

Environment & Sustainability Takes Root at Western



Following the recommendations of the Working Group on Environmental Education and Research, in September 2007 the proposed School of Environment & Sustainability received the greatest funding (\$560K) of successful applications to Western's Interdisciplinary Development Initiative. This partnership of the Faculties of Science, Engineering, and Social Science was led by Science Dean David Wardlaw, who has nominated Professor Irena Creed (Biology) and Professor Dan Shrubsole (Geography) as Acting Co-Directors of what will begin as the Centre of Environment & Sustainability. Dan and Irena will oversee Environmental Research Western and the Graduate Programs in Environment & Sustainability. The search is on for a permanent Director as well as a Canada Research Chair (Tier II) in Environmental Science & Sustainability. Clearly, exciting times are ahead for environmental research and education at Western!

A New Graduate Program's Inaugural Year: MES Class 2008

In 2007, the Ontario Council for Graduate Studies formally approved both our new, course-based Masters of Environment & Sustainability and the revised Collaborative Graduate Program in Environment & Sustainability. Our inaugural MES class of 24 students from a broad array of undergraduate experiences spent the fall and winter terms working in core and elective courses on Policy and Management, Business Sustainability, Environmental Science & Engineering, a Consulting Project course where they worked in groups for real clients, and more. They have now started a spring term work placement with hosts who include Trojan Technologies, the Biotron at Western, and the Upper Thames Conservation Authority, among many others. We are looking forward to welcoming our next class of about 25 students, followed by our first convocation, this fall. (class photo: 1st Annual I.D.E.A.S (Inter-Disciplinary Environmental Actions for a Sustainable World) Conference UWO April, 2008)



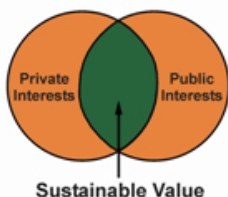
Collaborative Graduate Program Ecosystem Health course on Agricultural Wastes



Photos: Greenway STP, Stanton Farms by J. Berge and H. Hafez

In March 2008, 18 students in the Collaborative Graduate Program participated in our interdisciplinary Ecosystem Health course together with medical students from Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and veterinary students from the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. This year's theme was **Management of Agriwaste and Urban Sewage Sludge in the Rural Environment**, and included a seminar by Agriculture Canada scientist and Western Biology adjunct Dr. Ed Topp on *Drugs, antimicrobials, and endocrine-active substances in biosolids; what is their fate following application to agricultural land?* We also toured Stanton Farms north of London, a massive dairy farm designed for sustainability, as well as Greenway Sewage Treatment Plant in the city of London. The website created by our Collaborative students that integrates experiences and information from the course can be viewed at <http://pingu.physics.uwo.ca/paul/env/> .

An Interdisciplinary Environmental Lunch



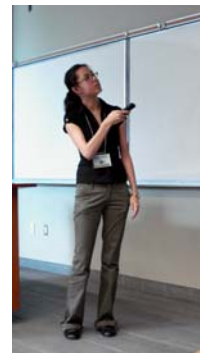
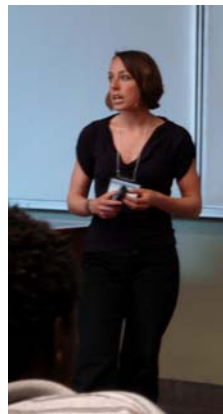
In January 2008, the Ivey Centre for Building Sustainable Value and Environmental Research Western hosted **The Science, Technology, and Business of Climate Change**. Provost & VP Academic Fred Longstaffe moderated brief talks by researchers from across campus that included Franco Berruti from Chemical & Biochemical Engineering, Dianne Cunningham from the Lawrence National Centre for Policy & Management, Radoslav Dimitrov from Political Science, Gordon McBean from Geography and Political Science, and Gordon Southam from Earth Sciences, followed by questions, discussion and lunch. This was a wonderful occasion that is planned to become a regular, twice a year event. For more information on the Ivey Centre for Building Sustainable Value please visit: <http://www.ivey.uwo.ca/centres/building/default.htm>

5th Annual Earth Day Colloquium

On April 21st, students of the Collaborative Graduate Program in Environment & Sustainability hosted the 5th Annual ERW Earth Day Colloquium. There were several invited speakers from various perspectives, including a keynote from Political Scientist Dr. Radoslav Dimitrov, as well as talks by Dr. Robert Bailey (Biology), Dr. Charles Trick (Ecosystem Health Chair), Dr. Denis O'Carroll (Engineering), and Dr. Ron Martin (Chemistry). There were more than 30 interesting contributed talks by everyone from 1st year students to grad students to senior professors, including presentations by visitors to Western. The papers covered the full range of natural science, social science, and engineering environmental research. Congratulations to the Collaborative students for a wonderful conference. We look forward to our 6th Annual ERW Earth Day Colloquium!

Our sponsors and student organizing team are invaluable contributors to each annual event. This year we would like to thank Trojan Technologies Ltd., Nova Chemicals (Sarnia), Research Western and the faculties of Science and Social Science for their generous financial support.

The interdisciplinary team of collaborative program students Nora Casson, Katie Stammler, Nikhil Lobo (Biology), Michael Keningsberg (Geography), Jon Berge (Engineering) and Shauna Solomon (Anthropology) are to be congratulated on creating an expanded event that featured visiting speakers, new community sponsors and incorporated innovative ideas that helped make this year's event another success.



Student Sustainability Meeting

In September 2007, Western students hosted the 9th Annual Sustainable Campuses Conference. This event was attended by more than 150 students from across the country, and included discussions about campus sustainability action and inspiring talks by various folks including Western's Ivey Ecosystem Health Chair Dr. Charles Trick.

For more details, see:

<http://www.syc-cjs.org/sustainable/tiki-ndex.php?page=national+conference>

Campus tree planting marks the event (front: Jordan Kemp, Conference Organizer)

Environmental Education and Research at Western

Graduates

We congratulate the following recent graduates of the collaborative Environment and Sustainability Program (formerly known as the Collaborative Environmental Science Program)

Masters Recipients

Michelle Marcus MSc Biology
Michael Keningsberg MSc Geography
Shahram Amirnia MEdSc
Chemical and Biochemical Engineering



PhD Recipients

Karen Renken PhD Engineering
Lachlan MacLean Earth Sciences
Sergey Samsonov PhD Earth Sciences
Babak Jajuee PhD Chemical & Biochemical Engineering
Juan Carlos Aravena PhD Geography
Greg Wanger PhD Earth Sciences
Zhaohua Chen PhD Geography
Kara Webster PhD Biology
Daria Koscinski PhD Biology



Scholarship and Travel Awards

We would like to congratulate the following graduate student recipients of the latest round of Environment and Sustainability Program (formerly known as the Collaborative Environmental Science Program) scholarships

Entrance Scholarships (Masters level)

Lindsay Crawford (Biology)
Elizabeth Hundey (Geography)
Jennifer Smith (Biology)
Shauna Solomon (Anthropology)

Entrance Scholarships (PhD level)

Farrukh Chishtie (Education)
Hisham Hafez (Civil & Environmental Engineering)
Melissa Hendrickson (Geography)
Sam Russell (Earth Sciences)

Instream Scholarships (Masters level)

Nora Casson (Biology)

Instream Scholarships (PhD level)

Michael Keningsberg (Geography)
Ian Power (Earth Sciences)
Adam Yates (Biology)

Travel Award Recipients

Melissa Hendrickson (Geography)
Daria Koscinski (Biology)
Sam Russell (Earth Sciences)



ONEIA Queen's Park

In April 2008, ERW Director Dr Robert Bailey attended the annual Environment Industry Day organized by the Ontario Environment Industry Association and held at Queen's Park in Toronto. This is an ideal opportunity for industry, government, and academic leaders to come together in small group and one-to-one discussions, exchanging information and perspectives on the changing policy and management environment in Ontario and the education and research needed to respond to this hanging landscape. Bob even got to see Question Period first hand, and concluded that academic meetings are perhaps not as unruly and uncivilized as he thought! www.oneia.ca (Photo: Queen's Park, Toronto)