

Western's Parent Connection 2011

The University of Western Ontario

SUPPORT OPENS DOORS TO THE WORLD

Shaho Alishahi dreams of a career where he can travel the world.

"I love learning about different countries, their landscapes, culture and languages and I can't wait to explore what is out there," says the third-year Western Social Science student who grew up in London, Ontario, with his two brothers and parents who emigrated from Kurdistan before he was born.

Shaho has experienced different parts of the world through his studies in Geography and Earth and Planetary Science, and through the diverse students he has met at Western. He says it's donor support and awards, like the \$1,000 bursary he received through The Parents' Fund, that have made it possible for him to study at Western.

Throughout the years, The Parents' Fund has supported student scholarships, needs-based bursaries, computer equipment, labs and library enhancements. In the 2010/11 academic year, The Parents' Fund awarded 36 students with scholarships and financial needs-based bursaries.

"The Parents' Fund Bursary means a lot

to me," says Shaho, who is the first in his family to attend university. "It has given me the financial assistance I needed to pay for tuition and textbooks. If it weren't for student awards, I would not have been able to afford university."

Shaho has always been academically inclined, but knew it would be a struggle to afford a university education. Since he was 16 years old, he has been working to save enough money for school. He continues to work during the academic year and held two jobs this past summer.

"It's important to have support for student awards because I know so many students that would not be able to attend university if it wasn't for these types of scholarships and bursaries. They really do make a huge difference in people's lives."

The avid soccer player says he would love to play for Western's varsity soccer team, but due to his work schedule and a recent injury, he has kept his focus on academics. He says his experience at Western has been amazing and he is excited about the possibilities for his career upon graduation in 2013.

"Western has opened so many doors for



Shaho Alishahi, *third-year Geography student and recipient of The Parents' Fund Ontario Student Bursary*

me, connecting me with people from different parts of the world, while giving me a world-class education," he says. "I'll be able to work in environmental consulting or any type of government job in my field. Whatever I end up doing, I will make sure I enjoy it and continue my curiosity to explore the world."

OUR STUDENTS SAY THANK YOU

"I thank all of the generous parents that donate every year to The Parents' Fund. You may not know how much your contributions make a difference in the lives of the students who need your support. I am from a small rural town and come from a large family with no extra monetary support for school. It is truly amazing to me every year how strangers can come together and be so generous towards students they have never met."

Andrea Braithwaite, BMOS'12

"I'm extremely grateful for all the support I have been given by Western, including The Parents' Fund Award. This support has allowed me to thrive in my academic setting and be the best student possible. I hope to be able to give the same support to students in the future."

Kylie O'Donnel, BESc'12

PROVIDING HEALTH CARE IN THE HEART OF CAMPUS

Western has been providing full primary health care to students away from home for more than 30 years at Student Health Services (SHS).

Located in the University Community Centre, SHS has more than 18,000 students as patients and is open six days a week with eight medical physicians working daily, along with psychiatrists, psychotherapists, social workers, nurses and administrative staff.



Shelagh Hodson, *Student Health Services Director*

SHS Director, Shelagh Hodson, says the most common illnesses are upper respiratory, gynaecological/sexually transmitted infections and mental health. With 10,000 visits last year related to mental health issues alone, Hodson says they have recently added another social worker to provide crisis counselling and triage.

"The number of students with mental health concerns are rising," notes Hodson. "We are trying to keep up with the demand, and the medical side of our operation has been providing a great deal of counselling out of necessity. The most common presentation is anxiety and depression."

More than 20 per cent of the visits at SHS are related to mental health, which Hodson says is consistent with the national statistics on mental health in the age range of 17 to 25 years of age. Studies also show that students with depression are twice as likely to drop out of school.

Students can call for a medical appointment at 519-661-3030. For a counselling appointment or to talk to someone about their options, students may call 519-661-3771.

Also part of SHS is the Student Emergency Response Team (SERT), which provides emergency response on campus to all 911 calls. They are highly trained first responders who can handle most medical situations with a response time of less than three minutes on average. Approximately 50 students each year volunteer their expertise and time to be involved in SERT.

For more information about Student Health Services at Western, please visit:
<http://www.shs.uwo.ca>

ENHANCING CAMPUS SAFETY

With more than 250 student volunteers, Western Foot Patrol provides up to 3,000 escorts each year offering services such as 'pick up and wait' at bus stops, and 'pick up and drop off' at vehicles.

In operation since 1989, Western Foot Patrol is one of the most comprehensive volunteer-driven, campus crime-prevention programs in North America.



Western Foot Patrol provides co-ed teams that walk students, faculty and staff to their destinations on main campus, the affiliated University Colleges, and near Western's campus. They also have a vehicle for use during high volume times and long escorts. Additionally, these volunteers patrol campus and report anything suspicious to Campus Community Police Service, perform monthly lighting audits on campus, provide weekly audits of the emergency blue phones and operate the work-safe program – a check-in service for people who stay late on campus to make sure they are okay.

"Even though Western has a safe campus, we focus on a proactive approach to safety," says Western Foot Patrol Manager, Samantha Johnstone. "We are a service that's always there and encourage our campus community to take advantage, to feel and stay safe."

Western Foot Patrol can be reached at 519-661-3650. For more information, visit:
<http://www.uwo.ca/footpatrol>

2011/2012 IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct 10: Thanksgiving
 - Oct 27-28: Autumn Convocation
 - Dec 7: Classes end
 - Dec 8-9: Study Days
 - Dec 10-21: Mid-year examination period
 - Dec 22: First term ends for all programs except Dentistry, Education, Law and Medicine
 - Jan 9: Classes resume
 - Feb 20: Family Day
 - Feb 20-24: Reading Week
 - Mar 15: Last day to receive applications for graduation at Spring Convocation
 - Apr 6: Good Friday
 - Apr 11: Fall/Winter Session classes end
 - Apr 12-13: Study Days
 - Apr 14-30: Final examination period
 - Apr 30: Second term ends for all Faculties except Dentistry, Education, Law and Medicine
 - May 14: Intersession courses begin
 - Jun 11-15: Spring Convocation
 - Jun 18: Proposed start date for Course Registration for 2012-2013 Fall/Winter Term
- For a complete listing:
www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm/important-dates

STUDENT SERVICES OF INTEREST:

- Accessibility at Western
accessibility.uwo.ca
- Alumni Western Programs for Students
alumni.uwo.ca/getinvolved/students/index.html
- Alternative Spring Break
asb.uwo.ca
- Campus Community Police Service
uwo.ca/police
- Centre for New Students
registrar.uwo.ca/cfns
- Equity and Human Rights Services
uwo.ca/equity
- International and Student Exchange Centre
www.sdc.uwo.ca/int
- Learning Skills Services
www.sds.uwo.ca/learning
- Student Services
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>
- Western Foot Patrol
uwo.ca/footpatrol
- Western Libraries
lib.uwo.ca