

EGSA Newsletter



SEASON'S GREETINGS

A big thank you to everyone who joined our End-of-Year Hangout on Nov 28 and the Online Writing Retreat on Dec 2. Congrats to the trivia winners during the hangout. You nailed it! If you weren't able to attend, no worries. We've included the trivia questions in this issue so you can try them out over the holidays.

Looking ahead, there are several events and opportunities for graduate students, including a call for proposals for RMSE 2026. Read on to mark down the details.

We've also included some wellness tips to help you take care of yourself during the holiday season. We hope you find them helpful.

For those who celebrate, **Merry Christmas!** For everyone else, we wish you a **safe, restful, and joyful holiday season**, and a **happy new year!**

Newsletter Highlights

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Holiday Wellness Tips

Trivia: Western + Faculty of Education + EGSA Edition

NAVIGATING GRAD LIFE

We're excited to welcome two recent graduates, Dr. Marja Bertrand and Dr. Renata Matsumoto, who will be sharing their experiences and insights as part of our Navigating Grad Life series.

Title: Work-Study-Life Balance

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026

Time: 6:30-7:30pm (ET)

Format: Online (Zoom)

Speaker: Dr. Marja Bertrand holds a PhD in Curriculum Studies from Western University. Her research interests include culturally responsive pedagogy, mathematics education, STEM/STEAM education, makerspaces, design-based learning, and computational thinking tools. She is currently a Lecturer and Adjunct Professor at Crandall University and a Senior Research Associate at the Faculty of Education, Western University.

Register [here](#) to receive the Zoom link.

More details about Dr. Renata Matsumoto's session will be available in January 2026.

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

RESEARCH CAFÉ

Thank you to everyone who completed our survey about the format of the Research Café. Your input was incredibly helpful! Below are some details of the Research Café for the Winter 2026 term.

January 23, Friday, 11am-12pm (ET), online

February (date and time TBD), online

February (date and time TBD), hybrid

March (date and time TBD), hybrid

April (date and time TBD), in person

Mark them in your calendar and look out for the registration launch in January 2026.

SPORTS EVENTS

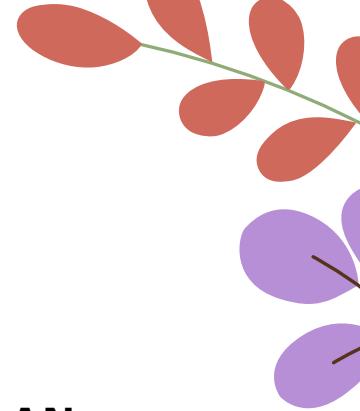
EGSA is exploring opportunities to organize sports events to help graduate students connect, have fun, and stay active. We'd love to hear your thoughts and preferences.

Complete this [survey](#) to help us plan activities that best suit our community.

WELCOME SHLAIR ALQAIS, OUR NEW MENTORSHIP PROGRAM COORDINATOR!

Please join us in welcoming Shlair Alqais (MPEd/Year 1), our new Mentorship Program Coordinator. We look forward to a new round of mentor-mentee matching and a refreshed lineup of mentorship events in the coming year.





UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

MPED ALUMNI CAREER SHARING SESSION

This event is designed to help current MPEd students connect with alumni and learn from their career paths after graduation. Students from all MPEd fields and specializations are warmly invited, and students from other Education graduate programs are also welcome to join. More information will be shared in early 2026.

WESTERN'S SENATE & BOARD OF GOVERNORS ELECTIONS INFORMATION SESSION

Learn about governance at Western and how you can run in the upcoming elections for Senate and the Board of Governors. The Information Session is open to all faculty, staff, and students.

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026

Time: 12:30-1:30pm (ET)

Location: Zoom

Please register through this [online form](#) by Tuesday, January 6, 2026.

Registrants will receive an email with the Zoom link on January 7, the day prior to the Information Session.

Questions may be directed to elections@uwo.ca

ROBERT MACMILLAN SYMPOSIUM IN EDUCATION (RMSE)

We are pleased to announce the theme for RMSE 2026:

Supporting Students in the 21st Century Classroom: Supports, Interventions and Equitable Practices

The symposium will take place on Thursday, March 5, 2026 (in person) and Friday, March 6, 2026 (online).

We invite submissions in the following formats:

- Paper presentation (thesis, empirical and conceptual papers)
- Roundtable presentation (small group discussion centered in one or more individual papers in progress)
- Poster (presentation and discussion)

Submit your proposal by scanning the QR code on the poster.

For questions, please contact Pascale Gendron at pgendron@uwo.ca.



ROBERT MACMILLAN
SYMPOSIUM IN EDUCATION

Western
UNIVERSITY • CANADA

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

SUPPORTING STUDENTS IN THE 21ST CENTURY CLASSROOM: SUPPORTS, INTERVENTIONS AND EQUITABLE PRACTICES

IN PERSON: MARCH 5TH
ONLINE SYNCHRONOUS:
MARCH 6TH

SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSALS BY
SCANNING THE QR CODE

BY JANUARY 23RD, 2026



FINDING JOY FAR FROM HOME

Celebrating Christmas When You Are Away From Loved Ones

Christmas can feel very different when you are away from home. The season often brings mixed emotions, but there are still many ways to create warmth, comfort, and connection wherever you find yourself.

STAY CONNECTED

Make time to reach out to family and friends. A quick video call, voice note, or shared virtual meal can help you feel supported and remind you that distance does not erase love.

CREATE A SENSE OF HOME

Small touches can make the season feel familiar. Cook a dish you enjoy, decorate your space with lights, or play the music you grew up hearing. These simple traditions can help you feel grounded.



ENJOY LOCAL FESTIVITIES

Explore what your current community has to offer. Visit a holiday market, walk through decorated neighbourhoods, skate outdoors, or relax with a warm drink in a cozy café. These moments can help you appreciate where you are now.

ALLOW YOURSELF TO FEEL

It is okay to experience nostalgia or loneliness during the holidays. Give yourself the space to reflect, journal, pray, or talk with someone who understands. Your feelings are valid.

SHOW KINDNESS

Doing something thoughtful for others can brighten your own season. Volunteer, donate, or check in on someone else who may also be away from home. Kindness creates genuine connection.

Wherever you are this season, we hope you find moments of peace, warmth, and joy. Happy Holidays!

Written by Toyosi Ogunbanwo



TRIVIA: WESTERN + FACULTY OF EDUCATION + EGSA EDITION

Q1: Which of the following is Western's brand colour?

- A: Red
- B: Gold
- C: Purple
- D: Navy

Q2: What is the official mascot of Western University?

- A: Goose
- B: Mustang
- C: Wolf
- D: Falcon

Q3: When was Western University founded?

- A: 1816
- B: 1878
- C: 1905
- D: 1920

Q4: What is the name of Western University's student government for graduate students?

- A: SOGS
- B: PSAC Local 610
- C: USC
- D: UWOFA

Q5: Which building is home to the Faculty of Education?

- A: Middlesex College
- B: Alumni Hall
- C: Talbot College
- D: John George Althouse Building

Q6: What is the room number of the Graduate Office?

- A: 1139
- B: 1150
- C: 1161
- D: 1166

Q7: Which program is NOT offered at Western's Faculty of Education?

- A: Bachelor of Education
- B: Master of Education
- C: Master of Professional Education
- D: Master of Arts

Q8: Which social media platforms does EGSA use?

- A: Instagram
- B: LinkedIn
- C: X
- D: All of the above