

WESTERN NEWS

ENROLMENT

Slow revenue growth has university administrators exploring a variety of options including raising the cap on first-year enrolment.

Page 3

NEW FACULTY

Robin Wright was initially determined not to become a teacher like everyone else in her family. That plan didn't work out.

Page 4

BUSINESS IN INDIA

Ivey Dean Carol Stephenson offers a closer look at the signing of a recent partnership agreement with one of India's top business schools.

Page 5

Commuters scramble as transit strike hits

BY HEATHER TRAVIS

It may not be in his job description to drive a shuttle van, but Frank Erle can remember what it was like as a student at The University of Western Ontario and sympathizes with those living farther off campus.

The Thompson Recreation and Athletic Centre manager has been volunteering his time this week to drive a Western Community Van, transporting students, faculty and staff who live more than a 30-minute walk from campus.

So on Tuesday Western News went along on a ride with Erle.

"Hop in," he says from the driver's seat of one of 47 vans rented by Western as he picked up students at Sherwood Forest Mall Tuesday.

"I've been there as a student and I would appreciate any help," he says. "It's an easy way to help."

Community vans are just one

Continued on page 7



Heather Travis, Western News

Western Community Van volunteer driver Krysl Chelchowski, Director, Student Information Services and Administration, drops off second-year Economics student Stephen Choi Wednesday at Alumni Hall. Choi is among many students taking advantage of the free shuttle to and from campus during the transit strike.

Information

The university has created a website that provides updated information and helpful links. Visit <http://communications.uwo.ca/transitstrike/>

Western building Peruvian research centre

Students and faculty will investigate pre-Spanish civilizations

BY SARAH VANDERWOLF

For a mere \$12,000 U.S., The University of Western Ontario has become the proud owner of half a hectare (one acre) of property in one of the most pristine, archaeologi-

cally significant regions in the world — Puerto Moorin, a coastal area in Peru.

Within the next year or two, the Guanape Research Centre will be built on the site for the benefit of students and faculty conducting fieldwork in the area. The site is Western's first international land purchase.

"It's a very unusual situation because Western is purchasing land in another country," says Brian Timney, Faculty of Social Science dean. "We wanted to give more opportunities to students. Anthropology is an international discipline."

Jean-François Millaire, a professor in the anthropology department, has been conducting

research in Peru since he was a graduate student. He is interested in studying ancient cultures that preceded more well-known civilizations such as the Incas or the Aztecs.

"We want to see how other cultures saw the world," says Millaire. "I'm interested in the civilizations that created the world as we know it."

The cultures he is particularly interested in preceded the Incas by approximately 1,000 years, and existed roughly from the 2nd century B.C. until the 6th century C.E.

"We've got all the support that we can get," Millaire says. Aside from Western's own financial and logistical support of the initia-

Guanape Research Centre

- Being built over the next two years
- Fundraising target of \$150,000
- Donations will provide student grants and support construction of the new centre, which will be built incrementally
- The centre will eventually include dormitories, lab space, offices, kitchen, and accommodations for a local custodial family to occupy the building year-round.

tive since Millaire proposed the purchase in 2007, the local community in Peru has been "very supportive" of Western's pres-

ence. Millaire hopes to train local archaeologists and help residents learn more about their past.

Millaire has collaborated with the prestigious Larco Museum in Lima while conducting his research, a museum he describes as "the most important privately owned museum in Peru."

Previously, he has had to stay in a city called Treujillo while doing field research, which is 50 kilometres away from the research site. The long commute and lack of direct contact with local people has frustrated both Millaire and his students, who have said that interactions with local townspeople are their favourite aspect

Continued on page 9



Photos by Jean-François Millaire

Western students Flannery Surette and Christine Boston conduct archeological excavations at Huaca Gallinazo in the Virú Valley, Peru.

Focus on Andean archeology

Continued from page 1

of archaeology fieldwork.

The new research site and proposed centre, however, are a mere five kilometres from the Gallinazo Group, the name of the unique archaeological site. The entire site is approximately 70 hectares, or roughly the size of Western's campus, says Millaire.

The site is not only unique in its size, but in an untouched state. While the valley where Lima, the capital city, is located has been completely urbanized and any archeological evidence destroyed, the Gallinazo Group is "still largely pristine."

The site contains the first examples of "urban agglomeration," says Millaire. Dried bricks are visible at ground level and Millaire and his students are interested in unearthing ancient palaces, plazas, and other remnants of ancient Andean culture.

"We're peeling back layer by layer and recovering all sorts of clues. We're trying to reconstruct (pre-Hispanic society)."

The proposed Guanape Research Centre will house whatever archeological evidence is recovered, says Millaire, since no artifacts can leave the country. Previously, any artifacts Millaire recovered have been stored in government-owned facilities and have not been accessible to students.

The initial fundraising drive for this project has been set at \$150,000, says Timney. The money will be used for student grants and to start constructing the new research centre. The centre will be built incrementally, says Millaire, and will eventually include dormitories, lab space, offices, a kitchen, and accommodations for a local custodial family to occupy the building year-round.



Above: A map shows the location of the research centre. Below: Archaeologist Jeisen Navarro Vega draws ancient llama remains at Huaca Santa Clara in the Virú Valley, Peru.

"Western has developed an interest in South and Central America," says Timney. He notes the University of Alberta is known for its research in paleontology, and says that Western hopes to become known as a major player in Andean archeology.

The initiative is not only beneficial for research purposes, Timney adds, but contributes to Western's Strategic Plan for Internationalization, which seeks to "expand the university's international presence beyond the traditional confines of North America," according to the plan's executive summary.



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