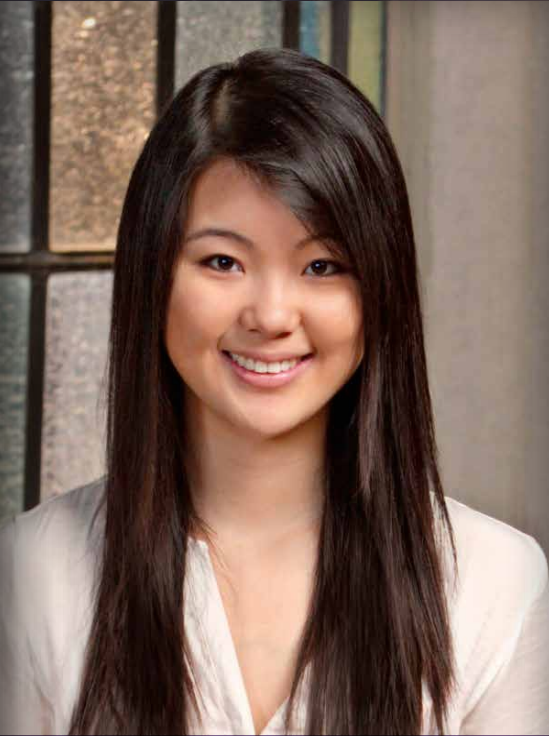




Western

Annual **IMPACT**

2014 REPORT TO ANNUAL DONORS



SMASHING POVERTY DRIVES STUDENT PASSION

One thing Vanessa Deng never thought she would do is drop an 800-pound pumpkin suspended from a crane – and cheer as it smashed into smithereens.

But that's exactly what she and her engineering colleagues at Western did last October. The stunt was hosted by the student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB), an organization committed to alleviating poverty and injustice through increased access to meaningful technology.

"Yes, dropping a pumpkin sounds crazy, but we do it to raise awareness about how we can be involved in smashing poverty in our world," says Vanessa, HBA/BESc'17. "It's also a public way to raise funds so we can send one Western student to Africa every year to assist with an agricultural or water project with EWB."

For Vanessa, her commitment to social justice began in high school – and continues at Western. "As early as I can remember, I've had a passion to encourage and educate students," adds the 19-year-old, "about what we can be doing to create a better world."

Building a better way is one reason Vanessa

chose to study engineering at Western. She's focusing on software engineering because it gives her the opportunity to solve problems.

"Designing software that people need to make their lives better is an incredible thing because I get to think through options and build the best solution," says Vanessa.

Her own life and education is being made better through the donor-funded bursaries she has received this past year, including the **Senior Alumni Award**. Established in 1979, the bursary is funded by alumni gifts and awarded annually to a deserving student.

"I'm honoured to be chosen for this award because it demonstrates that I'm connected to the larger Western community... to those who generously give and support students like me," says Vanessa. "It's also quite incredibly humbling to know alumni donors want me to experience all that I can to be prepared for my future."

"When I'm in a position to give back, I will. Others have supported me, so I want to do the same and stand by future students."

As long as she stands far enough away from any falling pumpkins.

*Student award recipient **Vanessa Deng** loves smashing pumpkins, as long as it's for a good cause. Through the Western chapter of Engineers Without Borders, she helps organize an annual pumpkin drop to illustrate efforts to smash poverty.*

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Be Extraordinary.

The Campaign for Western



YOU BUILD EXCITEMENT FOR WHAT COMES NEXT

Any time I talk with students or scholars at Western, I'm struck by their enthusiasm and dedication – and their gratitude for what they've received. This spring, I met Jamie Rooney and Gina Uppal, just as they were finishing their studies at Western.

I would call Jamie, BA'14, a world citizen. He has volunteered at an orphanage in Mozambique, studied for a semester in Paris and now is pursuing graduate work at the University of Oxford. Gina, BHSoc'14, is a

health advocate who received a fellowship to explore global health policy in Washington, D.C. Both credit Western for preparing them for the future. As Gina shared, "I never thought I would be this excited for what comes next."

By supporting Western, you are building the excitement and opportunity that

students such as Jamie and Gina have discovered. You are providing resources for students to achieve their goals and for student-athletes to compete at their best. You are assisting researchers to discover what we need to know to create a better world.

Last year, you and 6,563 other donors contributed a total of \$2.5 million through Western Annual Giving. On behalf of everyone at Western, I thank you for making an incredible difference.

To illustrate the value of your support to Western, I'm pleased to share *Annual Impact* with you. In this edition, you will read why Maria Drangova, a medical researcher at

Western, says a scholarship she received 20 years ago has helped her advance heart and stroke research.

You will discover why engineering student and award recipient Vanessa Deng loves to smash pumpkins and change the world – and why PhD student and varsity rower Adam Rabalski believes his research and athletic life make him a better student and competitor. In addition, you will learn why Bill Sayers, an alumnus and donor, believes we can all give to

support the aspirations of future leaders at Western.

I find each of these stories – and all of your commitment – to be inspiring and motivating. Your investment in Western's future encourages students to excel, researchers to explore and athletes to compete. Your generosity also inspires more Western alumni and friends to give.

Thank you for your commitment and confidence in Western. Through your participation, I know you are creating the extraordinary. For that, I'm truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cole.

Kelly Cole
Vice-President, External

ROWING WITH A STROKE OF BALANCE

In only five years of competitive rowing, Adam Rabalski "strokes" the right balance between his sport and his academics at Western – a balance that's earning recognition as a top university rower and a graduate student in biochemistry.

At the 2013 Canadian University Rowing Championships, Adam placed second in the heavyweight singles event. Then, as part of the Mustangs men's eight team, he captured gold at the same competition.

This summer, he rowed in the prestigious Henley Royal Regatta in England, where the men's eight squad made it to the quarter finals before losing to Brown University.

Through his rowing career, Adam sees how the discipline and drive required in his sport have keenly focused his life.

"My rowing success has helped align my goals to achieve balance in my education and my sport. I believe something would be missing if I didn't have both in my life," says Adam, PhD'16.

Off the water, Adam plies his graduate research in biochemistry to determine bio-markers for disease. His study of molecules may translate into more effective therapeutics for a host of diseases,

including cancer. In 2014, he participated on the award-winning team from Schulich Medicine & Dentistry at the Canadian Student Health Research Forum in Winnipeg.

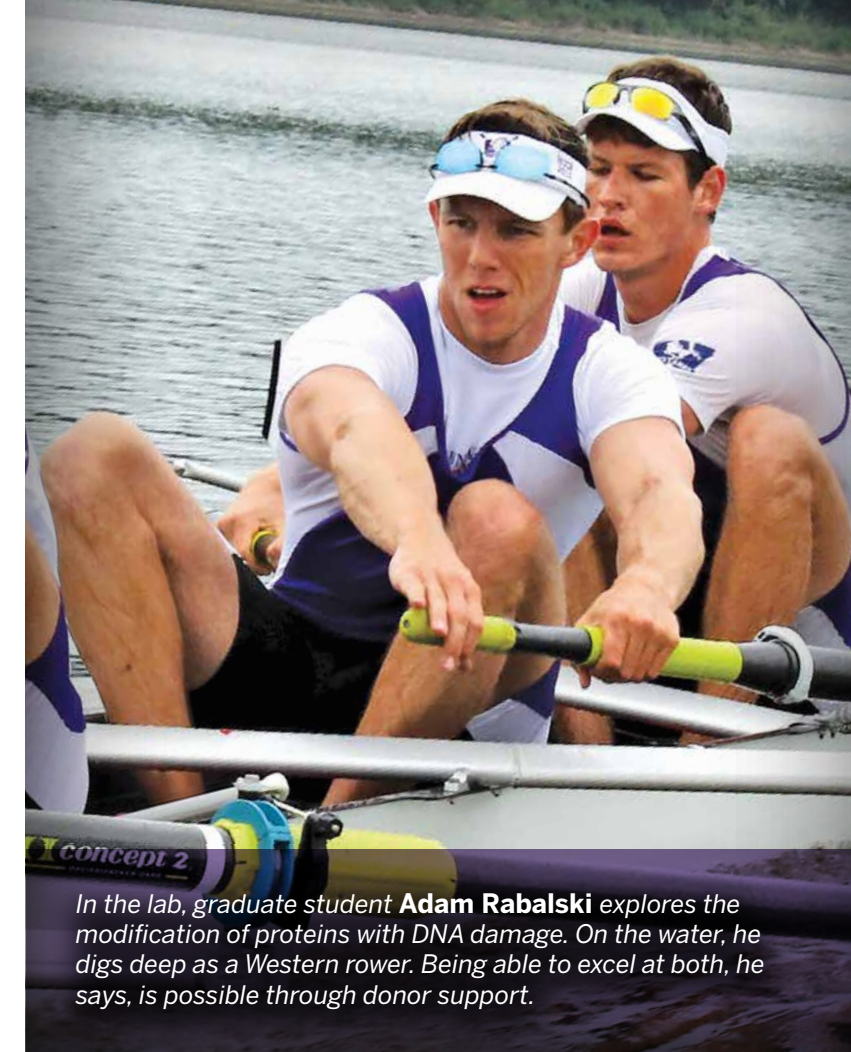
Striking a balance as a graduate student and varsity rower, says Adam, is possible because of donor generosity.

This past year, the rowing team received assistance through the **Adopt A Mustang** program to train and compete at the highest level, which included funding to go to the Henley Royal Regatta.

"Not everyone is able to attend university and play a varsity sport, due to cost. For some, it would be a real struggle," he says. "It's so great to know people in our community support us in achieving both our academic and athletic goals."

That donor support pays out future rewards. "Investing in a group of motivated, goal-oriented individuals," he adds, "allows us to excel and gain life experiences and skills that will transfer beyond university. Donors are investing in leaders – and the community at large will benefit."

To learn more about Adopt A Mustang, visit giving.westernu.ca/adopt-a-mustang



In the lab, graduate student **Adam Rabalski** explores the modification of proteins with DNA damage. On the water, he digs deep as a Western rower. Being able to excel at both, he says, is possible through donor support.

DEVELOPING IMAGES FOR HEART RESEARCH

For most of her career, Maria Drangova, PhD'93, has been taking pictures – just not the kind that end up in family scrapbooks or on social media. She snaps images of arteries, blood vessels and hearts.

A scientist with Robarts Research Institute at Schulich Medicine & Dentistry, Maria is developing ways to capture cardiovascular images in order to treat or prevent strokes and heart disease.

"What my lab explores is how to see the heart so that medical researchers can develop better ways to improve the health of countless individuals," she says.

Maria came to Western in 1988 to pursue a PhD in medical biophysics. During her studies, she received an **Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS)** for four years.

"This kind of financial support gave me confidence in my research," she says, "and demonstrated that pursuing a career in science was not a crazy thing."

After her postdoctoral work at Stanford University, Maria returned to Western as a faculty member and research scientist. Since 1997, she has been exploring medical imaging techniques and tools

that enable cardiovascular researchers to improve treatment for patients with heart disease.

"Early in my career, my funding through an OGS gave me the time and resources to explore my research and interests, which are now the core of my current investigations," says Maria.

Now, as a professor at Schulich, her graduate student experience has come full circle. She supervises PhD students, such as Ali Tavallaei, who are receiving OGS support.

After completing university studies in Iran, Ali came to Western in 2010. He's developing a MRI-guided therapy device for heart surgeons. The device will enable doctors to take advantage of high-contrast MRI images to more precisely see the surgical treatment they're administering to a patient.

His research benefits greatly from OGS support. "Having an OGS carries prestige and provides tremendous assistance, but it also demonstrates how many donors have made it possible to achieve what I've done," says Ali, PhD'14.

"Their support says they have faith and trust in my work – which is amazing to consider."



As a graduate student at Western, **Maria Drangova, PhD'93**, received an Ontario Graduate Scholarship. That funding helped set her current work in motion – discoveries that are assisting with cardiovascular research.

LEARNING THEN, GIVING NOW

When Bill Sayers, BA'79, attended Western, he remembers hearing about the ATM – a new technology that could dispense cash and make deposits by using a bank card. Now, bank machines are ubiquitous, perhaps outdated as consumers can bank online or with smart phones. Yes, times have changed.

For Bill, times have also changed when it comes to a university education. In the past year, he has been helping his twin daughters decide where they want to attend school, which has given him the chance to reflect on his Western experience.

As a student, Bill studied political science and lived in residence at Westminster College. He worked on campus and took out student loans to pay for university.

“My father was a United Church minister and my family didn't have a lot of money in those days. However, with some assistance from my parents, student loans, summer jobs and working at The Spoke, I made my way through,” he says, adding that a university education seemed more affordable in his day.

Today, students need more support, he adds. “Getting into university is one thing, but making sure students have what they need to finish their education is another.”

That's one reason Bill is a donor to **The Western Fund**, giving every month to support current students in their future goals.

“I learned many lessons about giving and being involved in the community during my childhood,” he says. “Many families are struggling to send their children to university, and I believe it's important to help more young people achieve an education.”



Parent, alumnus, volunteer and donor **Bill Sayers, BA'79:**
“We all need to give time, talent and money. In my case, it's to Western.”

His giving is more than financial. Bill has participated in on-campus speaking events, talking to students about how Western prepared him for his career in corporate sales. “I had a ball talking to them and saying, ‘this was my experience and here is what happens after Western,’” he says.

“I believe it's important to give time, talent and money – and I want to give all three to Western. It's been a special place for me, right from the first time I walked on campus until now... it really allowed me to get where I am today. That's priceless.”

THE COST OF FUNDRAISING

Western University is committed to openness and transparency in our fundraising and charitable operations.

Our three-year average cost per dollar is just seven per cent (seven cents for each dollar raised), well below the Canada Revenue Agency recommended threshold of 35 per cent. No funds received from donors are used for fundraising expenses. All fundraising expenses are supported by the University.

Western is a current Ethical Code Program Participant with Imagine Canada. The Ethical Code trustmark signals to donors that we comply with the Code's fundraising and financial accountability standards.

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ANNUAL DONOR RECOGNITION

The Leaders' Circles recognize Western's generous donors who make gifts of \$1,000 up to \$24,999 during each fiscal year. Benefits of membership include invitations to Western events, special communications and recognition on our donor board in Alumni Hall and online.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS INCLUDE:

- Deans' Circle, annual donors of \$1,000 to \$2,499
- President's Circle, annual donors of \$2,500 to \$4,999
- Governors' Circle, annual donors of \$5,000 to \$9,999
- Chancellor's Circle, annual donors of \$10,000 to \$24,999

Individual donors who cumulatively give \$25,000 or more are recognized in The 1878 Societies. For more information on Western's donor recognition programs, please visit giving.westernu.ca/your-impact/recognition/

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To request the kind of contact you want to receive, please contact Advancement Services by phone (519-661-4176 or 1-800-420-7519), by fax (519-661-4182) or by email (advser@uwo.ca).

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