President Peter MacKinnon was kept busy at orientation for U of S students held Sept 1. He delivered a rousing welcome speech in front of the College Building and also took part in a flash mob that performed to the enthusiastic crowd. The performance raised awareness of how the University Advancement Annual Fund improves the student experience.

Aboriginal initiatives have been a significant aspect of the university’s integrated plans, and the College of Education is following suit in its new plan with a comprehensive training program for faculty and staff.

“Aboriginal issues have always been a priority,” said Cecilia Reynolds, dean of the college. “The focus has changed in each plan to include research, education and engagement, but a focus on Aboriginal issues has always been of primary importance.”

Heading into the third integrated plan, the College of Education has a new initiative that will bring together and inform all iterations of Aboriginal focus from previous plans, explained Reynolds. “The Beadwork group in the College of Education have been developing an initiative to provide professional development to everyone in the college—faculty, researchers and staff—in order to build on their awareness of Aboriginal culture and knowledge. This awareness will inform teaching, learning, research and engagement for First Nations, Métis and Inuit.”

With $300,000 in funding over three years—$240,000 from the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning and the rest shared by the college and the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness—Beadwork, a committee within the college, has started determining what the initiative will look like. The program, Reynolds said, will start to take shape this fall when the college gathers as a whole to assess needs and with input from Elders. “We are using emerging design which means that the people in our college will identify what they would like to focus on and then we will direct resources to those areas,” said Reynolds.

Those areas could be as simple as a session on Aboriginal culture, or could be more involved and include attending a powwow, a smudging ceremony or a sweat. “It really depends on the outcome of Building Aboriginal awareness

College of Education develops PD initiative

Kris Foster

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Government support recognized

Premier Brad Wall and U of S President Peter MacKinnon shared the honours Sept. 2 in the unveiling of a plaque near the main entrance of Health Sciences D Wing that recognizes the province’s commitment to the largest capital project in the university’s history.

Made of polished red granite salvaged from the Medical Research Building that was torn down to make way for Health Sciences E Wing, the plaque’s simple inscription says it was laid by the premier, and gives the date. For MacKinnon, it represents a commitment by the province “that has been nothing short of magnificent.”

In response, the premier said it would not be hyperbole to say the students, staff and researchers who pass through the entrance and past the plaque “will be life savers and life changers” in the health-care field.

Work continues on D and E Wing construction as well as on extensive renovations to A and B Wing of the Health Sciences project.

Creating awareness critical – Reynolds

From Page 1

the needs assessment the college is undertaking. We want to accommodate their needs and customize the design,” said Reynolds, adding that the Colleges of Nursing and Kinesiology and the Gwenna Moss Centre are also participants in this pilot program. “If successful it can act as a blueprint and provide best practices for delivering this form of professional development across our campus.”

These types of training initiatives that create awareness of Aboriginal issues are critical not just to the university; explained Reynolds, but also schools, colleges and universities throughout Saskatchewan and Canada. “Demographics are predicting that kindergarten classes will be 40 per cent Aboriginal by 2020. This is already the case in a lot of schools,” she said. “We prepare teachers and we have to ensure they have knowledge of Aboriginal culture and history. We have to be a step ahead and prepare our teachers, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, at every level.”

Classrooms, she continued, are complex environments. “Classes in elementary schools have complex human interactions that involve political, racial, economic and gender issues. The drama plays out in the classroom and we need to prepare teacher candidates for this.”

The demographic shift simply makes these dynamics more complex making the need for increased Aboriginal awareness more critical. “This has always been important, it is just heightened now. Not just because of the demographics, but because it is the right thing to do, it is no longer acceptable to ignore social injustices. This has to be a part of preparing the teaching profession.”

Meet and talk with the Governor General

The University of Saskatchewan is pleased to welcome His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, to our campus on September 13. His Excellency will give a talk entitled “Becoming a Smart and Caring Nation.”

Following the talk, the Governor General will answer questions from the audience and meet the public in Nobel Plaza.

Everyone is welcome

For more information please contact (306) 966-2501.
Creating opportunities for Ethiopian exchanges

Kris Foster

A unique partnership between the U of S and an African university has created the opportunity for students to study issues of food security, nutrition and community health in Ethiopia.

Backed with $97,000 over three years from the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) Students for Development project, the U of S Colleges of Pharmacy and Nutrition, Nursing and Agriculture and Bioresources have teamed up to create a student exchange program with Hawassa University (HU) in Hawassa, Ethiopia.

"The College of Agriculture and Bioresources has had a partnership with Hawassa University since 1997," explained Carol Henry, project lead and associate professor in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. "A few years ago we got together to see what opportunities existed to expand this collaboration and how our students could work together. We decided that community development issues like nutrition, health and agriculture needed to be addressed."

So the group submitted an application to the AUCC to fund an exchange program between the two universities. "The AUCC funding is going towards setting up a new interdisciplinary exchange program that will send five U of S students to Ethiopia and bring three students from Hawassa here. This provides great learning opportunities for our students and also addresses these critical issues from a number of disciplines."

The students, explained Henry, will work on research projects that contribute to food security, the results of which will be spread through publications and workshops. "The major benefit of this program is that students will get to learn and research together and develop international relationships. But even more important is that issues of food security, nutrition and health will be addressed in a developing country, and this will build capacity to deal with these issues in the future by training Ethiopian students."

The program will build upon previous funding from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). "CIDA funded the U of S and HU partnership with $1 million towards the creation of a joint PhD program in agriculture science and the development of the masters in applied human nutrition (MAHN)," she said.

That initial investment is starting to pay off, explained Henry, pointing to a student from HU who completed the MAHN program and is now coming to the U of S to pursue a PhD this fall.

"All people, at all times, should have access to safe, affordable and nutritious food," said Henry of the World Health Organization's definition of food security. "That is what this project strives to accomplish. We are training young researchers to build capacity for the future."

USSU to refresh vision, mission, values

With the Place Riel project wrapped up, the U of S Students' Union (USSU) can turn its attention elsewhere, namely tidying its bylaws and rethinking its vision, mission and values.

USSU President Scott Hitchings said the USSU executive met bi-weekly over the summer to take care of housekeeping changes to its constitution and bylaws, a process last undertaken in 2009. It was discovered at that time that the constitution "had no force or effect under law," said Hitchings. The situation that was corrected by combining it with the USSU’s four bylaws to create one document and "by making sure no parts of the constitution or bylaws contradicted each others."

The changes considered over the summer are of a housekeeping nature, he said. For example, the section on the role of the president also included a list of tasks “but that’s not what should be in the bylaw. That should be elsewhere.”

The executive’s recommendations on bylaw changes will go to student council and, later this year, to the organization’s annual general meeting.

As for the vision, mission and values, Hitchings said it has been about five years since the last review "and just like the university does its integrated plan, we’re looking at refreshing our vision, mission and values, and we want to have staff involved, councilors involved, students involved.”

Hitchings said how the review process will unfold remains to be determined but he envisions each stakeholder group bringing forward suggested changes that will then be discussed. "The limitation of our vision is that it could very easily be the university’s or a lot of other groups on campus because it says we’ll be recognized as a leader in the student experience. We need to go beyond that to make sure we want the USSU to be in five years."

Like the bylaw changes, the November annual general meeting is the target date for presenting a revised vision, mission and values.

Correction

Two names were misspelled in the Aug. 26 issue of On Campus News. We apologize to Carla Schulz and Richard Gray.

From the Archives

Patrick Hates, U of S archives

Energetic history

Almost from the beginning, the U of S has been engaged in energy research. Two early examples were the straw gas car and the efficient use of Saskatchewan’s lignite coal resources.

The Department of Agricultural Engineering, under the direction of Professors Greg and Frey, conducted a wind generation study from 1926 through 1936. This was funded through the NRC where President Murray was member of the board. A wind turbine was installed on the roof of the Engineering Building where six- and 32-volt plants were tested.

According to the 1931 progress report: "We are still carrying on investigation with regard to development of electricity, using the windmill as prime mover. We are now on the fifth year of this work. We had to do some extensive repairing both on the battery and the windmill. The output of electricity however, continues to be good, about four times the requirements of a household for lighting purposes." This research sparked interest in rural Saskatchewan with the university receiving a “large number of letters asking for information re: construction and use of small wind electrical plants.”
The health-care system is complex, so complex that it threatens the quality of care for patients. But in his new book, Dr. Jay Kalra suggests there are concrete steps that can be taken to create a culture for medical error reduction not only in Saskatchewan but around the world.

Improving the quality of patient care is a topic Kalra, a professor of pathology, has been speaking and writing about for more than a decade, but with the publication of Medical Errors and Patient Safety: Strategies to Reduce and Disclose Medical Errors and Improve Patient Safety in May, his research and his model for improvement are now widely available. As a health-care practitioner, Kalra advocates for a solution from within the profession: “If we don’t do this, somebody will do it to us.”

The book documents the scope of medical errors and adverse events, their causes, barriers to disclosure, and adverse events, their causes, barriers to disclosure, and progress and initiatives already underway. While he does not ignore the fact health care is a system run by people: “Nobody likes to say anyone is entitled to make a mistake but we’re human” – Kalra suggests taking a no-fault approach using a confidential and non-punitive action-oriented model for disclosing and addressing medical errors, and by addressing he means “change the system so it doesn’t happen again.”

Writing this book has been “on the back burner” for some time, said Kalra, who was spurred into action when the Berlin publisher De Gruyter proposed a series of books on patient safety. Kalra’s is the first in that series. When asked who should read it, Kalra’s response was simple: “Everyone.”

Kalra is available online, and a limited number will soon be available in the University Library.

On the Bookshelf is a periodic column about books published by members of the U of S community. If you have a book you think holds broad appeal, send an email to ocn@usask.ca

On Campus News

The report on expanding degree-granting status in Saskatchewan is out and the U of S president believes it provides a solid basis for addressing the question in the future. “I don’t know what requests the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration has before it now, if any, to grant degrees,” said Peter MacKinnon, “but (Alex) Usher’s report offers a framework in which to deal with them.”

Usher, of Higher Education Strategy Associates in Toronto, was asked by the provincial ministry in February to head up a fact-finding process across Saskatchewan about expanding degree-granting status to in-province post-secondary institutions other than the two universities. His final report, released to the public Aug. 26, states, in part, that permitting non-university institutions the right to offer degrees is considered desirable, “provided that it is accompanied by a rigorous system of quality assessment at the program level.” The report also includes a list of recommendations that would allow such an expansion to take place. The review consisted of four parts: a widely distributed discussion paper, a “learning event” in Saskatoon in April that brought together over 60 people not including ministry staff or outside presenters; the gathering of written submissions; and one-on-one discussions with stakeholders.

MacKinnon described Usher as an able man and a suitable consultant for the project, which included participation by the U of S. He then described the report itself as “enabling, allowing for the possibility that there will be other degree-granting institutions in our province.” But for the president, it does not matter how many institutions grant degrees; what is more important is that any expansion of the right to grant degrees is in the best interests of Saskatchewan, that the financial consequences of expansion “should be clear up front,” and that “quality remains paramount in post-secondary education policy.”

The report, which is now in the hands of the ministry for consideration, outlines changes to degree-granting status across the country and summarizes the feedback collected within Saskatchewan. It recommends the establishment of an independent quality assurance board to review new degree program requests, and that new degree programs at private institutions not automatically receive provincial funding. (On April 4, the ministry announced...
Bacteria in a bottle

Ziola seeks answer to what spoils beer

By Kris Foster

Beer can get sick, becoming ridden with bacteria, just like us humans. It is a topic that has been on Barry Ziola’s mind since the mid ’80s.

In a conversation with Mike Inglewade, a famed U of S researcher on subjects like fermentation, brewing and fuel alcohol production, Ziola, with a background in microbiology and immunology, remarked that “detecting sickness in beer could be the same as with humans.”

Combining his curiosity about “sick beer” with an interest in applying knowledge in the real world, Ziola set out to discover what spoils the golden liquid. “Microbial quality control in breweries was really lacking back then. It could take weeks to months to detect bacteria,” explained the pathology professor in the College of Medicine. “What we wanted to do was find a better and more rapid method of detection and identification of the bacteria that spoils beer.”

Ziola estimates the financial losses due to spoilage that brewers experience are between $50-200 million globally each year. Because of this economic impact, his research has garnered industry support, most notably from Coors Brewing Company. More recently, industry support has been replaced with funding from NSERC in the form of a Discovery Grant to the tune of about $150,000 over five years.

The grant will enable Ziola and Vanessa Pittet, a health sciences PhD student in the College of Medicine, to identify and sequence the genomes of five strains of bacteria that wreak havoc on beer. “There are tons of bacteria in breweries, but which bacteria spoil product and how they spoil it is what we need to understand,” said Pittet. “Beer is a harsh environment for bacteria to survive in, but certain strains not only survive, but thrive in an environment with high alcohol, low nutrients and low oxygen—not to mention the antibiotic properties of hops. What they do in order to survive is very important.”

They have already identified and sequenced one of the most common bacteria that plagues beer, and will do the same for four more strains of bacterium before the end of the grant. “We will be able to use this knowledge in a detection system. This system will detect the presence of bacteria in as little as six hours rather than 28 days,” said Ziola.

The system, said Pittet, will predict and protect quality control for breweries. “If it is detected they can assess whether the concentration level will cause problems before the consumer drinks it,” she explained.

Ziola is quick to point out that while these bacteria may offend the consumers’ sense of smell and taste, they pose no real threat to health. “Spoiled beer can have a butterscotch flavor, a turbid appearance, produce slime or even smell like a pig’s barn, but won’t cause health problems.”

The significance, Ziola explained, is the reaction a consumer has to a pig-barn-smelling lager. “That will cost you a customer for life,” he said with a laugh. “Most breweries have a problem with bacteria, it is virtually impossible to eradicate. But if we can help with rapid detection, the brewery can be shut down and cleaned before it ships to consumers. They really need to be forever vigilant.”

Campus Incidents

Selected incidents reported by the Department of Campus Safety. Report all information about these and other incidents to Campus Safety at 966-5555.

August 22-28

- Officers issued the following tickets:
  - 2 for driving without a valid license
  - 1 for driving while suspended
  - 1 for operating an unregistered motor vehicle
  - Two intoxicated males were removed from the area of the Diefenbaker Centre for causing a disturbance.
  - Officers investigated a gate alarm at Lot one. A driver is being investigated for leaving the lot without paying.
  - Officers investigated graffiti on playground equipment at McEwan Park and a laptop theft from Seager Wheeler.
  - A wallet lost in 1993 was turned in and returned to the original owner.
  - A fire was reported outside the Stores Building. It would appear someone may have thrown a lit cigarette butt into the ground mulch causing a fire.
  - Officers used three fire extinguishers and Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services attended and finished extinguishing the smoldering mulch.

Aug. 29-Sept. 4

- Officers issued the following tickets:
  - 4 for speeding
  - 5 for driving while suspended or without a valid license
  - 1 for a learner driving unaccompanied
  - 6 for minors in possession of alcohol
  - A bicycle was reported stolen from Administration Place.
  - A locker was entered at the Physical Activity Complex and some personal items were removed.
  - A male was arrested in a vehicle stop after the name he provided had at warrant for arrest from British Columbia. He was turned to Saskatoon City Police with a significant amount of controlled drugs. It was found the suspect provided a wrong name, and charges of obstructing a peace officer and various Traffic Safety Act charges were laid.
  - A student reported that an unknown male had contacted her parents trying to extort money from her father through a video chat. Police were contacted and the file is still under investigation.
Angela Ward becomes faculty in residence

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Things were very quiet when Angela Ward moved into her new two-bedroom suite but that was sure to change for the faculty in residence in the College Quarter undergrad residence.

For Ward, the acting assistant provost for teaching and learning, moving into Spruce Hall provided both the solution to her homeless-in-Saskatoon conundrum and the opportunity to engage with the students who are so much a part of her career. "For me, teaching is actually about relationships," she said, "and when you're living in residence, you're seeing the students as whole people."

The homeless situation arose when Ward and her husband decided to retire to Vancouver Island. They sold their house, packed up their belongings and spent the summer settling in on the coast. In the meantime, she was offered and accepted an extension of her term as acting provost through the University of Victoria while she spent a year in residence at the University of London where students and faculty learned and lived together. "It was meant to be a community of scholars," she recalled, "where we focused on thinking, writing and our shared interests. I remember the conversations were very casual but for me to be in that community of scholars was actually a very transformative event."

Later in her career, when she decided to do her teacher education in British Columbia, Ward was required to be at Simon Fraser University for one term and she chose to leave husband and children behind and live in residence. She also spent a year in residence at the University of Victoria where she completed her PhD.

"I think that at that time it was really important to me to be an interested adult. You're there for the academic work but I was also very interested in the students as people. I also think it helps when you're making decisions about the students to know who they are."

Ward knows it takes a particular kind of person to fulfill the role of faculty in residence – "somebody who is interested in young people, who is flexible and who doesn't mind a bit of noise."

If you're a very private person, it would not be your idea of a perfect situation because you have to live a bit more in public."

As for the age difference, Ward does not believe a faculty in residence is required to know the names of all the hottest singing sensations, live with a smartphone in hand or sport the latest in college fashion. "You can be a good friend to young people, a friendly adult, without being part of the culture," Ward brought with her to Spruce Hall her electronic piano but she also brought headphones so as not to bother anyone with Mozart and Beethoven.

On the practical side, Ward was on hand to greet her residence mates as they moved in Aug. 31 and will make herself available during set hours every week. She is actively involved in planning some academic activities like tutoring "and I thought it might be fun to find cooking partners for those students living on their own for the first time. She also has plans to start a laundry discussion group.

Ward has high praise for the residence life programming that goes on throughout the year. She sees part of her role as a conduit to all faculty "about who our students are and to make visible all the work the people who are residence staff do. As we become increasingly diverse as a university, which we will, we're going to need to have good supports for all students, and residence is a good, efficient vehicle for providing those supports. To do that really fulfills our visions as a university."

Asked if she has any worries about life in residence, Ward said she wants, more than anything, to be useful. "I want to make a contribution. I just hope people will talk to me."

Angela Ward

"Teaching is actually about relationships and when you're living in residence, you're seeing the students as whole people."

Angela Ward outside the laundry room in Spruce Hall where she wants to start a laundry discussion group.
There is nothing like starting a new job and being faced with planning a monumental celebration as your first task at hand.

As the new president of St. Thomas More College (STM), Terrence Downey had the college’s 75th anniversary waiting for him as soon as he stepped through the doors. Needless to say, he had a lot of catching up to do.

“I’ve been here for about a month and with the anniversary quickly approaching I have had the chance to meet a lot of people involved with the college,” Downey said. “As an outsider, I am struck by the incredible commitment that faculty, staff and graduates have to STM.”

Marking the anniversary will be a number of events planned throughout the weekend of Sept. 23-25. “I am grateful to be celebrating the considerable achievements of the past and not only our outstanding standing here at the U of S, but within the community too,” said Downey. “The weekend is a great opportunity for current faculty, staff and students to reconnect with the STM family.”

It is that community feel that makes STM different, explained Downey: “The presence of the STM community within the larger university community offers an opportunity for students to develop mind, body and spirit and broaden horizons within a Catholic context. I think it complements what is available on this campus. Plus, we apparently have the best food on this campus. Plus, we appreciate the opportunity to engage more with each other and really get to know their teachers. It is like a family here. We support our students, not just academically, but as individuals with aspirations and hope.”

That family environment, said Downey, comes at a critical point in a student’s life. “We have such critical jobs as teachers. We are facing staggering changes in society in terms of technology, the environment, politics and economics. We are preparing our students to address these challenges some of which we can’t even imagine yet.”

For Downey, no matter how much has changed in STM’s 75 years, there will always be constants. “We will always offer a supportive community, that’s why people have such a connection. We will never lose that. I am invigorated by the opportunity to constantly enhance what we do in terms of research, teaching and providing a first-class scholarly environment. We will always maximize our students’ potential.”

Downey’s vision for the college is starting to take shape, a vision that continues to build on the college’s 75-year history.

“Whatever we do, we will always be a first-rate academic community that creates opportunity for students and looks outward to the community in order to make a contribution. Our graduates are evidence of that; they are remarkable people who have changed the world and their communities. We don’t just talk about caring, we practice it.”

Connections and Variations: New Paintings from Pat Service

This new series of work by Vancouver artist Pat Service reveals an intuitive and very personal approach to the landscape with a focus on vibrant, multi-layered colour and distilled form. Her lakeside (or wharf) paintings offer seemingly straightforward and, distilled form. Her lakeside (or wharf) paintings offer seemingly straightforward and, works of various trees, fruit trees, perennials & underground sprinklers!
Rare book donation caps career

Kris Foster

I retired hopped on my bike and rode across Canada to get away from university life. Graham Simpson

lead & learn
Business & Leadership Programs
Centre for Continuing & Distance Education

Use your PD funds to enhance your leadership, management and communication skills. For complete course information visit learntolead.usask.ca.

2011 Fall Lineup

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 4-23 - Leadership Development Program (LDP)</td>
<td>Multiple Instructors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 5 - Technical Writing (NEW)</td>
<td>Dr. Jessie Stothers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 6 &amp; 7 - Seven Habits of Highly Effective People (NEW)</td>
<td>Kelly Smith</td>
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<td>Oct. 15 &amp; 22 - Emerging Technologies: Learning How to Use Social Media</td>
<td>Jordan Epp</td>
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<td>Oct. 20 - Emotional Intelligence: The Other Side of Smart</td>
<td>Linda McCann</td>
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<td>Nov. 15 - Tomorrow's Workplace: Leading The Millennial Generation</td>
<td>Laurie Ballantyne</td>
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<td>Nov. 23 &amp; 24 - Leadership for Frontline Supervisors</td>
<td>Laurie Ballantyne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 30 &amp; Dec. 1 - Business Writing and Grammar Workout</td>
<td>Dr. Jessie Stothers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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To register, contact 966.5539. (Payment can be made using a CFOAPAL or credit card).

Around the Bowl

Two people have recently joined the Professional Development and Community Education team in the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education. Mark Brown, a U of S MBA graduate formerly a consultant in the IC and Alberta Forest industries, and most recently a research liaison for CUSIR, took over the position of program manager for business and leadership programs Sept. 6. Cheryl de Villiers has accepted the position of conference manager for CDCI effective Sept. 6. De Villiers led her own event management company and was co-ordinator of the CDCI 2011 Leadership Conference.

Brad started his career in the heart of Canada’s Parliament and now works for the Associate Vice-President, Information and Communications Technology. In his spare time, you’ll find him waxing a canoe. He recently took our Business Writing and Grammar Workout to help polish his skills outside the garage.

The University Library has announced a number of appointments:

- Susan Murphy has been appointed as the humanities and social science liaison librarian, and Cindy Ho has been named the science liaison librarian. Both are part-time term positions that began Sept. 1.
- Tony Murphy has been appointed as the humanities and social science liaison librarian, and Cindy Ho has been named the science liaison librarian. Both are part-time term positions that began Aug. 2.
- Li Zhang was named head of the natural sciences and engineering libraries while Susan Murphy is the head of the health sciences and veterinary medicine libraries. Both appointments were effective July 1.

While getting his collection ready to donate, he came across some documents that he thought might be of interest to the Crop Development Centre (CDC), which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

“I gave them the original application we submitted to the National Research Council in the late 1960s,” explained Simpson, who as the first CDC director was instrumental in getting the seed money for the centre. “We got $600,080 over three years from the NRC to set up the CDC. That was a lot of money back then, maybe one of the largest research grants the university had at the time.”

The CDC eventually got permanent funding under Simpson’s watch. And 40 years and more than 380 crop varieties later, the centre now employs around 120 people and has an annual budget exceeding $11-million per year.

“I had lots of objectives while I was in the ‘ivory tower’, but now my main objective is to stay alive. And my garden—can you imagine what people would say if my own garden didn’t look good?” he asked, of course, while laughing.

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- Li Zhang was named head of the natural sciences and engineering libraries while Susan Murphy is the head of the health sciences and veterinary medicine libraries. Both appointments were effective July 1.

While getting his collection ready to donate, he came across some documents that he thought might be of interest to the Crop Development Centre (CDC), which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

“I gave them the original application we submitted to the National Research Council in the late 1960s,” explained Simpson, who as the first CDC director was instrumental in getting the seed money for the centre. “We got $600,080 over three years from the NRC to set up the CDC. That was a lot of money back then, maybe one of the largest research grants the university had at the time.”

The CDC eventually got permanent funding under Simpson’s watch. And 40 years and more than 380 crop varieties later, the centre now employs around 120 people and has an annual budget exceeding $11-million per year.

“I had lots of objectives while I was in the ‘ivory tower’, but now my main objective is to stay alive. And my garden—can you imagine what people would say if my own garden didn’t look good?” he asked, of course, while laughing.
A new student binge drinking prevention initiative on campus aims to change campus culture. Its goals are ambitious and its scope is huge, but the students behind it are confident they’ll make a difference.

The University of Saskatchewan student initiative is run by students for students. Colleen Dell, a research chair in substance abuse and associate professor of sociology at the U of S, and Dr. Peter Butt of the College of Medicine and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, serve as consultants. A student committee receives support from the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, and is affiliated with the Centre on Substance Abuse and Research for Evaluation of Addictions Treatment and Mental Health Services.

Dani Robertson-Boersma and Katelyn Selanders are two of four students who are heavily involved in the initiative, which aims to create a binge-drinking prevention campaign.

"We don't want it to just be a poster campaign," said Selanders. "We really want to expand it as much as possible. Use social media, create events, give alternatives."

The acceptance and encouragement of drinking in campus culture is apparent to anyone who’s spent time at a university: from fundraisers to student society events to sports games to recreation sports leagues. One survey of the prairie provinces in 2007-08 showed that about half of the respondents drank in the last year with risky drinking happening monthly, and one in five respondents reported risky drinking once a week. Risky drinking is when there are severe consequences as the result of the drinking, such as injuring yourself or others, having unprotected sex, or drinking and driving.

"In the year (students), binge drinking occurs in excessive amounts across the country and we need to bring that to light, to have those discussions," said Dell. "The initiative is looking at increasing awareness and knowledge, to have an understanding of what binge drinking is."

Unfortunately, understanding binge drinking is more complicated than one might think.

Selanders and Robertson-Boersma use the definition of five or more drinks within two hours for men, and four or more drinks within two hours for women “but that definition is really technical and it doesn’t mean a lot,” said Robertson-Boersma. Four drinks in two hours for one woman could be nothing, whereas another woman might be engaging in risky drinking after two drinks. “That’s why we’re doing the research and asking students what binge drinking is to them because we want to create a definition that fits our campus.”

Definitions aside, most people know when they’re getting to that point where their behaviour is getting out of control. “We’re trying to work with students to find out what are the feelings and behaviours that people notice in yourself when drinking is getting risky,” said Selanders.

The students said they don’t want to blame the individual, lecture, use scare tactics or suggest abstinence is the only answer. They want to focus on the positive aspects of moderation and control, such as maintaining healthy relationships and doing better in school. Most importantly, they don’t want to come up with a campaign without involving students.

Their research for the campaign includes focus groups with students, and each focus group brainstorms campaign ideas, they explained. Once the campaign starts, students will have directly informed its shape. Some ideas that have come out of the first focus group include printing cartoons in the Sheaf, creating YouTube videos, instigating flash mobs using Twitter and Facebook, and providing free water and cheap snacks at events where alcohol is served.

"This is a student issue or behaviour practice, so it’s the students that are most aptly able to address it,” said Dell. "I’m not a student, I’m not binge drinking, so they’re best positioned to be dealing with that and addressing it. We know peer to peer works."

The initiative was created out of a senior-level sociology class about addictions in society that Dell teaches. Students created a mock prevention campaigns, with groups in the class each focusing on some aspect of addiction on campus. Robertson-Boersma was in one of the groups that chose binge drinking as a topic. Through their presentations and discussions in class, Dell suggested taking the mock campaign one step further. She offered paid summer positions to start working on the campaign, and four students stepped up.

Originally, the project was to be completed over the summer, with the campaign launching this fall, but the committee quickly realized they needed to do a lot more work if they wanted to make a difference.

"There has to be a culture of change and a culture of moderation, not just a one off kind of thing,” said Dell. "It’s a big job. You can see how it quickly becomes more than a one-year initiative.

The project has now grown in scope with a three-year research and implementation plan, a long-term goal of creating a how-to guide for other universities to create their own campaigns, and to share their research with policy-makers and other groups on campus.

This summer was spent writing a proposal, and now the students are conducting focus groups, quick surveys, and interviews with health co-ordinators, student representatives, and members of Browsers and Louts, where alcohol is served.

"It looks overwhelming and it feels overwhelming, but I think we’ll get stuff done as long as we set up a base and foundation," said Robertson-Boersma.

Any student-led, long-term project has high turnover, but they’ve made a thorough proposal and kept logs of their work throughout the summer, knowing that someone is going to have to pick up where they left off. They are also hoping to start a campus club whose means they will have a constitution and elect executive members, giving the initiative that much more stability.

But it’s not just about changing students’ behaviour when it comes to binge drinking, the environmental aspect of the research is another important component.

“We need to get the administration on board in order for changes to happen,” said Robertson-Boersma. “We want to create a healthy campus.”

So far, the students have met with five different colleges, the USSU, a few different student societies, and the peer health educators, with more meetings planned throughout September. In these early stages of the initiative, they are looking for administrative partners and 15 student volunteers who will be paid an honorarium for their help.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more can contact the committee at bdprevention@gmail.com.

Ashleigh Mattern is a Saskatoon freelance writer.
Billion Lecture
- Oct. 9, 18-20, Prairie Room, Daesch
• Library exhibition features the artist’s emotional reactions to life and consumm

NFB Film Series
An NFB filmmaker will take place Sept. 22 at 11:30 a.m. and 7 p.m in the Varieux Library. Common Films. will include William Gaskarth’s 1983 classic Canada followed by Force of Nature: The David Suzuki Movie.

Miscellaneous
U of S Women’s Welcome Party
The U of S Women will host a coffee party for female students, staff, research affiliates, and partners Sept. 18, 2-4 pm at the W.A. Edwards Centre, 303-4th Av. All are welcome. Contact Ruth at 334-6102.

CFUW Events
The Canadian Federation of University Women will be holding a number of events:
- Sept. 17-19, 4-6 p.m., W.A. Edwards Centre in Room 314,
- Sept. 18, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Nellie Odlum Noonfeast, President Emeritus Donald Crowe presents Equity and Respecting Differences.

Chemistry department seminar
- Oct. 17, 2011, Department, Byron Gates, Department of Chemistry, Simon Fraser University, will present Approaches to Quality Self Assessed Monolates of Alkaliens on Oils.
- Oct. 18, 9-10:30 am, German literature, Roads and Lennex, CFUW Memorial Book Fund with proceeds to go towards scholarships. Donations of books will be accepted until Sept. 15. For more information, call Alberta Pulson at 652-7700.

Fishers Scientific presents a Life Science Show,
- Sept. 15-19, 10 am – 5 pm, Alumni of the Agriculture Building. Fisher Scientific will hold a life science show.

Word on the Street
The Word On the Street, a national literary and literary festival, will take place in downtown Saskatoon Sept. 25 between 11 am and 5 pm. The festive features three stages and over 10 authors, performers and storytellers, and will be held in the Fraser Morrison Library.

Lectures/Seminars
Geography and Planning Conference
Friday at 3:30 pm in Kirk Hall 146.
- Sept. 16, Sarah Kierman presents Capacity for cumulative-effects assessment in the Lower Fraser Valley.
- Sept. 23, Jesse Stensvold presents Cumulative effects assessment and management in the Alahbasin Basin.
- Sept. 30, Atholl Dickson presents Web-mediated suburban spatial trends in knowledge production and exclusion.

The Arts
University Authors Collection
The University library exhibition features recently published books, edited, published or translated by U of S faculty, and as such it is a very nice overview of the works from the collection. The exhibit will be on display in the newly renovated Link and will be the first floor of the Murray Library. The official opening will take place at 4 pm on Sept. 27.

College Art Galleries
On view until Sept. 25 in College Art Gallery 1 is Stories to Pass On, interdisciplinary works and deanna Brown. In College Art Gallery 2 is Peter Smith. You may find them at the artist’s emotional reactions to life and consumm.

NFL Film Series
An NFL Films production will take place Sept. 22 at 11:30 am and 7 pm in the Murray Library. Common Films. will include Williams Gaskarth’s 1983 classic Canada followed by Force of Nature: The David Suzuki Movie.

Billion Lecture
- Oct. 6-7, 4 p.m., Arts Centre, Mike Cundall, McGill University presents the Billion Lecture entitled The Curious Case of Olaf Oikov. Cold War Psychiatry and the CIA

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The grass is always greener...

Work on reclaiming the Bowl post Riel construction continues with the installation of sod in what was the materials lay-down area. While various walking paths across the Bowl have re-opened, the new sod is being given a little extra time to establish itself before being subjected to human traffic so the chain link fence is staying up until the snow flies.

Marquis Hall makeover

Kris Foster

Marquis Hall has undergone a Restaurant Makeover-type facelift during the past two summers and will be ready for its reveal this fall. The grand opening will take place in two parts, said Greg Fowler, director of Consumer Services. “The dining area is set to open to students on a meal plan at the start of the school year and the serving area and final stages of the kitchen will open towards the end of October. Customers will have buffet style service available to them as soon as the dining hall opens.”

Split into two phases, the end result of the $6.8-million renovation will be space to serve an eclectic and nutritious menu to around 1,000 customers per meal. “Lynn Guina, director of Hospitality Services, has been the project office lead on what is the final stage of a series of major renovations to Marquis Hall. The redesign started a couple of years ago when the access ramp was replaced with an elevator to improve access and create more retail and storage space.”

In the final phase of the project, the dining, serving and kitchen areas have been redesigned and updated to finish the project, he said. “The redesigned space will create eight serving stations where food will be prepared fresh for the customer right when it is ordered.”

The serving and prep stations will be an open concept, he said, allowing customers to watch the food be prepared right in front of them. “The servery was redesigned and refurbished with new equipment throughout. And the new equipment is more sustainable and energy efficient as well.”

New refrigerators and freezers that will save over five million gallons of water per year.”

The new Marquis Hall will get a lot of attention, but something that might go unnoticed by customers making their way through the space is how the redesign maximizes efficiency in serving capacity. “This will allow us to serve almost endlessly,” he said. “We can easily serve 600 meals at breakfast, lunch and dinner and still have capacity for another 400 at each meal if necessary.”

The space combined with this capacity makes Marquis the only central gathering place on campus that can comfortably serve so many people. “This makes it perfect for special events and conferences.”

Report recommends quality assurance review

From Page 4

the appointment of Brian Gillespie, former president of the British Columbia Institute of Technology and first chair of that province’s degree quality assessment board, to develop a quality assurance review process for degree applications in Saskatchewan.

The report also suggests the provincial acts governing the U of S, the University of Regina and SIAST be amended, in the case of the two universities to end their current monopoly on awarding degrees and, in the case of SIAST, to allow for the establishment of professionally focused degrees approved by the minister based on the recommendation of the quality assurance board.

It also recommends setting up a competitive process to adjudicate requests for new degree programs from the universities and SIAST with the quality assurance board acting as adjudicator. Finally, the report suggests the government develop a policy of periodic quality audits for the U of S and U of R.

Fowler, director of Consumer Services, said the emphasis on quality assurance in the report should pose no problems for the U of S. “We’re perfectly used to the idea of review,” he said. “We’ve had systematic program review for a very long time so I’m comfortable with that.”

The complete report can be found on the Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment and Immigration website.

live & learn

Centre for Continuing & Distance Education
University of Saskatchewan Language Centre

Whether you want to develop your leadership capacity or explore your creativity, our programs are flexible—allowing you to maintain life-balance as you fulfill your educational goals. We offer

• courses for professional development and personal interest,
• multilingual language classes to help you prepare for your next trip, and
• Kids’ Camps during school breaks and summer, conveniently located on or near campus.

The CCDE collaborates closely with Human Resources to ensure that many offerings qualify as employment-related training. Ask us how your Professional Development allowance can be used to enhance your leadership, management and communication skills. Call 966-5539 to learn more.
A road seems to have appeared and the trees have grown up but besides that, the Animal Science Building, now home to Parking Services, and the Stone Barn haven't changed much since 1959.