90 years of collective wisdom

Colleen MacPherson

The University Library is experiencing a loss this month, but not the kind that first comes to mind, like a rare volume. What the Library is losing is about 90 years of collective wisdom and experience shared by three retiring employees – Pat McFaull, Tammy Birns and Iris Owchar.

McFaull, Birns and Owchar are all moving on to new chapters in their lives after 22 years, 33 years and 35 years respectively serving the Library and the University of Saskatchewan community. They admit it’s a change that comes with some anxiety; Owchar, for one, has been working here since she was 18 years old, a long time to devote to one employer in this day and age. But all three speak very highly of their experiences, relish their memories and are looking forward to what the future may hold.

McFaull’s career began in 1989 when she joined what was then called the production department “where apparently 99.9 per cent of people in the Library started.” The work involved ordering, processing and entering data of library materials. She then spent 10 years in the Natural Sciences Library before moving to her current position in interlibrary loans.

Her work now is not unlike that of a detective, she said, searching the world for materials to borrow from other libraries for clients. Her current quest is for an Iranian journal. There are few holdings anywhere and her most recent query with the National Library of Iran has gone unanswered “but the search is the best part of my job.”

What started out as a three-week term position in the cataloguing department became a 33-year career for Birns who went on to work in the Health Science Library and the reference department before joining acquisitions, now called collection services.

Leading the way in mobile technology

With work underway on a new version of the iUSASK app, the university is positioning itself at the head of the pack when it comes to mobile technology.

“For students, the capabilities they could have for their mobile devices could be transformative at universities,” said Kevin Schneider, acting chief information officer and associate vice-president of information and communication technology, “and for the U of S, it’s the one technology where we want to be leading the innovation.”

Schneider, who is on leave from his position as vice-dean of science in the College of Arts and Science, said the university’s advances in development of the PAWS portal have laid the groundwork for providing students, and eventually faculty and staff, with the services they want and need on mobile devices. These include everything from laptops at one end of the scale to iPhones and tablet computers at the other, “devices that take advantage of location and time.”

The difference between PAWS and mobile technology is that the web portal is dependent on content providers “but with mobile, the focus is more on users.” Information Technology Services (ITS) is set to begin focus group testing the revised app, looking to students to provide direction on what is of value to them. Schneider said the app is expected to be released next term.

Describing the new iUSASK, he said it is an integrated, user-centred design that allows students to get to information more easily. For example, instead of a button for classes, a button for exams and a button for messages, all of these functions will be incorporated in one easy-to-scroll view. Students will also be able to customize the app like they can PAWS channels. “It will also have an architecture that allows us to rapidly deploy new content over the next year.”

There are a number of interesting trends that support the effort to focus on mobile technology, said Schneider. He cited studies that show university students are the fastest adopters of smart
Research mentorship critical to success
Program builds networks of experienced, new faculty

Michael Robin

What makes for a successful university? According to researchers, it's high-quality space, time, funding, and above all, advice and support. "The big issues are, 'I need a place to do my work, I need time and money to do it, and I need some mentoring and assistance in creating a path,'" says Jim Thornhill, who leads the research mentorship program on behalf of the Office of the Vice President Research and Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic.

The program kicked off with a mentorship workshop Nov. 4 in Convocation Hall attended by more than 120 faculty members. The event offered sessions on subjects such as time management and the importance of gathering critical mass through research clusters and teams. Breakout sessions dealt with discipline-specific questions from faculty working in health research, social sciences, humanities and fine arts, as well as natural, biomedical and engineering sciences.

Thornhill explains the impetus for the program came from the research, scholarly, and artistic community itself. He chaired one of 20 commit- ment groups exploring research success and collaboration as part of the integrated planning process. The group consulted widely over the course of a year, surveying graduate students, post-docs, young and established faculty, and non-faculty. Two questions were paramount: What makes you successful as a researcher? and What makes the university successful as a research institution?

"The recommendations that came back to us were pretty consistent," Thornhill says. "They told us they need quality time, research start-up packages, proper infrastructure, grant development help, proper help with grad supervision. But they were almost unanimously in telling us there is a need for consistent and sustained research mentorship. New faculty in particular were reporting that they were not getting good, consistent advice."

Mentorship programs are common in business, government and industry as a way to foster and keep the best people, but it is uncharted territory for an academic institution. Thornhill explains that the thinking behind this has been that research is so specific that mentorship must be done at the department or college level.

That said, there is clearly a role for university administration to make mentorship a priority, including learning best practices from leading research-intensive universities. This role must also fit the university's structure and culture, which suggests a collaborative approach.

"We think we can assist without being prescriptive," Thornhill says. "We can provide guidance and support while the colleges and departments develop their own ways of doing it."

To deliver this, the mentorship program is envisaged as a continuous process, with twice-yearly workshops to bring together faculty to share ideas and set priorities (the next one is scheduled for April 13, 2012). One nascent idea is to create a mentorship committee to work with each new faculty member, laying out goals and expectations in a five-year development plan. Each committee would be tailored to the faculty member, for example including department leadership and colleagues with similar expertise.

"There is much at stake, says Thornhill. Ideally, faculty are hired for the long term, so it pays to invest time in the success of new faculty – defined as within five years of hire. Experienced faculty also have much to offer as mentors and can use the same services to expand and enhance their own networks."

"Our faculty are hired for many things. They bring us their knowledge and skill sets, and their ability to create knowledge. They disseminate that knowledge to our students. And, they have the ability to inspire our students with something that is exciting and something to be pursued."

Support for this teacher-scholar model is already well advanced on the teaching side with programs offered through the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, he explained. The hope is the new mentorship program will grow to offer the same level of support on the research, scholar- ship, and artistic work side of the equation.

Michael Robin is communications specialist in Research Communications.

IUSASK to integrate other initiatives

From Page 1

phone technology, and surveys of people in comparable positions to his who indicate mobile technology ranks near the top of their issues priority list.

A key to the university's success with mobile technology will be listening to users. "We're still trying to understand what's going to be useful, what's going to be valuable … but we're doing this in a way that will help us know what students want." What is known is that it must be something different, interesting opportunities you don't get from the desktop experience like communications – Facebook, Twitter – and location-aware services to help you find a room or a building. "And we haven't even scratched the surface of pedagogical approaches like course evaluations using mobile devices or exams on iPads."

The new IUSASK will also easily integrate mobile technology initiatives being developed in colleges and units across campus, bring all services together for students, faculty and staff.

As ITS prepares to launch iUSASK, it is also building a new website that Schneider calls All Things Mobile at the U of S. The site will list and describe the university's mobile-friendly website, mobile supports for programs like Safewalk as well as other mobile services. That site should be ready this month.
Degree-tracking software rolls out

The university has begun releasing its new degree-auditing program which, in combination with academic advising, will help ensure students are on the right path to the qualification they want.

Jamie McCrorey, manager and assistant registrar for student information systems (SIS), said academic advisors in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources were given access to DegreeWorks in the summer, and it was made available to undergraduate students in that college in September. Essentially, it is an online student advising system “that matches students’ courses completed and in progress with degree requirements,” he explained. And although all students will eventually have their degree progress information through the program, the intention is to enhance the work of academic advisors on campus, not replace them.

The software has been in development longer than expected, said McCrorey, largely due to the work of building in every course, pre-requisite and degree requirement. Working closely with advisors in each college, the SIS team discovered unwritten rules and ambiguities in the university’s official calendar that had to be sorted out.

“We started in April 2009 and expected to be done in one year,” he said. “We thought there were about 600 combinations (of requirements) but it turned out there were about 1,600. There are many different ways of getting what seems to be the same qualification.”

The program also has to be built “back into the past for students who are two or three years into their degree,” he added. The $2 million cost of DegreeWorks is associated mostly with staff time.

To access the program, students will use a link in PAWS, “which will be called something like Map Your Degree Progress.” Data for individual students is pulled automatically from the larger information system and will show which requirements have been met and which are still outstanding. Armed with this basic information, “students will be ready to talk seriously to an advisor. For advisors, this should make their interactions with student more meaningful and it will free them from the more mundane work of looking up degree requirements.”

The uptake among the first students to use Degree-Works has been good so far, said McCrorey, with about 200 logins per week “but there’s some novelty associated with it at first.”

On Nov. 24, academic advisors in the College of Arts and Science will be able to access the program, and it will be available to all undergraduates in that college by the end of January. All graduate students and advisors are next on the list, they will be able to use Degree-Works starting in February. Other colleges will follow, said McCrorey, but the schedule will depend on the SIS team’s ability to do testing and advisor training.

U of S alumni elected as MLAs

Premier Brad Wall is one of 20 U of S alumni elected to the provincial legislature.

The Nov. 7 provincial election returned many familiar faces to the Saskatchewan legislature along with some new ones. It also increased the number of sitting MLA who are graduates of the U of S to 20 from seven in the previous legislative assembly. Below are the U of S alumni who are sitting MLAs:

Cam Broten (Saskatoon Massey Place) – BA 2002
Jennifer Campeau (Saskatoon Fairview) – MBA 2009
The Hon. Ken Cheveldayoff (Saskatoon Silver Springs) – BA 1988
Kevin Doherty (Regina Northeast) – BA 1985
David Forbes (Saskatoon Centre) – PGD 1993; MEDEC 1996
The Hon. Jeremy Harrison (Meadow Lake) – LLB 2004
Glen Hart (Estevan Mountain-Touchwood) – BBA 1968
The Hon. Darryl Hickie (Prince Albert Carlton) – BA 1999
The Hon. Ken Kruszcz (Carrick Poly) – BID 1975
Gene Makowsky (Regina Dewdney) – BED 1997
Scott Moe (Rosthern-Shellbrook) – BBA 1997
The Hon. Don Morgan (Saskatoon Southeast) – LLB 1978
Russell Martchak (Regina Douglas Park) – BA 1969
Roger Parent (Saskatoon Meewasin) – BUSADM 1982
Catherine Sproule (Saskatoon Nutana) – BID 1985; LLB 1994; BA 1994
Corey Tochor (Saskatoon Eastview) – BCOM 2000
Premier Brad Wall (Swift Current) – BA 1987
Randy Wekey (Biggar) – AGRIC 1976
Gordon Wyard (Saskatoon Northwest) – BA 1985; LLB 1986

Wall is one of three Canadian premiers who are U of S alumni. The others are Darrell Pasloski, premier of Yukon, who earned a pharmacy degree in 1982, and Alberta’s Alison Redford who graduated from the College of Law in 1988.

For many in the 1960s and 70s, the first contact with computers was the Optical Mark Recognition system (also called Optical Mark Reading and OMRI). It was a process of capturing human-marked data from document forms such as surveys and tests. This opened the option of automated marking of multiple choice tests and exams for professors.

IBM was granted a patent in 1960 and offered the IBM 1230 Optical mark scoring reader in 1962. Originally the system was quite limited with a test maximum of 80 questions. Using an HB pencil, students would blank-out the circles on special pre-printed answer sheet.

In the accompanying photo, we have two unidentified women working with an IBM automated exam marker at the University of Saskatchewan in February 1966. The woman on the right is feeding the exam papers into the machine where they are scanned. The second woman gathers the results in the form of computer punch cards.
Public gratitude deserved

The genesis of Professor Findlay’s viewpoint (November 4, OCN) lies in my praise of Mr. Norris’s work as minister responsible for post-secondary education at a university event celebrating the construction of the two new health sciences buildings on our campus. I did so in comparative terms, not to be critical of his predecessors but rather to highlight the fact that Mr. Norris’s tenure represented an important turning point for this vital portfolio. My appointment as president has overlapped with eight, count them, eight of his predecessors. Before him, there was a new ministerial appointment on an average of every year. Mr. Norris, by contrast, served four years in the portfolios thereby bringing stability, understanding and supportive dialogue to the evolution of public policy in this area.

It matters. The future of Saskatchewan greatly depends on the success of post-secondary education, and in particular on the success of the University of Saskatchewan. We are the province’s only medical-doctoral university. We educate most of Saskatchewan’s professional people. We are by far the single largest research institution in the province (and twelfth in Canada with 2010 research income of $184,756,000). The evolution of sound public policy in this area requires a robust, well-informed conversation, reasonable continuities, and a focus on success. You cannot have policy in this area requires a robust, well-informed conversation, reasonable continuities, and a focus on success. You cannot have reasonable continuity, and a focus on success. You cannot have reasonable continuity, and a focus on success.

We did have that conversation with Mr. Norris and the University of Saskatchewan is stronger because of it. I hope that current and future leaders of our province will ensure that the portfolio will continue to receive the supportive attention he devoted to it.

So, Mr. Norris deserved my public expression of gratitude. Whatever may be the different views on subsequent use of my words, there should be no mistaking the significance of the change that he represented in the cabinet portfolio responsible for post-secondary education.

Peter MacKinnon
President, University of Saskatchewan

Graduate school receives CD recognition

The School of Public Health (SPH) at the University of Saskatchewan is the first program in the country to be recognized by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a move that will allow researchers, students and staff to work closely with the American-based health centre.

“as we are just beginning our relationship with the CDC, it will open up more doors for health scientists and faculty throughout the university,” said Robert Buckingham, executive director of SPH. “This is not just a good opportunity for the School of Public Health, but for the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Nutrition, Nursing, and VIDO-InterVac too.”

The recognition came after a series of conversations and procedures, and finally a visit to the U of S by CDC representatives earlier in the fall. Shortly after the visit, the CDC let Buckingham and the SPH know that they would be a recognized school and the first in Canada with the honour.

“The CDC serves the interests of the public on viruses, biological warfare, and health issues that do not just effect the US, but the entire world, and for that we are grateful to have an opportunity to share information from here in Saskatoon.”

The acknowledgment will also provide an opportunity to share resources and even allow students to work and complete practicum opportunities in the CDC headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

As a recognized institution, SPH can send students for their 12-week practicum at the CDC, an opportunity Buckingham says will look very good on a resume and will provide students with a fairly decent remuneration for their practicum as well (in the neighbourhood of $8,000).

Buckingham explained that getting the attention of the CDC was important to bolster the reputation of the school, part of its effort to become the best school of public health in Canada. “We are the third-largest public health school in Canada and the school with the largest percentage of international students with around 35 per cent of our total enrolment,” said Buckingham. “We are growing as a school and we have a mission to be a leader in public health graduate education and prevention of disease in human and animal populations in Canada.”

Footprints from the past

Tegopelte pipus

U of S and Royal Ontario Museum researchers have identified Tegopelte as the maker of fossilized footprints that date back half a billion years to the Cambrian period.

Nicholas Minter, U of S post-doctoral research fellow in geological sciences and lead author on the study, said the creature was identified using a three-metre long trackway discovered in B.C.’s Burgess Shale, which contains of wealth of fossils of ancient under-water creatures. By analyzing Tegopelte fossils and the trackways, the researchers were able to discern how the creature moved across the seafloor.

Read the full story about Tegopelte at news.usask.ca
Peer-reviewed publishing goes online

Colleen MacPherson

Tim Dumonceaux is no stranger to publishing his research in peer-reviewed journals but his recent experience with the Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE) was certainly like no other.

What JoVE does is publish research online accompanied by video. For Dumonceaux, a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and adjunct professor in the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, explaining his work in front of a camera “was a different way to spend a day but there’s nothing like it for people trying to reconstruct a lab protocol. It’s a thousand times better than reading the materials and methods section of a journal article.”

Dumonceaux had never heard of JoVE.com when he was contacted by one of its science editors late in 2010. The website contacted by one of its science editors when he was heard of JoVE.com when he was...
Building the university’s front door
Advancement sets up outreach, engagement offices

"The purpose of these offices is to create a facilitation mechanism to help community to connect with the university and the university to connect with community"

Heather Magotiaux

The university’s focus on outreach and engagement is getting a boost with the establishment of two new offices within University Advancement that are designed to create a front door to the institution.

Part of the Academic Innovation Initiatives recently announced by the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning, the new Office of Aboriginal Engagement and the Office of Community Outreach and Engagement are an effort to make it easier for faculty to connect with communities and visa versa. “The goal is to provide a place for people to call as a starting point,” explained Heather Magotiaux, vice-president of advancement.

The offices are the response to the Foundational Document on Outreach and Engagement, said Magotiaux, and follow up on the work of the Senate Roundtable on Outreach and Engagement. That body was set up “to help identify some of the opportunities and barriers that might exist toward greater engagement with communities – geographic communities and sectors like health, the arts or business.” One key finding was the lack of what Magotiaux termed a front door for the University of Saskatchewan. "The university doesn’t have a physical front door. A virtual front door makes sense for some … but if you’re a member of one of these small communities, it’s sometimes confusing to know where you would go to find faculty expertise, or where you would go if you wanted a group of students to work on an experiential learning opportunity with your organization.”

“The purpose of these offices is to create a facilitation mechanism to help community to connect with the university and the university to connect with community.”

Magotiaux went on to define outreach activities as initiatives that take the university out into the community; workshops and presentations are two examples. “Engagement,” she said, “is you coming to us,” including through community-based research.

While the two new offices are expected to do similar kinds of work, “we did want to make a particular emphasis around First Nations and Métis engagement to show our partners in those communities that we’re serious about wanting to engage with them.” That office, directed by Candace Wasacase-Lafferty, will be located on the English River First Nation just south of Saskatoon. (Please see story page 11.)

The Office of Community Outreach and Engagement will be headed by a yet-to-be-named special advisor, “a faculty member already involved in community-based research, someone who places a high priority on experiential learning and is experienced in the area themselves,” said Magotiaux. “Their job will be to help reach out to other faculty members.” That office will be located at Station 20 West Community Enterprise Centre near St. Paul’s Hospital. The space is expected to be available in July.

Magotiaux said the advantage of creating the two offices within University Advancement has to do with

See Offices, Page 11
**Workshop makes sense of the ‘madness’**

It’s one thing to get a large grant for a research project but it takes a particular set of skills to run that project as efficiently and effectively as possible.

It is just those skills that will be the subject of three upcoming workshops being offered to researchers, two to be held at the U of S and the third at the University of Regina. Called A Method to the Madness: Success-ment Know-how, the workshops have been developed by those in the midst of a major project who want to share what they have learned.

Tracy Ridalls with the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit is the manager of Smart Cities, Healthy Kids, a major three-year research project that recently received a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) knowledge translation grant. Part of the grant application, she explained, was for "teach-ins" to create opportuni- ties to share project manage- ment know-how.

"There are lots of workshops for grant writing, for learning how to get funding but nobody really tells you how to run a project," she said. "And you’ve got to spend that money wisely. What’s important is that you want people to do good work, not get lots of funding and become stuck." Evidence of the desire for skill-building opportuni- ties like this came when the workshop was first advertised. Ridalls said the first event in Saskatoon filled within 12 hours of being announced. A second was scheduled for the U of S and another in Regina. All are now full, and the waiting list includes some 100 names. “Please don’t call,” she added with a laugh.

A pre-workshop survey of registered participants identi- fied four main areas of interest – organizational skills, people skills, dissemination skills and money skills. As part of their approach to addressing all of these, Ridalls and her colleagues developed a board game they call Researchopoly. Played in teams, the game presents humorous research project scenarios. As the teams progress around the board, they are presented with the various barriers and problems researchers could encounter.

"We’ll give good examples of bad things," said Ridalls. "The idea is to help people get the most out of their projects."

**News Briefs**

**Workshop makes sense of the ‘madness’**

**MCCAT revisions**

WASHINGTON – The Association of American Medical Colleges has released final recommendations for proposed revisions to the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The association website says the changes will focus on broader manner by including in the test new sections on the psychological, social and biological foundations of behavior, and on critical analysis and reasoning skills. Featured topics include ethics, psychology and population health, an effort to encourage applicants to "read broadly in the humanities and social sciences." The new exam eliminates a writing section and expands an updated natural sciences section.

**Enrollment suspended**

KINGSTON – A shortage of resources is cited as the reason Queen’s University has suspended enrollment in its Bachelor of Fine Arts program for 2013-14, a news report in the Globe and Mail said.

Last year, the program unexpect- edly had 46 students accept offers of admission, said the newspaper report. That is about 50 per cent more than the desired capacity for the program, forcing administrators to shift some students to space in another building and raising the program’s costs substantially. The university, while not committing to the program’s future, said it would continue to assess its status. Current students will be able to complete their degrees without interruption.

**School merger**

WINDSOR – The University of Windsor senate has approved the merger of the schools of music and visual arts into a single administrative unit. The university website reports that the new unit, which is yet to be named, will deliver existing programs in the two disciplines as well as new programs in film production, sound and interdisci- plinary arts. There will also be an option for students to design their own interdisci- plinary degrees.

**Northwestern university**

WHITEHORSE – According to a press release made during the recent election campaign, newly sworn in Yukon premier Darrell Paslowski will push for the territory to take the lead in founding a university in Canada’s Arctic. The University of Northern British Columbia website reports Paslowski, who assumed office Nov. 5, said his Yukon Party will work toward developing Yukon College into a northern university based on a model suitable for territory residents and other northerners. The first step will be identifying Caren as on which to build additional university facilities like a proposed centre for northern innovation in mining. Prior to the Oct. 11 elec- tion, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut has been in talks about creating a pan-Arctic university.

**Business destination**

TORONTO – Canada has become the third most popular global destination for graduate business education, according to a recent ranking released by the U.S. Graduate Management Admission Council.

The number of Graduate Manage- ment Admission Test scores sent to Canadian business schools hit a record high of 26,494 in June 2011, up slightly from the previous year, said a Globe and Mail story. Of that total, 57 per cent come from abroad. Only the United States and United Kingdom receive more test scores.

**Department expanded**

CALGARY – Mount Royal University has unveiled the $25.5-million expansion of its science department, which officials expect will give students a leg up on graduate work or work in the private sector.

The new facility includes seven high- tech labs, expanded research space and more than 40 new faculty offices, said the CalGazette/Media. The project was funded by the province, the federal government and Escanra, which contributed $1.5 million to create the Institute of Sustain- ability and the Environment to support research into renewable resources.

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Your Canadian alternative energy company.
Researchers at the U of S are working to develop more efficient and cheaper photovoltaic solar cells that could help solve global energy problems.

Ron Steer, who has been a professor in the Department of Chemistry since 1969, thinks he and his colleagues Matt Paige, Tim Kelly, Ian Burgess and Rob Scott have found a way to turn traditionally brittle and inefficient cells into robust, sturdy materials, these cells are far less expensive than inorganic solar cells, which are more expensive but also less efficient.

According to Steer, there are two main types of photovoltaic cells that harness this sunlight and convert it into usable electricity. The first is an organic cell, or the kind found on the NASA space station for example. While efficient, these cells are very expensive, and this is the main reason why inorganic cells are not used regularly.

The other kind is an organic cell. Made from organic materials, these cells are far less expensive but also less efficient. This is where Steer is hoping to make progress, turning organic cells into long-lasting sources of energy.

While some of the more expensive NASA-type inorganic cells can convert 40 per cent or more of the sun’s energy into electricity, an inorganic cell tops out at around 10 per cent, and this number has changed very little over the past 20 years despite heroic efforts, Steer adds.

“We have proof of our principle that indicates we can make a more affordable and reliable cell, but how efficient will the cells be compared to the cells that already exist, that’s the part we’re hoping to succeed with. If we can achieve even the slightest increase, even one or two per cent efficiency of these cells, it could be beneficial to everyone.”

Making the cells more efficient is a matter of converting the spectrum of light.

“Essentially, if you take blue light in the visible part of the spectrum, this works well in solar cells. If you take infrared, this does not work well. So, what we’ve discovered is a way to convert the infrared light into blue light.”

The next steps in the process will be creating cells at the U of S and testing the research principles. If the cells work, it could revitalize the solar industry and turn the sunniest place on the planet into a working grid of solar energy.

“For me, these ideas are based on my 31 years of research in this field and there are a number of ways we can improve on current organic cells. We have the proof of principle and soon we’ll be at the stage of having working cells.”

Ron Steer, professor of chemistry

Schooling the World: The White Man’s Last Burden
Screening and Discussion
Thursday, November 24, 2011
4 – 6:30 PM
Arts 241 (Neatby-Timlin)

Schooling the World: The White Man’s Last Burden is a 2010 documentary film directed by Carol Black about “the role played by modern education in the destruction of the world’s last sustainable indigenous cultures.”

This controversial documentary film examines the effects of imposing western/European ways of knowing upon the traditional Buddhist culture of Ladakh in the northern Indian Himalayas. It is a film, in the words of Bill Bigelow (Rethinking Schools), that “every teacher and prospective teacher should watch and discuss.”

Come and share your views as a student, educator, or administrator in the discussion that will follow the screening of the film.

For more information on Schooling the World visit schoolingtoneworld.org/film

Registration is not required but appreciated. Please register at www.usask.ca/gmcte/events
Students lend support to store project

Tianda Dranchuk is seeing Saskatoon like she has never seen it before.

Dranchuk, a third-year student from Calgary, is in a class at the University of Saskatchewan that is helping to launch Good Food Junction. The grocery store is scheduled to open next summer as part of Station 20 West on Avenue K and 20th Street, bringing a fresh look to Riversdale and giving the neighbourhood a lift.

“I come from a fortunate family,” said Dranchuk. “To the neighbourhood a lift.

This neighbourhood, one of the oldest in Saskatoon, has a rainbow of ethnic cultures. It has single parents and residents with low incomes but it doesn’t have a grocery store.

“In a province that exports $22 billion in food, 10 per cent of our population can’t afford to eat healthy,” said Tom Allen, an associate professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. “Eating in a cafeteria, a mother taking a 20-pound bag of potatoes home on the bus, we can’t have that.”

Allen is a friend of Ralph Winterhalt, the business manager of Good Food Junction. Together, they are encouraging students to get in on the action. While Dranchuk and crew are the project leaders, more than 40 students in a class Allen teaches on being an entrepreneur are on the team.

“If we do it isn’t reflected in the grade we get, fine,” said Dranchuk. “Maybe it affects one family. That’s worth it for me. It’s the warm feeling I get in my heart.”

Baranieski feels the same way. Raised in Speers, southeast of North Battleford, he volunteered to be a guide with a group called Quetzaltrekkers. It gives mountain tours in Central America, including seeing an active volcano. Trips range from being one day long to a week, with money supporting a children’s school and dormitory in the region.

“I experienced Guatemala,” said Baranieski. “I hope to learn more about people in my own country. People here need help as well. This isn’t sympathy, it’s empathy. Access to good food should be a right, not a privilege.”

Good Food Junction is a co-op. For $5, a person can buy a lifetime membership and have a say in how the store is run. The store is big on local flavour, from the produce in the aisles to the staff at the counter.

Dranchuk puts in more than 15 hours a week, going to group meetings and planning promotions for the store. She and the group are going to help sell store memberships. That’s on top of the time she spends on school and playing for the Huskies soccer team.

“I’ve never been one to talk with people I don’t know, but I’m going outside the box with this,” she said. “When people ask about Good Food Junction, I tell them about it. Boy, I’m glad I got into this. We’re not doing anything huge, but hopefully we’re making a little difference.”

Baranieski said volunteering with the Good Food Junction project reminds him of a North Saskatoon Business Association event he went to. The guest speaker talked about his father’s funeral, saying a lot of people at the service were wearing sport jerseys. Turns out supplying a club with jerseys is something his dad did, so wearing them at the funeral was the team’s way of saying thanks.

“I’m raised in a family focused on giving,” said Baranieski. “I don’t care if anyone ever knows what I’ve done (with Good Food Junction). If a mother is able to access food — that’s what matters.”

There is a construction crane on the store site. Steel beams are going up. Winterhalt, the business manager for Good Food Junction, has a dream.

“What I envision," said Winterhalt, “is something his dad did, so wearing sport jerseys. Turns out supplying a club with jerseys is something his dad did, so wearing them at the funeral was the team’s way of saying thanks.

“I’m raised in a family focused on giving,” said Baranieski. “I don’t care if anyone ever knows what I’ve done (with Good Food Junction). If a mother is able to access food — that’s what matters.”

Bob Florence is a Saskatoon freelance writer
Office Software Courses
The Dept of Computer Science is offering
CNP1163: Introduction to Programming in Term 2 of the 2011/2012 academic year for people using Word or Excel for work or research. More details can be found at www.cs.usask.ca/courses/courses_descriptions/
WSEP Safety Training Courses
Registered at www.cs.usask.ca/wsep/webcourse
• Business Council, Dec. 15, 9-10 am – 8 pm
• Businesses Refresher, Nov. 22, 12:40 – 2:30 pm
• Standard First Aid/CPR A & 2, 24 Nov. and 26, 8 am-4 pm
• Laboratory Safety, Dec. 12, 9-10 am – 4:30 pm
• Occupational Health and Safety Code Level I Training: Nov. 15, 8-9 am – 4:30 pm
• Radiation Safety, Nov. 26, 8 am-4 pm
• Safety Management for Employees: Nov. 28, Dec. 13, 9-1 pm
• Fire Awareness for Supervisors: Nov. 4, 8:30 am-4 pm
• Transportation of Dangerous Goods (Road) (Refresher): Dec. 7-11 noon
• Transportation of Dangerous Goods (Rail) (Refresher): Dec. 14-17 pm
• Transportation of Dangerous Goods by air or road (Shopper): Dec. 5, 8:30 am-4 pm
• Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System: March 1, 11-12:30 pm
Centre for Disability and Continuation Education
For information go to: train.usask.ca or call 966-5599
Business & Leadership Programs
• Leadership and Supervisory, Nov. 23-25
• Business Writing and Grammar Workshop, Nov. 30: Dec. 1
• Professional Selling Skills, Sales Success: Jan. 20, 9-noon
• Leadership Development Program, Feb. 7-April
USCAD full Art Courses
• WineWorks Sculpture – Nov. 16, 20
• Illustrations in Plasticine/Miniature Creations in Sculpture, Dec. 2, 5, 14
Community Music Education Program
• SABRE, non-auditioned children’s choir, Thursdays, 6-6:55 pm in Graceau Park United Church. For information contact Heather Wilton at 966-5625.
Parenting with Music
• Program begins in January 2012
• 0-1 months (Wednesday, 10:15 am) – class is 40 minutes, fee $110
• 2-3 months (Saturday, 12:30 – 1:30 pm) – class is 40 minutes, fee $115
• 4-6 months (Saturday, 12:30 – 1:30 pm) – class is 40 minutes, fee $110
• 6-12 months (Saturday, 12:30 – 1:30 pm) – class is 40 minutes, fee $115
University Employee Development Programs
• Professional Conversations: Dec. 17 and 14, 8-4:30 pm – fee $540
• Cozy Leadership Program: Nov start date: Nov 25, 8:45 am – half day kick off and 9, Seven Habits, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. Jan: Goal Setting and 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teams/ Great Results, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm – fee $155. Half-day repeat run. Fee $1900
• U of S Law Centre Programs Placement testing and registration for winter term on now. Further information: www.sls.usask.ca or call 966-4031 to visit usask.ca/PTEL
• Pronunciation – Thursdays, Jan. 19, Mar. 2
• Spoken English – Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jan. 17, Mar. 2
• Effective Writing & Grammar – Mondays and Wednesdays, Jan. 16 – March 12
• TOEIC-Test of English Proficiency – Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 17 – March 9 • Effective Teaching – Fridays, Jan. 14, Feb. 11 and Mar. 18
• Graduate – Level Writing – Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 22
• Advanced Listening & Notetaking – Thursdays, Jan. 19 – March 9
• Effective Writing (Professional Use), July 16 – Aug. 12

School of Business, Edward School of Business, Advisory Services
For information call Ted Heskett edward.usask.ca or visit us.eduwards.usask.ca/programs/ • The Project Management Course, Nov. 21, 21, Regina
• Financial Management for Non-Financial Managers, Nov. 24-25, Saskatoon
• Edwards Seminar Series, Organizational Change, Nov. 25, Saskatoon
• Effective Executive Workshop, Feb. 10-11, Regina
• The Business Analyst’s Course, April 23-25, Regina

The Gowen Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness
For details and full course to register visit us.eduwards.usask.ca • The Arts
Radio-on-Stage Play
The Novus Players will present Tony Parker’s radio play “A Christmas Carol” Dec. 3 and 4 at St. Mary’s Cathedral with special service dinner at the Plaza Cafe West of Life with Ceremonial Lineage
• Dec. 1 – 6 pm, Jan. 21-22
• Feb. 16 – 17, Jan. 23-25, Jan. 30, 10 am – 12 noon
The Indian Film Festival 2011 wraps up Nov. 20 in the Neutiny Theatre with a screening of Kaal Chilambu (Malaysia) directed by T. Anur. Show time is 2.30 pm.

University Authors Collection
The University Library’s authors exhibition features recently published books written, edited or translated by professional faculty and, as well as a few of the earlier notable works from the collection. The exhibit will be on display in the Link area on the first floor of the Murray Library.

Kenderdine Gallery
On view is a selection of work curated by Kent Archer and featuring the work of Lyle Armstrong and Oshka Dunsdon who will curate themselves Below 30. The show continues until Dec. 16.

NFB series
Producers, the film in the NFB’s 2011-12 National Film Board series, follows the trials of the newly formed International Criminal Court. Luis Moreno-Ocampo investigates and prosecutes some of the world’s worst criminals for some of the world’s worst crimes. Showings are at 11 pm and 7 pm Nov 24 in the Collaborative Learning Lab, First Floor, Murray Library.

Seminars/Lectures
• Huskies@Home
Wedding Nov. 20 – Showcase Home
Women’s Hockey Dec. 3, 2-3 pm, Regina
Men’s Hockey Nov. 25 and 26, 7 pm, UBC
Volleyball Jan. 19, 6:45 pm (women) and 8 pm (men)
Basketball Jan 18, 6:15 pm (women) and 8 pm (men)
E. Van Horne
Huskies@Home
Wedding Nov. 20 – Showcase Home
Women’s Hockey Dec. 3, 2-3 pm, Regina
Men’s Hockey Nov. 25 and 26, 7 pm, UBC
Volleyball Jan. 19, 6:45 pm (women) and 8 pm (men)
Basketball Jan. 18, 6:15 pm (women) and 8 pm (men)

Miscellaneous
Saskatchewan Archaeological Society
The monthly meeting of the Saskatoon Archaeological Society will be held on Wednesdays and Thursdays in 2011 at 7:30 pm at Room 313, Architecture Building. The meeting will feature a presentation by CropPhoto.com's Mark Straiton and Chris Foley entitled ‘Ding the big muddy at East Lake: A Skippy Report on the 2011 Field Project.
Cancer Research Day Enhancing Patient’s Outcomes Through Research and Innovation
On November 15, the Saskatchewan Cancer Research Day that will take place Dec 7, 8:30 am and 10 am at TCU Place (Foyer) The event includes keynote speaker Dr. Elizabeth A. Edwards, chair of the research committee’s education group of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and co-chair of the Cancer Research Alliance. The deadline for registration and abstracts is Dec. 1. Contact donna.stromberg@usask.ca

Noontime Lecture
The Danced as Helvetica
2011 Storaro Lecture  

Nov. 23, 27 pm, Lutheran Theological Seminary Library, the 2011 Storaro Lecture will be delivered by Jonathan A. Draper, professor of New Testament at the School of Religion and Theology, University of Kwa Zula Natal (Pret- 

porterbult, South Africa). His lecture is entitled Birth, Burials and the Role of the Spirit in Some Zulu/South African Indigenous Dress. For more informa-

tion, visit http://luther.usask.ca

Philosophy in the Community  

Doc. 14, 7 pm, The Refinery, 600 Dufferin Ave., an informal, College of Law, presents How Should We Think About Harry Potter? Speech!

Microbiology and Immunology Seminar  

Thursdays, 4-5 pm, Room A226 Health Sciences Building  

Nov. 24, Jeremy Law, Biochemistry, presents Demented peptides

Chemistry Seminars  

4 pm, Room 159 Thrushesland  

Nov. 16, Edward Knox, emeritus professor, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta, presents Drug design concepts and strategies to develop nitric oxide (NO) and nitroxyl (NOG): donor cyclohexgorpergyl and/or lipooxygenase inhibitors to treat arthritis and circumvent adverse cardiovascular complications

Geography and Planning Colloquia  

Friday at 3:30 pm in Kirk Hall 146  

Nov. 16, John Courtenay presents Drawing boundaries: Canada’s latest attempt at representation-by-population  

Nov. 25, Norma J. Stewart presents Invention of RNA in rural and remote Canada: Research ground for nursing and policy.  

Dec. 2, Ian Fleming presents Landfills: Liability or Landform?

Submit Coming Events

Next OCC: Friday, December 2  
Deadline: Thursday, November 24

coll@usask.ca, Fax 966-6815

Visit this web submission form at

news.usask.ca

enhancing aboriginal relationships

Candace Wascase-Lafferty has spent 10 years in various roles at the University of Saskatchewan but being part of the new Office of Aboriginal Engagement at English River “is the most exciting initiative I’ve ever been a part of.”

The newly named director of the office said its “presence on an urban reserve says that the university is committed to Aboriginal engagement for the long haul.” The office will provide an important bridge between First Nations and Métis communities and the U of S, she said, and will give the university the chance “to look deeper into and be part of the communities. There may be cultural values and ways of conducting relationships that the university can learn. There are so many positive things about our communities that we can teach Saskatchewan.”

Wascase-Lafferty, who was born on the Kahkewistahaw First Nation in the Qu’Appelle Valley, said, she sees her role as “promoting the university and all its possibilities through engagement with First Nations and Métis communities. It’s about building Aboriginal capacity on campus and leveraging that capacity in Aboriginal communities. My approach will be how can I support your plans?” she said. “I want this role to be an enhancement of what already exists.”

Many career highlights for Library employees

From Page 6  

its established structure and expertise. “Most of what we’re looking at doing is sharing this resource with all of the different parts of the university and we do a lot of that in Advance-

ment. We’re already organized that way and oriented in that regard.”

There is already a culture of outreach and engagement on campus, she said, thanks to its priority within integrated planning. “I think that we’ve had a history of strength in this area, and that is going to continue. These offices are going to provide a little more visibility to this area and going to provide some support for people in doing their work around outreach and engagement as well.”

On-campus services

December 15, 2011

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November 18, 2011

11
What was a full-fledged laboratory in the basement of the Physics Building when A.H. Joel occupied it around 1923 is now the general office of Information Technology Services. Room 56 is a bit smaller due to the addition of some dividing walls but Lori Weitzel, ITS administrative assistant, and other visitors can still see many of the room’s features that have remained unchanged from Professor Joel’s time.