so it's fresh in his mind."

Classmate Amber Kanwar says when she first saw Da Silva, "I was shocked at how young he is." Still, she says, "I got used to it pretty fast – he knows what he's talking about so I don't even notice anymore."

The high degree of class participation the course demands also means students need a teacher with whom they can easily interact.

"I think the students relate a lot better to us," says Frey, 24. "We understand better where they're coming from," Da Silva adds. "They're more comfortable asking us questions. I think we just seem more human to them."

Grasby feels the students gain from the fact their teachers are given lesson plans in advance and can concentrate solely on the teaching aspect. They also benefit from their instructors' enthusiasm.

"They appreciate the energy we bring to the classroom because we're excited to be there," says Frey. "When you find out that you've actually influenced somebody with what they do or how they think, nothing beats that."

Student demand creates new department in Arts and Humanities



Dr. Chris Gittings

Western's Department of Film Studies premiered in July 2004. While other departments, like Biology, have been created in the recent past by amalgamating existing programs, the Department of Film Studies is the first new department to open at the University in 17 years.

"The opening of new departments is rare at universities in a time of tight funding and merging programs," says Dr. Chris Gittings, Acting Chair of the Department of Film Studies. "Rapid enrolment growth and increased student demand for film studies courses, however, caused Film Studies at Western to outgrow its previous space in the Department of English."

Demand for film studies courses has grown because the program not only provides students with a knowledge and appreciation of film, but it also helps them develop strong skills in critical thinking shaped by contemporary, interdisciplinary scholarship. So while some graduates do go onto work within the film industry, many pursue careers in a variety of other fields.

"[Film Studies] opens doors to a number of possible occupations," says Gittings. "Just like not everybody who gets an English degree ends up as writers and editors."

The new department celebrated a successful first semester with more than 875 students enrolling in 30 film studies courses in the fall of 2004. It also began offering new courses in Spanish and Italian cinema and started developing a master's program in film studies.

As a department of Western's Faculty of Arts and Humanities (previously the Faculty of Arts), Gittings says Film Studies' new independent status provides a separate identity for it and a higher profile for film studies students at Western.

Probing public policy



Dr. Robert Young

PHOTO: Mike Henson/London Free Press

Dr. Robert Young, Western political science professor and Canada Research Chair in Multilevel Governance, is leading the largest study ever undertaken in social sciences. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the \$2.5 million project is exploring policy-making at the municipal level. It is a collective effort involving a team of 80 researchers from 26 Canadian universities as well as the United States, Belgium, South Africa and Germany and will take five years to complete.

"Multilevel Governance and Public Policy in Canadian Municipalities" is examining emergency planning, federal property, immigrant settlement, municipal image building, infrastructure and urban Aboriginal policy. These six key policy areas are being studied in more than 100 cities and small municipalities across Canada.

"Our team wants to see what kinds of policies are in place and explain each of them as a function of the set of municipal-federal-provincial negotiations that took place as well as the social forces – that is interest groups and voluntary organizations – who either participated in the policy-making process or not," says Young. "Ultimately we want to see which factors produce the best policies."

While previous research projects have investigated municipal policy making, their scope has been much less expansive says Young. His study will produce 120 cases from which conclusions can be drawn and generalizations made.

With so much material, Young and his team hope to answer two of the perennial questions relating to municipal governance: does public participation make for better policy, and does business dominate municipal decision making?

"There is a lot of debate around both of these questions. Most of the evidence to date is from small studies that look at maybe three policy areas within one municipality. It's hard to tell then if what is learned about industrial policy in Chicago is applicable to immigrant policy in New Orleans. With our research, for example, we'll be able to say public participation produces better policies in cities of 'x' size when dealing

with 'y' type policies. We're hoping municipalities will be able to take this information and use it to inform their policy-making processes."


The team's Canadian investigators are divided into 11 groups. One group is studying the federal government's role in the municipal policy-making process. Each of the other 10 groups is examining public policy and how it gets made at the municipal level in each province. Municipal functions and powers vary a lot from province to province, making the comparison of the development of local policies across jurisdictions an important component of the study.

The international researchers are looking at the structure of inter-governmental relations in nine other countries to identify successful models of partnership and cooperation.

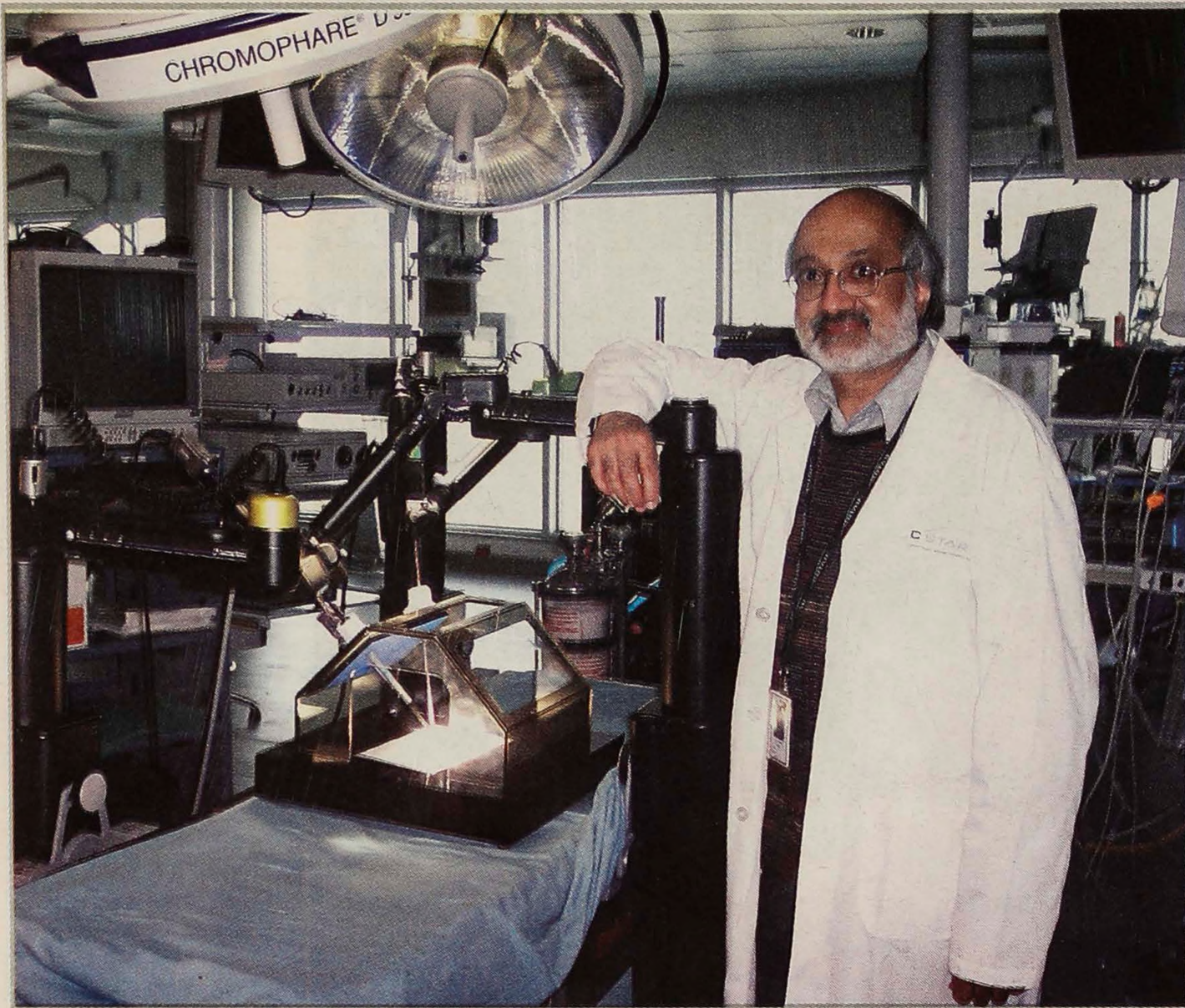
"We want to understand the alternatives that are out there as well as what the trends are. There seems to be a trend for cities and municipalities to be taking more resources and doing more functions. This trend is a very, very hot topic in Canada right now with the Prime Minister's 'new deal' for cities."

Young admits that while much research has been done on federal and provincial governance in Canada, municipal governance is still an emerging field of study. He credits his own interest in the field to the Local Government Program and the students enrolled in it. Offered through Western's Political Science Department, the program focuses on public administration at the municipal and regional level and attracts a lot of local government officials and politicians.

While still in its initial stages, Young sees his current research project as an opportunity to expand the study of municipal government in Canada.

"There are people on our research team that have never studied politics at the municipal level. Hopefully, they'll stay interested in the field and there will be more and more research," says Young. "Moreover, hundreds of students are going to be hired to do the primary research. They'll be interviewing real municipal officials and politicians. I hope that some of them will also become interested." 

Innovation and leading-edge research rewarded



Dr. Rajnikant Patel

Dr. Rajnikant Patel was one of 13 Western faculty members named to a Canada Research Chair (CRC) in 2004. The professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Director of Engineering for Canadian Surgical Technologies and Advanced Robotics (CSTAR) and Lawson Health Research Institute Scientist is one of Canada's foremost robotics researchers and has been recognized around the world for his excellence in the research, design and control of advanced robotic systems.

Patel is currently leading a multidisciplinary team in the development of robotic systems for minimally invasive surgery and therapy. The researchers' objective is to design small instruments that can be inserted into the body through several centimetre-wide incisions, operated autonomously or semi-autonomously, and which incorporate sensing modalities such as touch to enable surgeons to interact more efficiently and safely while performing procedures.

"Robotics technology has already had a major impact in many areas ranging from manufacturing to space," says Patel. "In order to gain maximum benefit from this technology, the next generation of robotic systems will need to have the capability of operating with ease in highly constrained environments such as in minimally invasive surgery."

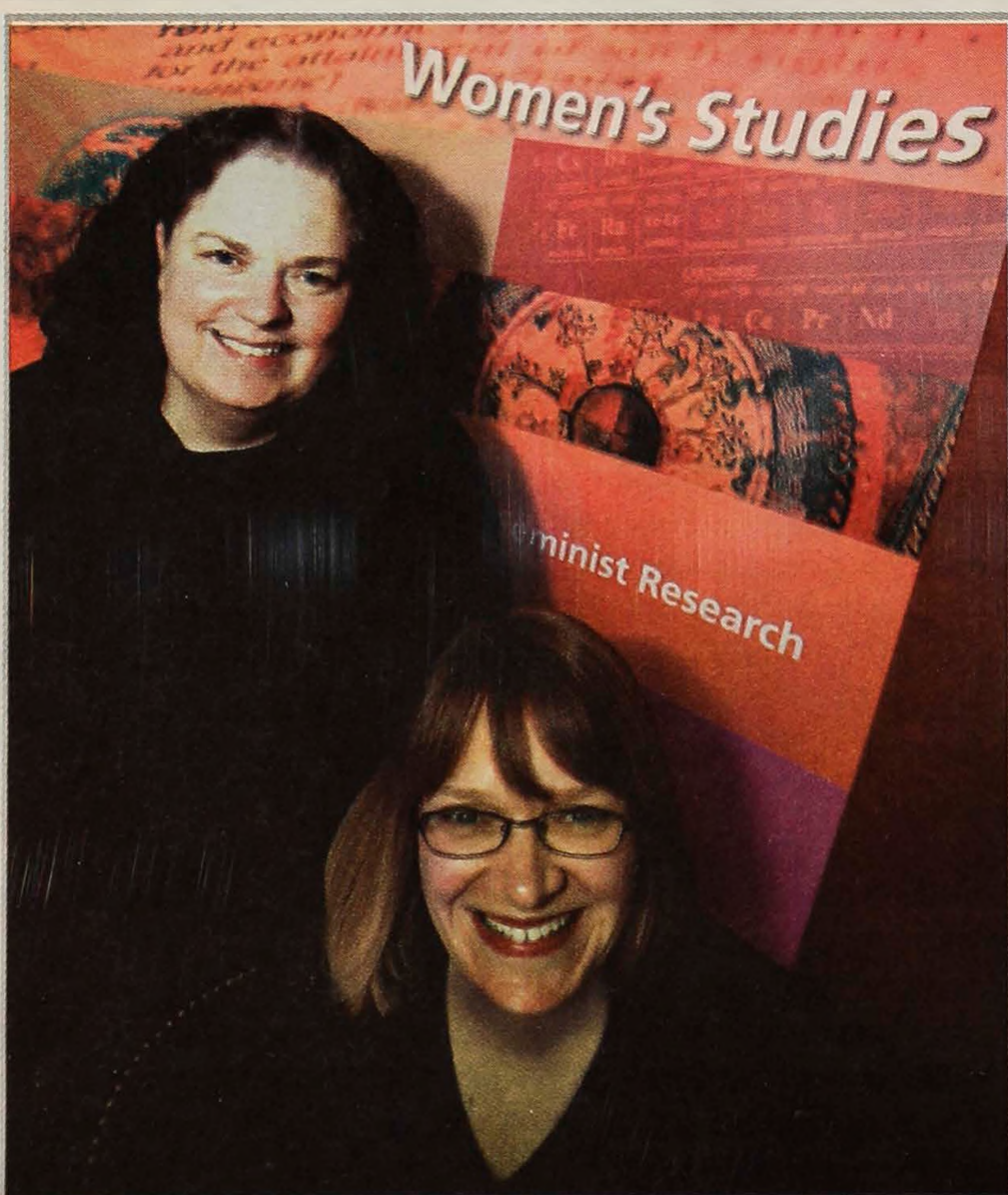
Patel's research is expected to benefit surgery patients who will experience less pain and trauma, as well as the cosmetic advantage of smaller scars. Accelerated patient recovery will also provide hospitals with more flexibility and cost-effectiveness by making bed space available more quickly.

"The groundbreaking research being undertaken by Professor Patel and our other Canada Research Chair recipients clearly demonstrates our commitment to innovation and discovery at Western," says Ted Hewitt, Acting Vice-President (Research). "The prestigious CRC program enables us to retain and attract the nation's brightest minds to London, where their efforts will unquestionably lead to new breakthroughs with a profound impact on local and national communities."

Western faculty members currently hold 46 Canada Research Chairs. Established in 2000, the CRC program is part of a federal initiative to encourage innovation and leading-edge research in universities and their affiliated research institutions and hospitals across the country. Western chairholders announced in 2004 include:

- Donglin Bai – Cellular Communication
- Paul Beamish – International Management
- Danièle Bélanger – Population, Gender, and Development
- Karin Gatermann – Computer Algebra
- Morris Karmazyn – Experimental Cardiology
- Lars Konermann – Protein Folding and Biological Mass Spectrometry
- Dale Laird – Gap Junctional Intercellular Communication and Disease
- Bin Ma – Bioinformatics
- Silvia Mittler – Photonics of Surfaces and Interfaces
- Rajnikant Patel – Advanced Robotics and Control
- Bryan Richardson – Fetal/Neonatal Health & Development
- Zhen (Robert) Zhong – Transplantation and Experimental Surgery
- Jingxu (Jesse) Zhu – Powder Technology Applications

The global costs of violence



Dr. Katherine McKenna and Dr. Audra Bowlus

Researchers at The University of Western Ontario are working to prevent violence against women and children, an issue that costs the world's economies billions of dollars annually.

In September, Dr. Katherine McKenna of the Department of History and the Centre for Women's Studies and Feminist Research, Dr. Audra Bowlus of the Department of Economics, independent consultant Dr. Tanis Day and Dr. David Wright of the Program for Traumatic Stress Recovery at Homewood Health Centre in Guelph, Ontario released a study conservatively estimating the economic costs of child abuse in Canada to be more than \$15 billion.

Currently, McKenna, Bowlus, Day and Dr. Veronica Schild of Western's Department of Political Science are collaborating with faculty at the University of Costa Rica to determine the financial impact of violence against women and children in Costa Rica. The project will also implement survey methodology, develop violence indicators and assess anti-violence programs and services.

"Our goal with this research is to reduce the prevalence of abuse in society by increasing the awareness of how the consequences affect us all. There is a cost to doing nothing to end violence which we all pay," says McKenna.

Canada's international reputation for pioneering research into domestic violence stems from its 1993 Statistics Canada Violence Against Women Survey, which made the economic costing of violence possible. Day conducted the first study of the health-related costs of violence against women, and her methodology has set the global standard in the field.

Students driving grassroots change around the globe



Clockwise from upper left corner: Dev Aujla, Roy Aubeelack, Aaron Aujla and Bethany Cairns

Youth around the world are putting their passion to work to enact positive change in their local communities with the help of four Western students.

Brothers Dev and Aaron Aujla, along with Roy Aubeelack and Bethany Cairns, established and lead Dream Now, a non-profit, non-governmental, web-based organization. Launched in 2003, Dream Now provides resources and support to individuals between the ages of 13 and 24 who want to start and run grassroots projects.

"Youth tend to dream really, really big which is great because no other age group does that," says Bethany, a third-year Political Science and Media, Information and Technoculture (MIT) student. "What Dream Now does is help them take what they're passionate about and turn it into a manageable project."

"That's what makes Dream Now more powerful than any other organization out there," adds first-year MIT student, Aaron. "We're harnessing the energy of youth where other organizations are fighting for a specific cause."

Dream Now has developed a step-by-step handbook to guide youth from the start to the finish of a project. It covers everything from getting media attention to finding funding. The organization has also created a global mentorship network that connects youth embarking on a community action project with someone who has successfully run one.

Third-year English student, Dev, has been a children rights advocate since a trip to India at the age of 15. By happenstance, he was lucky enough to find a mentor in his hometown of Victoria, B.C. when he started raising awareness about the issue and organizing conferences. "I wouldn't have been able to get my projects off the ground if I didn't have that support. It's a big gap for a lot of people and it's easy to get discouraged when you don't know to do some of the essential things like run a meeting or set a budget," he says. "Dream Now is a response to this gap in knowledge."

By focusing on filling this knowledge gap, Dream Now is able to support a diversity of projects. Currently, for example, it is helping youth from around the globe establish sustainable chicken farms (Uganda), organize a climate change conference (Canada) and develop an action plan to improve the accessibility and quality of health services for young people (Iran).

"There is a huge demand for the services Dream Now offers because our model can be applied to any form of community change anywhere in the world," says Roy, who will graduate this spring with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics.

Recognizing the potential for growth in their organization, the Dream Now team is currently applying to become a registered charity. Once this process is complete, the team will begin fundraising to enhance the services and information it offers through its web site www.dreamnow.ca. It wants to create a more personalized experience including country-specific handbooks and discussion areas where youth can log in to discuss their projects and share ideas.

While carefully managing the future of Dream Now and taking care of day-to-day operations, Dev, Aaron, Roy and Bethany are also full-time students. They balance their Dream Now responsibilities with classes, essays and exams. It isn't easy, but it's something they choose to do.

"It's addictive. There's so much reward. When someone from somewhere sends you an email saying 'you've changed my life,' how do you trade Peter Manbridge or *Desperate Housewives* for that?" says Roy. "We're in a position to reach out and help people. And it has a snowball effect. Once you start it just keeps going. You have to do it because if you don't do it, no one else will."

Adds Dev: "So many adults have said 'you know, I used to be like that and I gave up on my dream, don't give up on yours!' And it's like, all right, maybe you've got something." ☺

Oxford bound



Joelle Faulkner

Joelle Faulkner doesn't buckle under pressure. In fact, she thrives. The fourth-year Western student was one of only 11 students from across Canada selected as a 2005 Rhodes Scholar in November 2004.

Currently enrolled in chemical engineering and the Honors Business Administration program through Western's Faculty of Engineering and the Richard Ivey School of Business, Faulkner plans to study law during her two to three years at Oxford University in England. She took a number of law courses during her second year and says she "like(s) the idea of knowing."

In addition to pursuing a challenging academic program, Faulkner owns and runs Compost King, a soil supply company, and volunteers extensively at the University and within the community.

"I'm lucky. I can handle doing a number of things at once—and I have a lot of friends who help me," says Faulkner. "I think everyone has potential but you can only succeed if you try. I just try more."

With this can-do attitude and her engineering knowledge, business skills and law savvy, Faulkner aims to eventually pursue a career in bringing science to application, commercializing research.

"I sometimes find myself hanging out at Robarts (Research Institute)," says Faulkner. "It's just so interesting. There is so much potential and the amount of things that are being discovered on a daily basis is amazing. I want to be a part of that."

Faulkner is the fourth Western student to receive a Rhodes Scholarship in the past seven years and the eighth since 1970.

"We are very proud of what Joelle has accomplished at Western in two very intensive programs," says Dr. Paul Davenport, Western's President. "As both an engineering and business student, along with operating her own successful business, she is an inspiration to both her classmates and peers."

Dean of the Richard Ivey School of Business, Dr. Carol Stephenson says, "Joelle represents the type of character, integrity and overall caring for others that makes the Ivey mission come alive. It would not surprise me to pick up the newspaper in the future and read that she has just won the election to be Canada's Prime Minister."

Dr. Franco Berruti, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering adds, "I am truly thrilled to see how Joelle has been able to build upon the solid foundations of her engineering education by acquiring business and additional leadership skills, taking full advantage of her brilliance, energy and ambition. She is a splendid role model, well along her path of demonstrating how important a 'liberal engineering' education is in shaping the future leaders of the 21st century."

The business of caring



Dean Carol Stephenson and Prakash David

MBA students at Western's Richard Ivey School of Business have put classroom lessons about corporate social responsibility into action in our community. Last September, the MBA Student Association announced the launch of Ivey Builds – a voluntary, student-led initiative to fund, design and build a wheelchair-accessible, single-family home in London in partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

Ivey Builds is the first student-led project of its kind in Canada. The year-long endeavour will culminate with the swinging of hammers and buzzing of saws in March and April of 2005.

"Our mission at Ivey is to build leaders who contribute back to the society in which they live," says Prakash David, president of the MBA Student Association. "We're only in London for two years, so why not take the reins and give something back to community we enjoy so much."

Business Dean Carol Stephenson says Ivey Builds reflects exactly what the school aims to teach future leaders.

"It gives me great confidence that our companies are going to be run with individuals who have a great sense of community and corporate social responsibility."

Campus community offers hope in Africa



Clockwise from centre Dr. Gregor Reid, Paula Greenwood and Bob Gough

PHOTO: Sue Reeve/London Free Press

Western staff, faculty, and students have united to create a community response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa. Dubbed Western Heads East (WHE), the revolutionary nutrition project combines research and international development in the hope of slowing the virus that kills 8,000 Africans a day and infects another 11,000.

The idea to address the issue challenging political leaders and humanitarian organizations around the world was sparked by a 2002 speech on campus by Stephen Lewis, United Nations special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa. A small group of staff formed a task force to start thinking about ways the Western community could respond.

"We didn't have a specific project in mind at the beginning," admits Bob Gough (BA'82), Western's assistant director of residence education in the Division of Housing and Ancillary Services and chair of the WHE steering committee. "We only knew we wanted to send people, not just money. People could help out and at the same time learn about the crisis from the individuals who were living with it day in and day out. With that knowledge, we could begin to educate our own campus and the London community."

On the advice of senior administration, the task force began to search for a faculty champion. It found Dr. Gregor Reid, Director of the Canadian Research And Development Centre for Probiotics, professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Western and Lawson Health Research Institute scientist, and Dr. Sharareh Hekmat, nutrition professor at Brescia University College. The researchers' work with probiotic yogurt was a "perfect fit" with the task force's outreach goal.

Probiotics are friendly microorganisms that interrupt infection cycles and kill harmful bacteria and viruses safely. Reid and Hekmat's research indicates that probiotics may help reduce HIV infection in women by creating an inhospitable environment in the vagina for the virus. It also shows that probiotics lessen the severity of diseases with diarrheal symptoms. The microorganisms can easily be added to yogurt, a product made with cow or goat milk, everyday supplies in Africa.

With the help of Dr. Melanie Katsivo, grant development facilitator for Lawson and an international consultant with Western's Research Services team, Reid, Hekmat and the WHE task force decided to establish the probiotic nutrition project in Mwanza, Tanzania. More than one of every 13 Tanzanians is living with HIV or AIDS and the disease claimed its first lives in the city.

"It is very rewarding and fulfilling to know that our product will be used as a natural remedy to help lessen the severity of diseases with diarrheal symptoms and help reduce human suffering in Africa," says Hekmat.

Bachelor of Health Sciences student, Cynthia Medeiros, and 2003 Honors Bachelor of Science graduate, Brian Healy, will get the probiotic nutrition program off the ground in Mwanza. The two former resident advisors in Delaware Hall will spend the better part of the first six months of 2005 in the city.


"We're going to be helping people help themselves," says Medeiros. "We'll create a sustainable mini-dairy plant in Mwanza and then educate the community about the health benefits and preparation of yogurt." Healy will also be responsible for examining how eating yogurt fits with the culture of Mwanza and the values of its people. He will develop a three-to five-year plan for the project.

Looking to the future, there is room for WHE to grow. The project is consistent with Western's goals for internationalization.

"Any Faculty that has work it wants to do that fits with the priorities of the people of Mwanza will have a launching place for its research. The relationships will already be in place," says Gough.

"WHE is a unique project. The connection to Western offers more learning opportunities and expands the potential to make a difference," adds Monica Fleck (BA'90, MA'04), marketing and communications manager in the Division of Housing and Ancillary Services and a member of WHE's communications committee.

The staff members who initiated WHE are excited that after two years of planning and fundraising, a project with great potential to help negate the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa is set to launch. They point to the encouragement and assistance offered by the Western community as major factors in the project's success.

"Everyone on campus, no matter who I've talked to, has been excited about the project, has been enthusiastic and has been supportive," says Gough. "People care and want to do something. We've figured out a way to help together." 

Canada's most beautiful campus



Western has always thought of itself as the most beautiful campus in Canada. Now it's official. The University was recognized as the top entrant in the Communities in Bloom competition in the Parks and Grounds category last summer.

Jim Galbraith, the University's Grounds Maintenance and Waste Management Manager, and a team of close to 50 staff, students and volunteers led Western's efforts. Their hard work helped the campus defeat Banff National Park and Okanagan University College.

"Entering the competition was about pride and raising community spirit here on campus," says Galbraith. "We have a beautiful site and we want everyone to know that."

Communities in Bloom judge Marc Lalonde noted Western's strong presence and bearing within the City of London.

"Green space within the campus is abundantly present which creates a wonderful working and living environment for those within the campus and can even be considered as a park within the overall city," wrote Lalonde in his review.

Western's President, Dr. Paul Davenport, says the Communities in Bloom award is further proof of the beauty of Western's campus.

"We were up against strong competitors in this category, including one of Canada's national parks, and winning the honour is a strong testament to the hard work our staff put in each and every day to maintain the campus grounds. This is well-earned national recognition for Jim Galbraith and his staff."

Western through the lens of London photographer Richard Bain (BA'77)



PHOTO: Dave Chidley/London Free Press

Western's first campus-wide food drive, Western On Route, raised more than 2,500 pounds of food in support of London's Business Cares food drive. The two-day event in early December saw volunteers collecting non-perishable food in parking lots, at bus stops and along walkways around campus.

Ready at a vehicle window in the Springett Parking Lot are Ed Holder (left), James Petts, Wayne Dunn and Kadie Ward. Holder, a member of Western's Board of Governors, and Dunn are co-chairs of Business Cares. Petts and Ward are student volunteers from Western Foot Patrol.

Western alumna inspiring catalyst



Tebello Nyokong (PhD'87)

Alumna Tebello Nyokong (PhD'87) is passionate about chemistry. She is also determined to show the world that high calibre scientific research is taking place in Africa.

Named 2004 South African Woman of the Year in the science and technology category, Nyokong has been developing improved drugs to be used with Photodynamic Therapy (PDT).

A ground-breaking cancer diagnosis and treatment technique, PDT involves the injection of a photosensitizing agent into the body. The drug, similar to the dye used in blue jeans, concentrates in cancerous cells and remains inactive until exposed to laser light. When light from a laser is applied, a toxic form of oxygen is formed, killing diseased cells but leaving healthy cells largely unharmed.

While PDT is used successfully in North America, Japan and the European Union, it is not yet approved for use in South Africa. As such, part of Nyokong's work is to assist in the introduction of the therapy in the country. She is currently collaborating with Russian researchers to acquire a licence to begin clinical trials in South Africa.

"My dream is to see some of the research I am doing being used," says Nyokong. "It is a very long journey from the laboratory to practical applications but that is the stage I want to get to with my research."

A professor of physical chemistry at Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa, Nyokong is also active in training the country's future chemists. She teaches undergraduate and graduate level courses.

"With undergraduates, my goal is to make chemistry less abstract and to show them that it is all around us. With graduate students, I encourage the regular publishing and presenting of their research. Learning to communicate science to their peers and those not in the field helps them get jobs."

Nyokong offers her graduate students the same type of support she received during her time at Western from her advisor, Dr. Martin Stillman. She listens to their problems—academic and otherwise—and offers guidance. She finds funding so they can attend international conferences and begin networking with other young scientists. Nyokong also encourages her students to spend time in labs outside Africa or with the overseas post-doctoral fellows she invites to Rhodes. She wants them to get the full experience of research and stay in touch with the outside world.

"All in all, I enjoy this part of my job very much. I think the students enjoy it too! Many of my doctoral students have made in-roads in the world."

Outside the university, Nyokong dedicates much of her energy to promoting the study of science—especially among children and women. Her main volunteer activity is organizing and raising funds for the Khanya Math and Science Club. The club is for high school students who meet on a voluntary basis every Saturday for informal mathematics and science lessons.

"Some schools in South Africa do not have well-trained science or math teachers, nor do they have laboratories. Also, enrolments are so high that often only the teacher does a demonstration. The club arranges for university student and teacher volunteers to give hands-on lessons so the learners begin to enjoy science and hopefully continue with it."

Nyokong also arranges workshops to help other female scientists in the southern parts of Africa write research papers and apply for funding. The only woman in her department at Rhodes and the mother of two grown children, Nyokong is familiar with the academic loneliness female scientists often experience as well as the challenges of combining a career in science with the demands of raising a family. At the same time, she is convinced of the importance of women researchers.

"Female scientists act as role models for young women. They also create a scientifically literate community since they bring up children and can encourage scientific thinking quite early in life."

Inspired by the women of Africa who work very hard with little recognition as well as by South Africa's involvement in bringing change to Africa, Nyokong refuses to be fazed by the obstacles life puts in front of her.

"I work very hard and do not give up easily even when things are tough. I tend to take setbacks in my life as a way of working even harder. I actually get challenged by doing the 'impossible.'"

Alumni honoured at Homecoming

At Homecoming 2004, Western recognized the following alumni:

Dr. Robert Colcleugh (MD'67), a noted London plastic surgeon, received Western's highest tribute, the Dr. Ivan Smith Award, for his significant and sustained contributions to the Alumni Association and the University. While maintaining his professional practice, Colcleugh became involved with the Alumni Association. In 1994 he joined Western's Board of Governors and from January 2002 to January 2004, served as the Chairman of the Board.

Alan Macnab (BESc'72) and **Adrienne Pieczonka (BMus'85)** received Professional Achievements Awards. Macnab, a practicing engineer with 30 years of experience in the drilled shaft retention and anchored earth contracting industry, has advised on projects across North America including the CN Tower. Pieczonka is a critically acclaimed soprano who performs on opera stages around the world.

Dr. Earl Russell (MD'50) was honoured with the Community Service Award. A specialist in pain management and former professor in the Schulich School of Medicine, he initiated the Meals on Wheels program in London and was chair of the committee that pioneered the Ann Dee Pre-School Centre in Byron in 1969. Today, Russell continues to serve his community by operating pain clinics in Ingersoll and Newbury.

Dr. David Jaffray (PhD'94) received the Young Alumni Award for his leadership role in pioneering an imaging system that reduces the complications of radiation therapy and makes the treatment viable for more varieties of cancer. At age 37, he is Head of Radiation Physics, Princess Margaret Hospital and Associate Professor, Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Toronto. He is a senior scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute and a principal in the image-guided therapy lab at Princess Margaret.

A perfect try: academics, rugby and hockey



Natascha Wesch

Natascha Wesch loves challenges. The coach of the Mustangs women's rugby team, a member of the Mustangs women's hockey team and a doctoral candidate in Sports Psychology, she thrives on the tests and rewards of teaching, learning and competing.

A Montreal native, Wesch arrived at Western in 1994 to begin her Master of Science in biochemistry. A member of Canada's and Quebec's senior women's rugby teams, she planned to play for the Mustangs. And she did, but she also became the team's coach when the University's athletic department discovered the extent of her rugby experience. At the end of her second season, she relinquished her position as scrum half to focus on coaching.

"Coaching at the university level is an opportunity to coach at an elite level," says Wesch, who also coaches the Ontario and Canadian junior women's teams. "You have people who are not only great athletes, but who also are unbelievable individuals academically and all around. You get to work with the complete package."

Without on-field responsibilities, Wesch devoted herself to developing the women's rugby program at Western. Her hard work has paid off. This past fall the Mustangs completed an undefeated season, capturing the 2004 Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Championships and the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Championships. Between 1994 and 2003, the team qualified for the playoffs each year and earned one OUA Gold Medal, three OUA Silver Medals, two OUA Bronze Medals, a CIS Silver Medal and a CIS Bronze Medal.

"Western's women's rugby program is like a four-year residential camp for players. It gives them the tools they'll need to make it to the next level. We talk about sports psychology, nutrition, fitness training, the concept of a team. We bring in outside people we think they can learn from. We try to give our athletes the bigger picture and get them to think beyond this year or next to where they want to go in the sport."

While hanging up her cleats with the Mustangs in 1996, Wesch continued to play for the national senior women's team until 2002 when she retired after 11 years and three World Cups with the team. As an elite athlete she used imagery to improve her play and to help rehabilitate injuries. When she realized she wanted to continue

teaching and coaching in a university environment, she decided to pursue a doctorate in sports psychology, specializing in imagery.

"Without a psychology background, there's been a huge learning curve," says Wesch, who recently completed her course work and is beginning the research for her dissertation. "I'd read hundreds of books on sports psychology but only knew how to apply it to myself or how to use it to motivate others. Now I'm learning the theory behind the applications."

While school is her first priority, with rugby coming a close second, Wesch, 34, has also made time in her life to play hockey for the Mustangs.

"Hockey is something I'm doing for me for fun. When I retired from rugby, I really missed the competitive aspect. Hockey gives me that."

Having tried out for the women's hockey team when she started her PhD, Wesch is now in her second season with the team. She has to work hard to keep up with younger players but draws on her experience as an athlete at the national level to give her an edge.

"You know how when people finish something they often say 'if only I'd known then what I know now?' Well, I know now what I knew then!"

Wesch recognizes the demands of her commitments and is practical about what she needs to do to fulfill them. At the same time, she can't envision her life any other way.

"You're only here once. You might as well make the best out of it. Rugby has given me the opportunity to do and experience a lot. Now coaching lets me provide a similar opportunity to others. Doing my PhD is just part of the challenge. Why not?"

Student athletes continue tradition of excellence




Jeff Russell

The Western Mustangs continued to dominate university sports in Canada in 2004. The women's rugby team reached the pinnacle of success, securing CIS gold. The men's soccer team also brought home a CIS medal, winning bronze at the championship tournament in Montreal. And the men's 4 x 400 relay team set a CIS record with a time of 3:13.23, surpassing the previous mark of 3:14.60 set by Western in 1993.

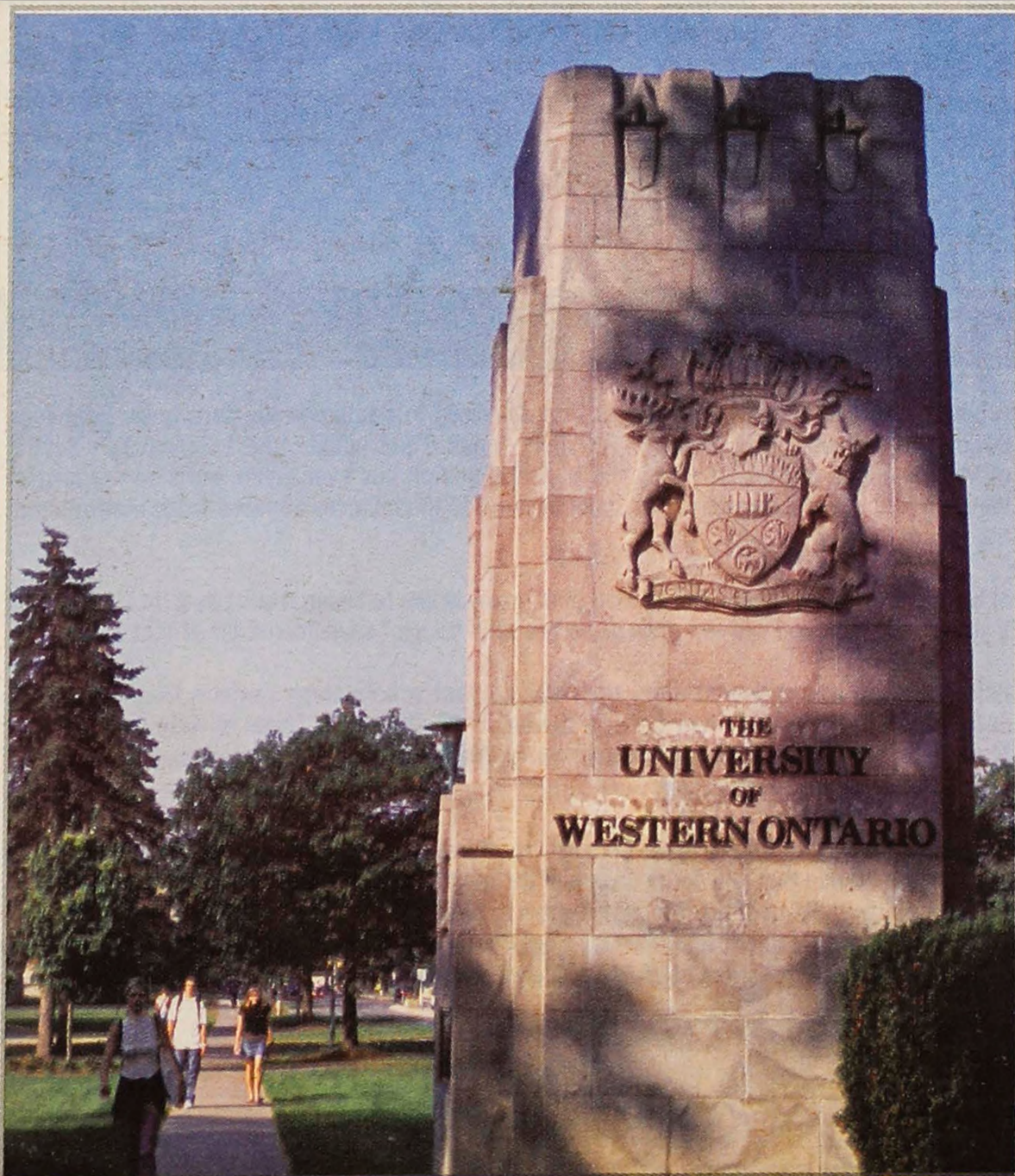
In OUA action, the Mustangs garnered six championship banners in men's squash, men's tennis, women's rugby, men's rugby, women's soccer and men's soccer. Silver medals were awarded to women's cross-country, women's rowing, women's wrestling, badminton, figure skating, men's swimming, and men's track and field. Women's tennis, women's curling, women's squash, women's swimming, women's track and field and men's rowing earned bronze medals.

In other events, Western's team took bronze in the Ontario Intercollegiate Women's Fastpitch Association playoffs, the women's golf team won its second straight Ontario Championship and the Mustang cheerleaders extended their winning streak to 20 at the University and Open National Cheerleading Championship.

Individual accomplishments also abounded. Eva Havaris was named the CIS Women's Soccer Player of the Year and five Mustangs were recognized as OUA Most Valuable Players. Football receiver Andy Fantuz became the all-time OUA and CIS career receiving yards leader with two years of eligibility left to play. His quarterback, Chris Hessel, finished his CIS regular season career with 9,004 career passing yards and sits second all-time in the category for both CIS and OUA quarterbacks. Captain of the Mustang's men's hockey team, Justin Davis, became the all-time regular season scoring leader in Western hockey history, scoring 201 points in his five seasons with the club. And Robert Nigro continued to dominate the squash court, winning his third straight individual championship title.

In the 2003-04 academic year, 196 Mustangs combined athletic achievement with academic excellence. Western ranked second in the nation with 107 CIS Academic All-Canadians, trailing only McGill University and its 125 honourees. At the provincial level, Western produced 93 Achievement Award winners – the most of any university in the province. One out of every four student-athletes at Western qualified for one or both of the awards. 

Contributors



Produced by the Department of Communications and Public Affairs

Editor:

Ericka Barrett Greenham, Communications Officer, Western

Design:

Cara McCarthy, Graphic Designer, Western

Photography:

Shawn Simpson, SWS Photography
 Richard Bain, Richard Bain Photography
 David Chidley, *The London Free Press*
 Mike Hensen, *The London Free Press*
 Sue Reeve, *The London Free Press*
 Jim Anderson, *Western News*
 Karmen Dowling, *Western News*
 Paul Mayne, *Western News*

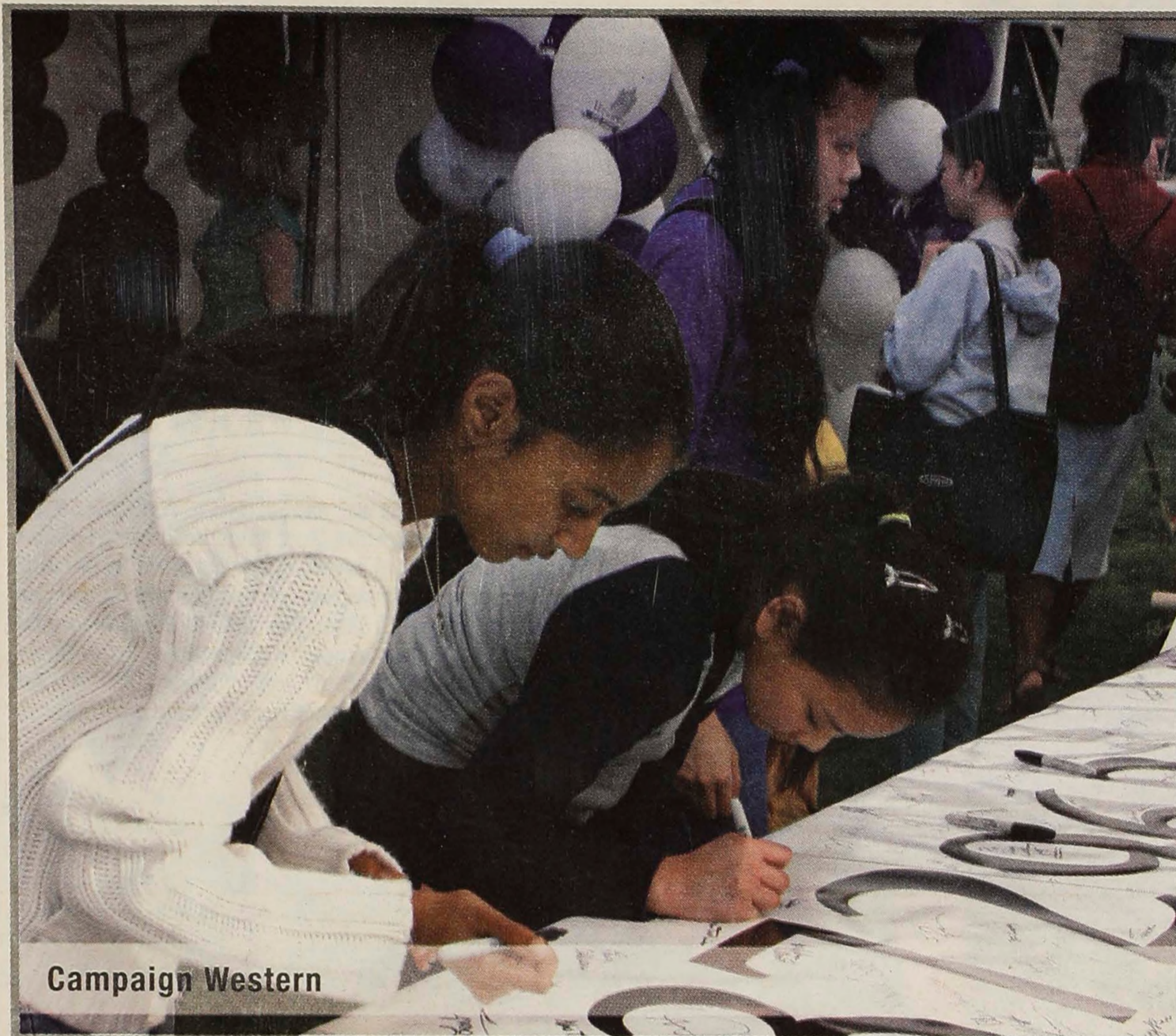
Contributors:

Jim Anderson, *Western News*
 Karmen Dowling, *Western News*
 Douglas Keddy, Research Western
 Paul Mayne, *Western News*
 Krissie Rutherford, Master of Journalism student, Western

Comments & Inquiries:

Office of the President
 The University of Western Ontario
 Rm 118 Stevenson-Lawson Building
 London, Ontario Canada N6A 5B8
 Phone: (519) 661-3104
 Fax: (519) 661-3139
 Paul.Davenport@uwo.ca

Building brighter futures



While Campaign Western's progress was measured in dollars and cents, its impact is being measured by what it is enabling Western's brightest teachers, researchers and students to achieve in classrooms and laboratories across campus. Organized by priority theme area, here is a snapshot of the \$327 million at work:

Attracting and Supporting the Best Students

More than 550 new student awards were created benefiting thousands of current and future students. In addition, 1,500 Ontario Graduate Scholarships and Ontario Graduate Scholarships in Science and Technology were made possible through the Campaign.

Recruiting and Retaining Top Faculty

The Paul Desmarais/London Life Faculty Fellowship in Finance, the T.R. Meighen Family Foundation Community Nursing Professorship and the Rotman Canada Research Chair in Philosophy of Science are examples of the 89 academic positions supported through Campaign Western.

Ensuring the Delivery of Superior Academic Programs

Western offers innovative academic programs that respond to the needs of society. The Campaign provided funding for 64 teaching and research programs, including the Centre for American Studies, the Esso Centre for Mathematics, a new graduate program in biomedical engineering and a rural medicine program.

Expanding Research Capacity

Donor support created 17 new facilities and research centres on campus including the Don Rix Protein Identification Facility, the National Centre for Audiology, the CIBC Centre for Human Capital and Productivity and the Lawrence National Centre for Policy and Management.

Enriching the Campus and Community Environment

Western's donors preserved and enhanced the University's campus and services through projects such as the Beryl Ivey Garden, the Mary J. Wright University Laboratory Preschool and the Scotiabank-funded Centre for Research in Violence Against Women and Children.

Meeting the Highest Priority Needs of the University and Other Projects

Many Campaign Western gifts were endowed at the request of donors to provide long-term support for the University's highest priority needs.

With a view to continuing the momentum created by Campaign Western, the University's Board of Governors recently approved fundraising targets for 2005-2007 totaling \$127 million. ●

Western's most ambitious and successful fundraising endeavor ever came to a close in 2004, raising more than \$327 million in private donations plus an additional \$65 million in expected planned gifts and more than \$150 million leveraged from various government matching programs. The total amount mobilized by the Campaign exceeds \$540 million and represents one of the largest amounts raised by any Canadian university.

"This shows us all at Western what we can accomplish when we pull together," said Western President Dr. Paul Davenport at the campaign close celebration on May 6, 2004.

"On behalf of the entire University, I extend my sincerest thanks to each and every donor who supported Campaign Western. Every gift has made a difference, whether it was a scholarship for a student in need, funds to help construct new buildings, or support for new research."

More than 55,000 alumni from around the world gave to Campaign Western, representing a substantial increase from previous appeals. In addition, 72 donations of \$1 million or more were made, compared to 13 \$1-million plus gifts made during the Renaissance Campaign (1989 to 1994).

Creating Canada's most accessible medical school



Seymour Schulich and granddaughter, Jade, surrounded by Western Medical students

A booster shot of historic proportions was delivered to Campaign Western in its final year. Renowned philanthropist, Seymour Schulich, donated \$26 million to the University's School of Medicine. The gift was not only the largest Schulich has ever given, but also the largest Western has ever received and the most amount of money ever donated to an institution in the City of London.

"I learned from a prominent Torontonian that money is like fertilizer: if you pile it up it stinks and if you spread it around you can grow some beautiful things," says the matter-of-fact Schulich.

Schulich's gift has endowed more than 100 student scholarships ranging from \$15,000 to \$20,000 each, as well as two Canada Research Chairs and a Chair of Neuroscience and Mental Health. In recognition of his generosity, Western's medical school has been renamed The Schulich School of Medicine.

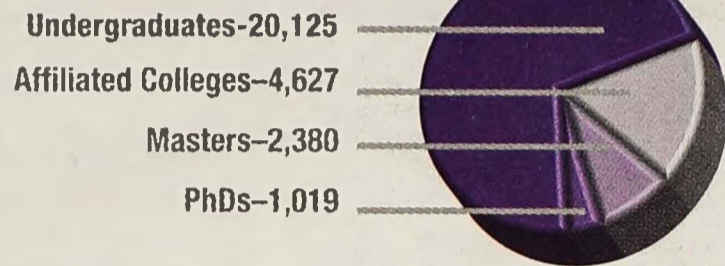
"This donation is transformative because it allows us to create a very large program of student assistance that will make us one of the most accessible schools in the country," says Dr. Carol Herbert, Dean of the Schulich School of Medicine. "We can now go out to people and say if you've got the talent to do the program, then we've got the capacity to ensure that you come to the Schulich School at Western even if you don't come from a wealthy family." ●

Western facts

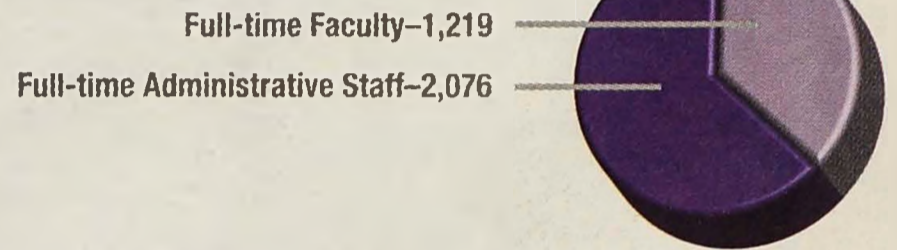
EXPENDITURES 2003-2004		
	(\$000's)	%
Faculties	259,945	64
Scholarships & Bursaries	39,416	10
Support Areas	61,690	15
Corporate Expenditures	43,265	11
Total	404,316	

OPERATING REVENUES 2003-2004		
	(\$000's)	%
Government Grants	183,087	47
Tuition	162,597	42
Other	43,043	11
Total	388,727	

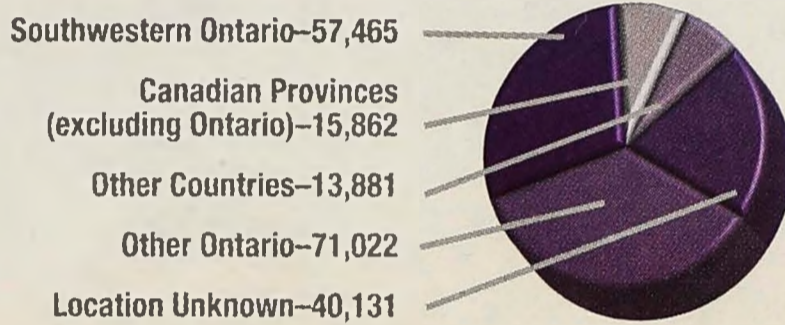
FULL-TIME STUDENT ENROLLMENT (28,151) 2003-2004



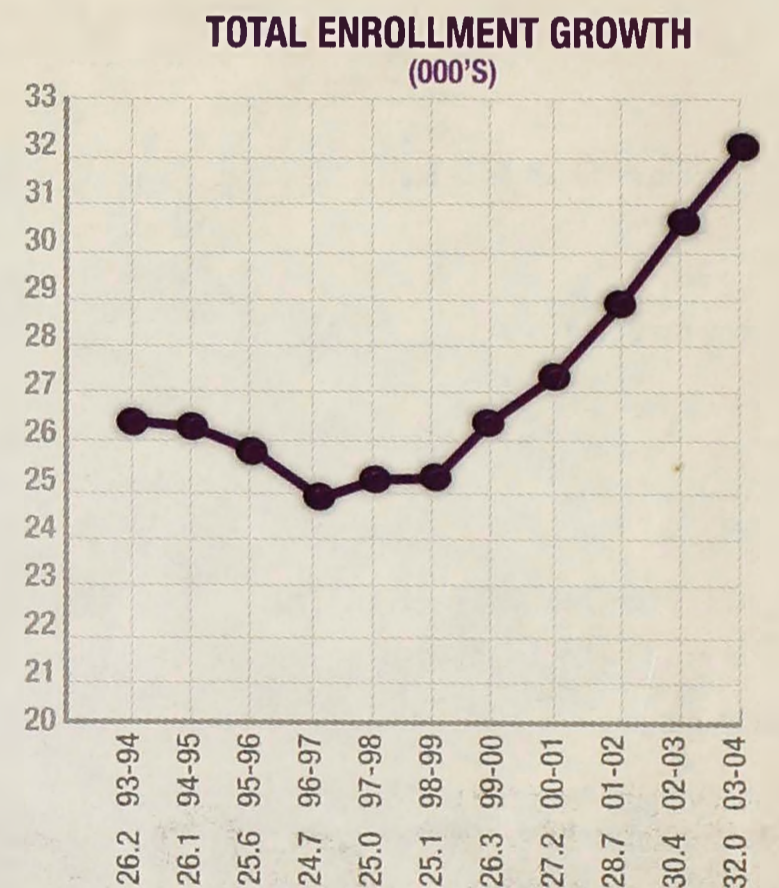
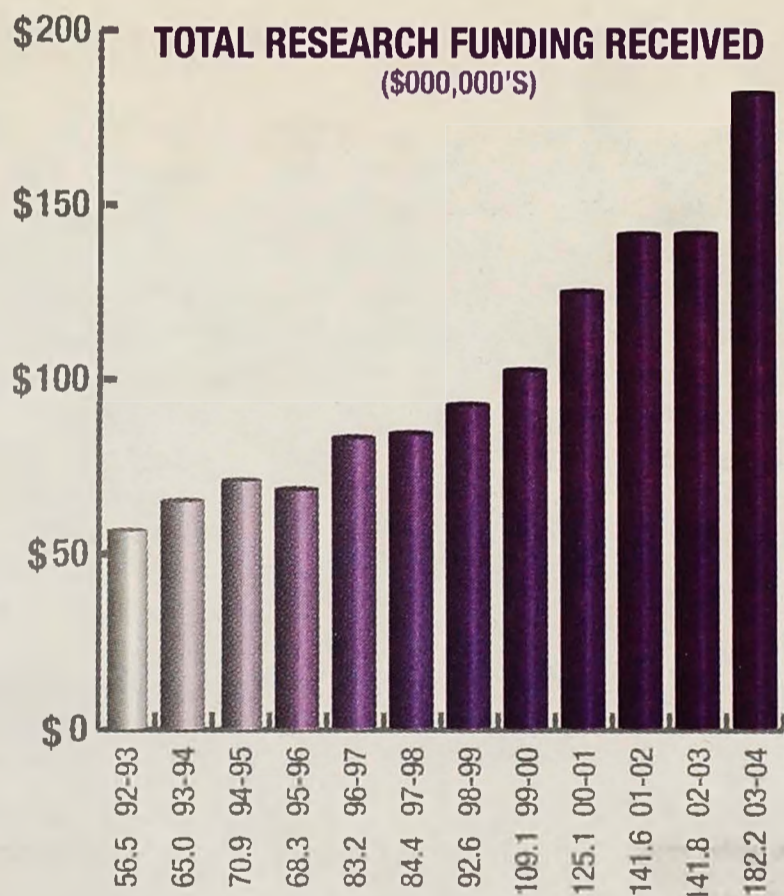
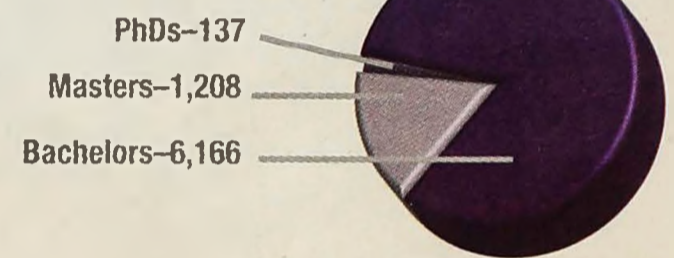
STAFF & FACULTY (3,295) 2003-2004



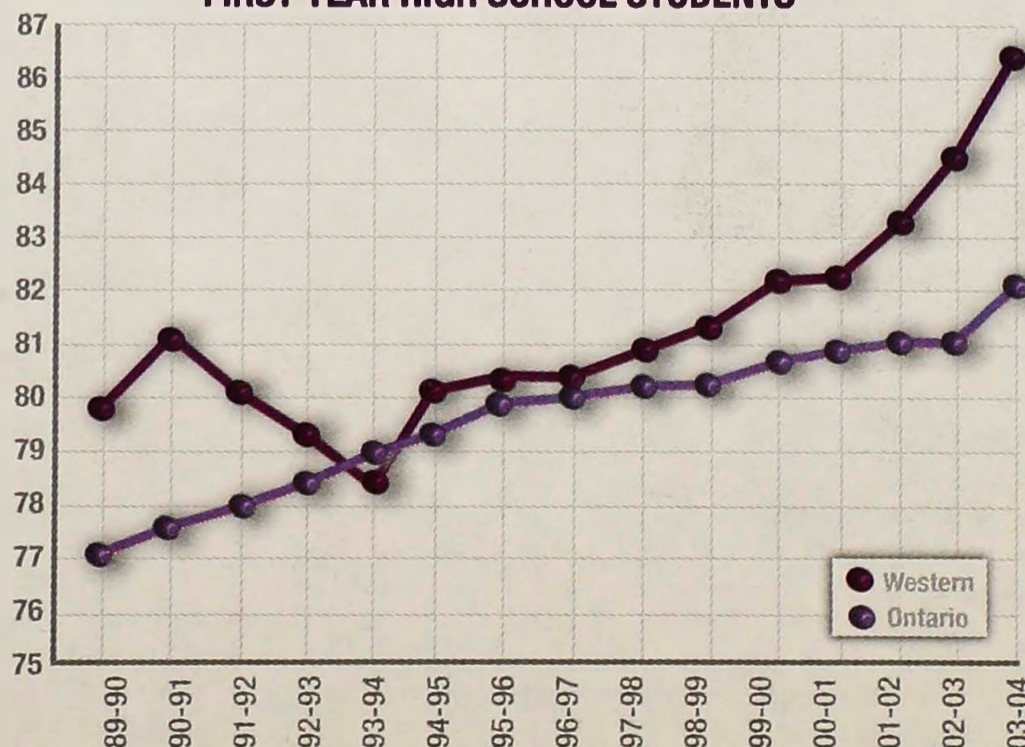
ALUMNI (198,361) as of May 2004



DEGREES GRANTED (7,511) 2003



AVERAGE ENTERING GRADES OF NEW FULL-TIME FIRST YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



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