

## Postdoctoral association at Western (PAW) Archive 2009

### November 11, 2009

Dear Fellow Postdocs,

It is time again for our annual general meeting, and a number of positions are available in the PAW Executive Council. If you want to make your voices as Postdocs heard, this is the place to get involved and to become active! We offer an excellent opportunity for you to prove that your qualifications include more than a good publication record. No matter if you aim for a job in academia or industry, it is always an asset to show that you excel in a variety of skills, and most faculty appointments currently even require 60% research, 20% teaching and 20% service. Beef up your CV with service experience and be front of the line when your CV is on the desk of a search committee- join the PAW executive council this fall! Everyone can contribute, and the more Postdocs participate, the greater is the benefit for all, and the smaller is the workload for each of us. Make the Postdoc experience at Western a great experience for your career and personal development, and help making it a good experience for others as well by joining the Council! The list with descriptions of positions can be viewed [here](#).

We want to pick best date, so most of you can make it. To help us do this please vote [here](#) which date & time in November will work best for you to attend.

Thank you for voting! Wed, Nov 18th, turned out to be the better date.

Location of the meeting will be the Room 2024 in the Social Science Centre on Wed. Nov.18th from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

We look forward to meet you soon!  
All the best,  
PAW executive

### November 5, 2009

Fri, Nov 13, 1.30-3.30pm: Postdoc Immigration seminar. Details in the poster above.

### September 21, 2009

[National Postdoc Appreciation Day](#) in U.S. and Canada to take place September 24th!  
See also [Science Magazine essay](#)

The schedule of events across North America can be found [here](#)  
As for Canadian universities, so far U of Ottawa, Queen's, U of T and U of C planned events on campus. Read [between the lines](#): despite the ongoing advocacy efforts on the federal and provincial levels Canadian postdocs still have a long way to go to

make their voice heard outside their respective labs.

## **August 23, 2009**

The UWO faculty survey has been completed and the results sent out to those faculty members who wished to be informed. PAW thanks all faculty who took time to respond!

## **July 10, 2009**

Our letter to the faculty at UWO

## **July 2, 2009**

1. Thank you all who attended the general meeting. We ratified our local's by-laws and discussed the results of the UWO's internal postdoctoral status survey.
2. Please check out the CAPS website where the [results of the first Canada-wide postdoctoral status survey](#) have just been posted.

## **July 2, 2009**

I would like to share with you this URL I hope you will find of great use to your careers in Canada:

["Communication Strategies for International Graduate Students: Surviving and Thriving in Canadian Academia"](#) (CSIGS)

It is an e-manual primarily for international and newcomer Canadian graduate students and postdocs to familiarize them with the norms of communication in Canada.

International students/postdoctoral scholars need to be familiar with Canadian norms about communication in order to be successful when they teach, communicate with their supervisors, and apply for jobs, as cultural differences exist in all of these realms. Those who work with international students will benefit from reading this manual to become aware of alternate norms of communication in order to support, understand, and work productively with students from other cultural backgrounds.

CSIGS will be available for free to everybody at The University of Western Ontario during the pilot phase from June, 2009 until September, 2009 via this link (<https://rabbit.vm.its.uwo.ca/TSCreg/Default.aspx>)

You will need to use your basic UWO user name to register for it.

## **June 29, 2009**

Dear fellow postdocs,

You are invited to attend our general meeting:

Monday, June 29, 2009 at 5:15 PM

Dental Sciences Building, Room 1002

AGENDA:

Presentation and Ratification of Bargaining Demands

Presentation and Ratification of Local's By-Laws

Please take the time to participate and tell your postdoc friends to come as well.

It is about your, our future!

Thank you and all the best,

Martin,

PAW president

## **May 15, 2009**

To join our email distribution list please send an empty email from your UWO account with 'list' in subject at pawexec at gmail dot com

For SPAM control only valid UWO accounts are allowed.

The list is anonymous (your email address will not be visible to anyone but the list owner and the existence of the list itself is only visible for members of UWO community).

The list will be used by PAW for important mass communications with fellow postdocs at Western allowing PAW to keep its members informed of all important updates and events affecting postdocs such as the current Canada Postdoctoral Status Survey and the upcoming SGPS workshops.

## **April 28, 2009**

Dear fellow postdocs,

Please note that an IMPORTANT GENERAL MEETING of all UWO Postdocs has been called. This is regarding the progress in current negotiations for our first COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT.

Time: 5:00 - 6:30 PM

Date: Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Room: Social Sciences Bldg, Room 2024

It is vital that as many postdocs as possible attend this meeting.

GAIL LEM, National Negotiator for PSAC will be guest speaker (biography attached)

Refreshments provided.

See also the attached poster for details.

## **April 19, 2009**

Hello UWO Post-docs,

Need some time away from the lab? Tired of spending your Saturday afternoons pouring over endless literature and data? Need a break and a breath of fresh air?

On Saturday, May 9th, you can take the afternoon off and come to Fanshawe Lake to learn all there is about rowing. Find out what rowing in Canada is all about, how to use those rowing machines, and get a chance to row on the water in an 8-man boat! Food, prizes, fun and laughs will be guaranteed!

Read on here for details, and sign up today!  
Cheers,  
Cathy Crawley  
M.Sc. candidate, Dept. of Geography  
UWO Women's Rowing

## **April 3, 2009**

Please take note of upcoming events at [SGPS](#):

[Preparing for Non-Academic Employment: a one-week program for PhD and Postdoctoral Fellows](#) - May 25-29

The Career Centre @ Western, in cooperation with The School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, is pleased to offer this program for 30 individuals who are actively seeking nonacademic employment. Participants will work in a small group setting with other PhD candidates, staff members and employers to prepare for the process of job searching outside of the academy. [Read More.](#)

## **February 27, 2009**

Jorge Cham Tickets Now on Sale at [Infosource](#)!

SOGS is proud to present Dr. Jorge Cham of PhD Comics ([www.phdcomics.com](http://www.phdcomics.com)) as the Keynote Speaker at the 2009 Western Research Forum on Feb 28, 2009 at 4pm in the McKeller Room.

Tickets may be purchased at a cost of \$10 from [Infosource](#) in the UCC. Be sure to get there early as this event will sell out quickly! A booksigning will follow this hilarious presentation. Dr. Cham's books will be available at the event at a cost of \$17.

A recent survey by U.C. Berkeley found that 95% of all graduate students feel overwhelmed, and over 67% have felt seriously depressed at some point in their careers. In this talk, Jorge Cham recounts his experiences bringing humor into the lives of stressed out academics, examines the source of their anxieties and explores the guilt, the myth, and the power of procrastination.

## **February 19, 2009**

Dr. Alain Beaudet, President of CIHR, will visit Western on Monday, March 23.

A meeting for Dr. Beaudet specifically with trainees has been scheduled for:

Date: Monday, March 23

Time: 11:30 - 12:25

Location: DSB 1002

All graduate students, postdocs, fellows and trainees are invited to attend this session. If there are any issues or questions relevant to postdocs which you suggest should be raised at this session, please contact either Mady Hymowitz in the Schulich

Research Office at [mady.hymowitz@schulich.uwo.ca](mailto:mady.hymowitz@schulich.uwo.ca) or Dr. Victor Han, Associate Dean Research at [Victor.Han@sjhc.london.on.ca](mailto:Victor.Han@sjhc.london.on.ca)

In addition, an Open Forum with Dr. Beaudet is scheduled for:

Date: Monday, March 23

Time: 10:15 - 11:30

Location: DSB 1002

Dr. Beaudet will give a brief presentation, followed by a question & answer session. All are invited to attend.

## **February 15, 2009**

As tax declaration deadline approaches, please check out our website for some tax advice specific to postdocs at Western. We would love to be able to give you a precise advice, but please don't forget: we are not CRA nor accountants, so every advice is to be seen as shared experience of fellow postdocs, nothing more.

The MITACS ACCELERATE Program is an applied research program funding graduate students and postdoctoral fellows from across all disciplines to undertake research on site within a company, applying advanced research techniques to address high-level issues as defined by the partner organization. Interns, under the supervision of a faculty supervisor, undertake a four, eight or twelve-month project which investigates a research challenge experienced by a partner company.

Industrial partners benefit from both the results of the research project, and the ability to access and assess the most highly qualified future graduates in Ontario. Universities benefit from leveraging existing industrial funding, developing a new source of funding and research projects, and having an additional recruitment tool to attract new graduate students and postdocs.

The program has recently expanded to allow clinical fellows who are pursuing medical research projects which have an industrial funding partner to participate in the ACCELERATE program. Clinical fellows take part in the program similar to a postdoctoral fellow, and are eligible for 6 single internships (4-month intervals) over two years, or 3 double-funded internships in one year.

An information session for graduate students/postdocs in Health, Health Science, Social Science, Arts & Humanities will be held:

Date: Monday March 23rd

Time: 12:30-1:30pm

Location: North Campus Building Room 14

For further information on the program and to register for the information session, see [http://www.uwo.ca/research/rds/resource/rds\\_resources\\_registration.htm](http://www.uwo.ca/research/rds/resource/rds_resources_registration.htm)

## **February 18, 2009**

[Lou Dobbs on Post Docs & PhDs Being Paid Peanuts & Exploited Through H-1B](#)

## **February 12, 2009**

Check out the 360 professional development initiative at Western:  
<http://www.grad.uwo.ca/360>

As the result of founding the SGPS last summer (2008), you as post-docs (both PDA and PDFs) may now benefit from many of the courses offered there.

## **February 10, 2009**

[Canadian Association of Postdoctoral Scholars \(CAPS\)](#) has now a web presence  
It is a great place to find out what it's like to be a post-doc across Canada

## **February 9, 2009**

Thank you all who submitted the post-doc survey!

## **February 5, 2009**

Announcement: Please visit this website to find out more about Western Staff and Leaders' Conference to take place on February 17-20th.

## **January 31, 2009**

[Will the recession affect higher education?](#)

Alex Usher, Director of Educational Policy Institute Canada, answers readers' questions.

## **January 22, 2009**

Post-doc survey deadline has been extended until Friday, February 6th, 2009

## **January 19, 2009**

Are you still pondering whether or not to respond to our survey? Then please check out these presentations

## **January 17, 2009**

To stay better in touch with all post-docs we created a newsgroup. [Click here to join](#)

## **January 15, 2009**

Did you know about our [SGPS](#)?

The website of SGPS for postdocs is continuously updated and contains information on current events for postdocs, the official definition of PDF vs. PDA, description of recruitment/appointment process and various info around living London and working at Western.

## January 14, 2009

### Canada Post Doc Tax

In recent years, the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) has accepted the education and textbook amounts certificate T2202A issued by Canadian universities to their postdoctoral trainees as proof of their student status. Recently, however, in the middle of the current fiscal year and without any change in the relevant tax laws, the CRA advised Quebec universities not to provide T2202A certificates to their postdoctoral students, effective immediately. Moreover, this notice would likely have remained unknown were it not for an article in "le Devoir" on October 8th, 2008. On account of this late notice and no prior indication of any reassessment of postdoctoral student status by the CRA, this arbitrary decision on the part of the CRA puts postdoctoral students and their families in a precarious financial situation since they were unable to plan for a tangible loss of income (~10%) for the current tax year. Due to the lack of coordination in the CRA's position, and to the financial prejudice inflicted on young researchers, we demand the withdrawal of the concerned notice and the maintenance of the student status, until tax legislation is able to clearly establish the legal status of postdoctoral scholars.

Read more [here](#)

## January 8, 2009

### Post-doc survey 2009.

Dear fellow post-docs (both PDAs and PDFs), those of you who did not receive the newsletter email from us, please download this survey form Post-Doc Survey Final.doc and respond by January 23, 2009 extended until Friday, February 6th. It is about your interests!

Here is why:

The post-doctoral associates (PDAs) at Western voted in 2008 and won the right to be represented by a Union (PSAC). This means that the Union's bargaining committee will be negotiating our first collective agreement with Western. To best represent our interests as post-docs the bargaining committee needs to know what these interests are. This survey is intended to provide such information. As the Union sees itself as representing the interests of both PDAs and PDF, a survey feedback from all post-docs at Western is appreciated. Western's position is that only PDAs have the right of representation through the Union.

I encourage you to participate in this survey process. Please return the survey by replying to this email address ([pawexec@gmail.com](mailto:pawexec@gmail.com)) by Friday, January 23rd Friday, February 6th.

Thank you very much,  
Martin  
President of PAW.