University of Saskatchewan officials are asking the provincial government for a 5.8 per cent increase in the operating grant for 2012–13 as well as some $24.6 million for specific initiatives that will continue to enhance the student experience, support innovative programming and improve the affordability of and accessibility to post-secondary education.

"A research-intensive university like ours is key to the kind of province Saskatchewan will be in the future.”

Brett Fairbairn

In the annual operations forecast, submitted to the government in mid-November, the university details its priorities for the coming budget year as well as longer-term objectives. Brett Fairbairn, provost and vice-president academic, views the document as an interpretation of the institution’s plans in a one-year financial window but also a description of the role the university plays in Saskatchewan life.

"Our students provide future leaders, including most of the province’s professionals,” said Fairbairn, “(and) our research and development drive economic and social innovation. A research-intensive university like ours is key to the kind of province Saskatchewan will be in the future.”

Fairbairn said the forecast "emphasizes the health of the university’s core” which includes both core programs as well as core facilities. Detailed in the document is the new RenewUS initiative designed to "reconceptualize and revitalize key academic buildings." (See story page 5). The university also commits to continuing to improve its operational effectiveness through the Service and Process Enhancement Project (SPEP) and other initiatives.

In addition to the base grant increase to $300 million for 2012–13, the university has raised a number of other proposals that may align with provincial priorities: the further development of the Aboriginal achievement model; expansion of the master’s program in Northern Governance and Development; the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre; a student amenities building at College Quarter; and possible new programs in architecture and...
Singing used as treatment for COPD

Lisa Buchanan

Whether on a stage or in the shower, everybody sings and for some, this everyday activity has important health benefits.

Thanks to a team of researchers at the University of Saskatchewan, patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) may soon be singing as part of their standard care. COPD affects the air passages in the lungs and makes it hard to breathe. U of S nursing Professor Donna Goodridge and her team are examining how singing can help people already involved in traditional pulmonary rehabilitation further improve their health and wellness.

The study, the first of its kind in Canada, is already showing results. “My breathing has really improved,” said participant Betty Braun. “Even though I’m not the best singer, we’ve been encouraged to sing at home and I’ve been doing that, too. It’s all been working really, really well.”

Symptoms of COPD include a persistent cough, shortness of breath and fatigue. As a result, people with COPD often have trouble carrying out normal activities. “Over 1.5 million Canadians currently report a diagnosis of COPD and there may be just as many Canadians who have the condition, but haven’t been diagnosed yet,” said Goodridge. She said singing has received relatively little attention as a form of pulmonary rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation programs focus on education and exercise, and as an exercise for the lungs, singing is a natural fit. It requires effective control of the breath and engages respiratory muscles in ways that are different from just talking or exercise. “Singing is physical work,” said music therapist Ruth Eliason. “It takes effort to sing, to have breath control and support of that breath.”

Funded by the Lung Association’s Canadian Respiratory Health Professionals section, the project involves researchers from nursing, physiotherapy, medicine, education and music therapy.

The first phase of the research project was completed earlier this year. A group of 13 participants met weekly with the music therapist. “In our singing group, we work on breath exercises, vocal warm-ups and singing, all of which engage the breath in helpful ways,” Eliason said.

“The results were very positive in terms of quality of life, perceptions about control over illness, and participants’ perceptions of their ability to control their breath,” Goodridge said.

Along with the physical benefits, the program is also concerned with the social aspect. Because COPD limits the activities of patients, it can be isolating and lead to depression.

To gather with the group each week “lifts the spirits,” said participant Ray Parker, “and you’re getting stronger at the same time, so it’s a multi-faceted program.”

Recruitment of participants for the second phase of the study will begin in January. This phase involves more rigorous cardio-pulmonary exercise testing where the researchers hope to detect physiological changes brought on by singing.

The team produced a short video—Singing for Pulmonary Rehabilitation—which will be posted on the Canadian Lung Association website.

Lisa Buchanan is a graduate student intern in the Research Communications SPARK (Students Promoting Awareness of Research Knowledge) program.

In Memoriam

Garry Schlichemeyer (Pension Office), Oct. 2
Margaret Harder, Oct. 3
Marjorie Jamieson (Psychiatry), Oct. 24
James Michael Voruk, Nov. 3
Elizabeth Hobson (Physicians Business Office), Nov 6
Elinor Chelsom Stinson, Nov. 12
Harry Giles (U of S Services), Nov. 17

Congratulations
from Culinary Services to the fabulous staff at the U of S Starbucks in the Murray Library

Winners of this year’s Be Merry Award for the best holiday launch among Starbucks Coffee licensed stores.

Keep up the great work!
Enrolment up overall; Aboriginal, grad student numbers plateau

While student enrolment is up across the board at the U of S, data from the Oct. 11 census day showed plateauing numbers in two key recruitment areas—graduate and Aboriginal students.

“Our enrolment is up 2.9 per cent overall, which is the largest increase since 2003,” said David Hannah, associate vice-president of student affairs, of the Enrolment Report data collected at the start of October. “It is particularly gratifying because the number of high school grads in Saskatchewan has been steadily declining. We not only held our ground, but made gains during this decline.”

This year’s fall enrolment is the highest in U of S history, he explained, and is the third year of enrolment increases following long and steady decreases from 2003 to 2008. But equally important as the number of students, is the number of classes those students are taking.

“The number of three-credit units, or teaching activity, is up as well. That means more students are taking more classes. Fall term on campus teaching activity is up 3.6 per cent and off campus is up 8.9 per cent. This is significant because this is what generates tuition revenue. The ratio of students to credit units has been in decline so this increase is great.”

Another highlight of the recruitment report is the significant gain in the number of international students now calling the U of S campus home. “International student enrolments are up 11 per cent. We are very happy with this because it has been an area of emphasis in recruitment.”

All of these increases are certainly positive, he continued, but a few red flags became apparent with the release of the enrolment data. One area that Lawrence Martz, dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research, pointed to is graduate student enrolment.

“The number of graduate students continues to grow, but at a lower rate than in the last couple of years. It has plateaued somewhat this year,” said Martz. “To meet the university’s goal of 20 per cent graduate students by 2015, our annual graduate enrolment growth needs to be sustained at the rate of about eight per cent that we have had over the past two years. This year’s growth of 4.2 per cent (and therefore), is a cause for some concern.”

Another area of concern is the number of self-declared Aboriginal students on campus, which has not changed noticeably for several years, Hannah said. “Our goal is to have Aboriginal students make up 15 per cent of the student population. That goal is reflected in our programs, our institutional position relative to our competitors, provincial demographics, and economic data.”

The SEM plan will be informed by the integrated planning process while also ensuring colleges remain involved in the process and have their goals reflected in the plan, he explained. “SEM will make sure goals are aligned at all levels of the university and that we recognize our position in the postsecondary environment and our capacity. The plan will allow us to better analyze and measure our recruitment and retention data.”

The provincial Ministry of Advanced Education, Employment, and Immigration has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Province of Jilin, China that will create academic exchange opportunities for Saskatchewan university students.

Under the terms of the MOU signed Nov. 29, the Saskatchewan government and Jilin Province will each contribute $45,000 over three years with the University of Saskatchewan and the University of Regina each providing $7,500 annually to support an exchange student from Jilin. One Saskatchewan student from each institution will study in Jilin Province annually. The exchange is intended to help students improve language abilities, acquire international experience and increase cross-cultural awareness.

The MOU builds on a declaration agreement signed in May 2010 between Premier Brad Wall and the People’s Government of Jilin Province. That document paved the way for economic, academic and cultural exchange.

Here is a recruitment advertisement that appeared in the 1921 Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs. It was printed in the back of the volume between ads for The New Age Encyclopedia and St. Andrew’s College, “A Canadian School for Boys”. The Canadian Annual Review of Public Affairs was first published in 1901 and is an annual publication that offered a synoptic appraisal of the given year’s developments in Canadian politics. It includes chapters reviewing the happenings in each province, the territories, federal politics, municipal politics, and foreign affairs and national defense.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Recruiting in 1921

Since 1907, the University of Saskatchewan has been the first in Canada to make provision on the same campus for instruction in Agriculture as well as in Arts and Science, and the usual professional subjects.

The University offers courses in Arts, Science, Agriculture, Law, Engineering, Pharmacy and Accounting, and prepares students for advanced standing in Medicine and Dentistry. University Scholarships equivalent to free tuition are open to qualified students.

For fuller information, apply to A. R. WEIR, Registrar, SASKATOON.

Canadian Annual Review, 1921.
Out of print but not out of touch

It’s hard to believe that the end of the calendar year is upon us, and that we’re nearly halfway through the OCN publishing schedule. Time has flown, largely because it has been such a busy fall at the U of S. Looking through the papers since late August, there’s been no end of goings on—awards, innovations, advances, plus a steady stream of dignitaries visiting campus, from the premier and various ministers to the Governor General and even Prime Minister Stephen Harper. I was fully expecting Buckingham Palace to call to announce a visit, but they must have misplaced my number.

With classes over, exams soon to wrap up and people drifting away, On Campus News is taking its usual publishing hiatus which this year will last until Jan. 13 when our first issue of 2012 rolls off the press. But if there is one thing people in this business know, it’s that news never takes a holiday. So even if the paper doesn’t show up in your mailbox, you can still stay on top of what’s happening at OCN online—news.usask.ca

While still relatively new (we launched the site in midsummer), OCN online has proven quite popular. We broke the 100,000 hits mark on Thanksgiving weekend, OCN online has proven quite popular. We broke the 105,019 mark for hits the weekend of Nov. 25-26, and the count continues to climb. As I type, it’s 104,877 hits. No wait—make that 105,019. Ooops, it’s now 105,295. You get the picture.

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So although we do not print again until January, we at OCN World Headquarters will still be working to keep you up to date. The very best of the holiday season to everyone, and until we return, check out OCN online at news.usask.ca.

Editor’s Note

I’ve done some very social things in my life since I began working here. I was employed as a karaoke waitress to pay for my master’s degree. I dressed up as Wonder Woman for a conference presentation, marched in demonstrations with students and drank plenty of coffee with mentors and mentees. When I’m not on campus, my neighbours can be assured a friendly smile and chat, and fellow dog-owners at the local dog-walking park can expect the same. Aside from that, one time I hid below my living room window to avoid the census taker, I like to think of myself as pretty approachable.

Yet, despite this well-adjusted picture of me, there are seven words that strike fear into my heart. Those words are: “Are you coming to the staff party?” Parties, as a rule, do serve a purpose in professional realms. I realize that. They are important for marking transitions—things like welcoming new faculty and staff, honouring retirements, and acknowledging signposts in the yearly teaching cycle. Their intent, I know, is to promote a sense of cohesiveness despite our disparate roles in an often fragmented workplace. But recently, a mentor encouraged me to be “more social” as a means of making me more “tenure-track friendly” in this era of endless sessional appointments. And then when I heard, along with her advice, the seven deadly words, this recently minted PhD began to panic.

To be sure, people want a sense of connectedness with their colleagues at work, beyond sharing a discipline, theories and students. This makes sense. But now, it seems, these events are also considered to be character assessments. Combined with my own healthy level of social anxiety, this leaves me even less inclined to attend.

There is an assumption that those of us who thrive in a classroom also will bloom in a calendar-driven social greenhouse. But consider: Living the life of the contract worker means that I might get invitations to more than two staff parties each semester, each with its incumbent gift exchanges, potluck contributions and required cheeriness quotient. And although I am committed to each area of work I am contracted for, I find myself unable to go the extra social mile for this same commitment. Even if I could attend, I probably wouldn’t be the life of the party.

What I propose instead is that everyday acts of generosity should also receive recognition for “being social.” I like to think that the daily climate of my multiple work spaces benefit from my appreciative presence. I do acknowledge those who make my work life easier, whether it’s with an occasional thank-you note or fresh flowers from my garden or an open door when I’m there. In my experience, such gestures result in more genuine relationships than last all through the contract. So please don’t judge me on whether I attend the staff party.

As for the Chaucer professor, imagine my surprise when I met him at the grocery store, after he had retired. (This venue, it so happens, was also the site of my best informal graduate supervision when, racing to buy some food between contracts, I lingered in the aisle to discuss qualitative methodology with a student who lives in the neighbourhood.) I recognized Dr. Chaucer in the parking lot by his large hands as he pushed his grocery cart to his car, framed by his long fingers. I thought to ask him something about Chaucer, but had nothing clever to say, so instead I waved. He waved back, no door between us. And I thought: without social obligation, we professors can be very social indeed.

J.N. Little

I train them to do. Similarly, I braced the door from any underlings, that I might get invitations to attend the staff party. But I am contracted for, I find myself unable to go the extra social mile for this same commitment. Even if I could attend, I probably wouldn’t be the life of the party.

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J.N. Little works at the University of Victoria as a sessional instructor, course writer and research assistant. She is also a clinician specializing in eating disorders.

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This article appeared in the December, 2011 issue of University Affairs.

The season of staff party conundrums

Viewpoint

The views and opinions expressed by writers of letters to the editor and viewpoint do not necessarily reflect those of the University of Saskatchewan or On Campus News.

On Campus News is published 11 times per year by University of Saskatchewan Communications. It is distributed to all U of S faculty, staff, graduate students and members of governing bodies, as well as to others in the university community, related organizations, some Saskatchewan government officials and news media. Subscriptions are available for $22 per year. Story and photo ideas should also be considered to be character assessments. Combined with my own healthy level of social anxiety, this leaves me even less inclined to attend.

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Concentrating on the core
RenewUS links academic priorities to building maintenance needs

Colleen MacPherson

Taking a page from the Yale University playbook, U of S officials are developing a new approach to the growing issue of deferred maintenance, one that links the condition of buildings to the ability of the institution to achieve its academic objectives.

Called RenewUS, the idea calls for a reactivated vision for the academic direction of core programs to generate support for major capital projects, explained Richard Florizone, vice-president of finance and resources. And off a decade of unprecedented capital growth, the university cannot lose sight of the need to balance new construction with capital growth, the university will set about building new facilities but just as important, the project has addressed a significant amount of deferred maintenance on existing buildings and infrastructure, all in aid of achieving the academic objective.

"The university has done what it could within its limited budget, he said, and it has made its case to the provincial government. "It looks like an intractable problem, so where my mind went was to how others have tackled this."

The search for best practice in dealing with deferred maintenance was disappointing, he said. "Some solutions are motherhood and apple pie—make it a priority for the institution, with leadership from the top. But when he looked at the experience of Yale University, Florizone realized it was possible to turn the problem on its head.

"The lesson from Yale is that instead of arguing for general maintenance funding, let's look at our most critical buildings, and do comprehensive renovations. Let's begin with the end in mind and use the facilities discussion to stimulate a debate about academic priorities. That's a much more exciting discussion."

This was born RenewUS, and it is an approach that in fact has already proven to be successful with one project—Health Sciences, he explained. In that case, "we didn't have the right physical assets to achieve our mission of interdisciplinary education." Working with the provincial government, the university set about building new facilities but just as important, the project has addressed a significant amount of deferred maintenance on existing buildings and infrastructure, all in aid of achieving the academic objective.

"It's about putting the horse before the cart."

Through RenewUS, the university will prioritize its most critical deferred maintenance liabilities and blend them with academic program renewal to create revitalized buildings and programs within the campus core. But it is going to take money, about $260 million over five years, he said. It will also require leveraging a number of funding sources and having a lot of conversations, "with government, with the broader university community, with potential donors and with the academic community about priorities."

An initial condition assessment shows the buildings with the greatest need are Arts, Physics and Biology, facilities that house core programs in the core of campus. If the university decides to focus on major overhauls of buildings like the Arts Tower rather than fixing and patching, Florizone said more detailed condition studies will be undertaken. "Then the question is about scope—how ambitious can we be?"

The RenewUS concept has been presented to the President's Executive Committee "which has said it's a priority." Presentations have also been made to the Provost's Committee on Integrated Planning and the Planning and Priorities Committee of Council, and discussions about the new approach to deferred maintenance have been going on for some time with the provincial government.

A starting point, the operations forecast for 2012-13 asks the government for an increase of $10 million in annual capital funding for phase one of RenewUS. Of that money, $9 million, combined with $5 million from the university, will go toward the most critical infrastructure needs. The remaining $1 million from the government will be earmarked for detailed building assessments and RenewUS planning and priority setting.

In addition to its $5-million contribution in 2012-13, the university will commit additional funding from its operating budget to chisel away at deferred maintenance, "so we've put a stake in the ground. We'll just have to see how everything comes together."

"When it comes to a university, standing still is not an option. We need to continue to respond to innovation and academic initiative but we have to steer the ship a little bit back toward the core."
Tackling drug-resistant cancer

Using chemotherapy to kill breast cancer cells is one thing; eradicating drug-resistant cells is a whole other challenge, but one U of S researcher in the College of Medicine thinks he is onto a treatment protocol that holds exciting potential for those with breast cancer and other forms of cancer as well.

In the lab of Troy Harkness, associate professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology, research into combining chemo drugs with an unexpected partner—a drug commonly used to treat diabetes—is showing positive results in killing drug-resistant cancer cells. It is work that the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation (CBCF) has recognized and will fund for the next three years.

Explaining his work in the simplest possible terms, Harkness said the key seems to be in restoring the health of the cell’s chromosomes, which then allows the cell to either repair itself or destroy itself rather than continue to replicate as a cancer cell. “That’s the hypothesis we’re working on.”

His work in this area goes back a number of years to Harkness using chemotherapy treatment on cells to observe the development of drug resistance.

“We would treat the cells with a low-dose drug which would kill most of them, but there were some that weren’t killed. We’d ramp up the dose and watch what happened to those cells. Many survived quite nicely and would become resistant to other drugs as well.” Harkness suspected damage to chromosomes “created the opportunity for drug resistance. The question we asked was whether reversing that damage would help kill drug-resistant cells.”

During those studies, data from other labs appeared indicating people being treated for type 2 diabetes display a reduced incidence of some cancers. Harkness introduced a common anti-diabetic drug along with the chemotherapy drugs and the results were exciting—this co-treatment protocol killed drug-resistant human leukemia cells. The anti-diabetic drug appeared to improve the health of the chromosomes, reduce the cell’s defences and allow the chemo drug to do its work, all without damaging healthy cells.

Expanding his work to drug-resistant human leukemia and breast cancer cells, and rat brain cancer cells, Harkness got the same results. “We wondered if there is an effective way to treat all drug-resistant cancer cells,” he said.

With $125,000 a year for the study, the results were “created the opportunity for drug resistance. The question we asked was whether reversing that damage would help kill drug-resistant cells.”

In three years, we expect to have a pretty good idea of what the drugs are doing to chromosomes to help the cell behave better.

Troy Harkness
“I just want to thank the man that made that machine. It saved my life—and many, many more. It’s wonderful!” says cancer survivor Olga Campbell told CBC in a 1994 interview.

Campbell, one of the early patients to be treated with the cobalt-60 therapy unit, was expressing her gratitude to Harold Johns, a University of Saskatchewan medical physicist who developed the cobalt-60 machine back in 1951 and became known as “the father of medical physics in Canada.”

Johns and his team of graduate students, one of whom was Sylvia Fedoruk who later served as U of S chancellor, became the first in the world to successfully treat a cancer patient using cobalt-60 radiation therapy. This innovative technology—dubbed the cobalt bomb—revolutionized cancer treatment and saved the lives of millions of cancer patients around the world. The precisely calibrated radiation machine bombarded cancers deep in the body where previous therapies had been ineffective. In effect, it dropped a bomb on cancer.

By the 1960s, the cobalt-60 machine—about the size of a small cement mixer—was standard equipment for radiation therapy worldwide and soon had a dramatic impact on the cancer survival rate. The cure rate for cancer of the cervix, for example, soon climbed from 25 per cent to 75 per cent. The original technology is still used in many developing countries.

The 60th anniversary of this historic advance in cancer treatment is being celebrated Dec. 4 with the opening of an exhibit at Saskatoon’s Western Development Museum (WDM) where the original cobalt-60 machine used to treat more than 6,700 patients is now permanently accessible for the public and school groups to view.

“The event will be attended by Fedoruk and other dignitaries, and will feature the Cobalt-60 at 60 video launch with a panel of experts from the U of S and the Canada Science and Technology Museum. They will discuss the legacy of the U of S pioneering nuclear medicine work, which also includes developing the world’s first betatron used in a cancer treatment program in 1948.

That legacy now includes the Bio-Medical Imaging and Therapy (BMIT) beamlines and Medical Isotope Project at the Canadian Light Source synchrotron, as well as the planned Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation and U of S cyclotron for research as well as production of isotopes for the province’s first PET-CT scanner.

“The U of S has built on its long history of excellence in medical physics and accelerator technology to become a powerhouse for nuclear medicine innovation,” said Dean Chapman, Canada Research Chair in X-Ray Imaging and BMIT leader. “I think we will attract a new class of researchers and turn this into a place where cutting-edge things are done like during the cobalt therapy days where it all started. I can guarantee that because of what is here.”

In collaboration with the WDM and University Archives, a cobalt-60 at 60 website has been created and can be viewed at www.usask.ca/cobalt60. University Archives has also set up an exhibit in the display case outside of Convocation Hall in the College Building.

Kathryn Warden is director of Research Communications
Research is small steps: Harkness

From Page 6

next three years from the CBCF, Harkness’ lab will continue to explore how anti-diabetic drugs protect patients from multiple drug-resistant breast cancer, and possibly drug-resistant cells in all forms of cancer. “In three years, we expect to have a pretty good idea of what the drugs are doing to chromosomes to help the cell behave better, and to understand the pathways within the cells that mediate this protective mechanism. It’s information that will help clinicians and other researchers make more informed choices about treatment.”

Asked about elevating his research to animal trials, Harkness admitted it is not his area of specialty—“my best approach is to collaborate,” adding a research group by them knowing that someone out there is working on this.”

While the number of questions yet to be answered about the cell may be daunting, Harkness said every day in the lab is exciting. “This is what we love to do,” adding that everyone in his lab—research associates, research assistants, grad students, even the computer experts who crush his research data—recognize “that finding a cure for cancer is going to take a long time and is beyond the capabilities of a single lab.” It’s about many small steps adding up to significant progress, and about bringing hope to cancer sufferers “by them knowing that someone out there is working on this.”

Story in photos

A series of wall panels has recently been installed in the Diefenbaker Building to tell the story of the various tenants including the Diefenbaker Canada Centre, the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and to describe the effect each has on students, scholars and the community. The wave shape of the photo panels replicates other forms in the newly renovated building.

Around the Bowl

Supratim Ghosh has joined the College of Agriculture and Bioresources as assistant professor in the Dept. of Food and Bioprocess Sciences. In the same college, Tom Allen, associate professor and CBRC Chair in Entrepreneurship, has received the Dean’s Teaching Excellence Award while Ken Belcher, associate professor in the Dept. of Bioresources Policy, Business and Economics, is the 2011 recipient of the North American College Teachers of Agriculture Award.

Doug Clark, associate vice-president of development in University Advancement, was the recipient of the fundraising Professional of the Year Award from the Saskatoon chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. The award recognizes high standards and a commitment to meeting community needs.

Previously with the Regina Public Library, Crystal Hampson has been appointed the acquisitions library with the University Library. She took up her new position Nov. 14.

Howard Woodhouse, professor in the Dept. of Educational Foundations, will be visiting professor in the Dept. of Educational Studies at the University of British Columbia from January to March 2012. Woodhouse was also recently reappointed to the editorial boards of the Journal of Public Administration, which is published by the South African Association of Public Administration and Management, and the African Journal of Public Affairs.

Don McEwen, professor emeritus in the Dept. of Physics and Engineering Physics, has just completed a five-year study of the Aurora Australis (Southern Lights) over the South Pole and was awarded a US Congress medal for his Antarctic research. McEwen will be reporting on results at the American Geophysical Union conference in early December.

“This Season’s Greetings”

In celebration of the past year and looking forward to the year ahead, our holiday show will feature an array of small scale, historical and contemporary works by our gallery artists. These beautifully presented works are perfect for holiday gift-giving... Our selection of art books and catalogues offer another excellent way to share your love of art with others during the holidays.

Exhibition runs December 3rd - 24th, 2011

The Gallery / art placement inc.
228 – 3rd avenue s. saskatoon, sk. S7K 1L9 664.3385
gallery@artplacement.com
www.artplacement.com
It is late in the afternoon. You are on the fifth floor in the Agriculture Building. Smoke is billowing from one of the labs. You think, where there’s smoke, there’s fire. Choose your own adventure. Do you:

A) scream “FIRE! FIRE!” at the top of your lungs, while running back to your office to collect your valuables? You push numerous colleagues out of the way as you clear a path to the elevator so that you can get to the exit on the main floor; or

B) check the lab for fire, and when you discover a fire proceed to pull the fire alarm and then discharge a fire extinguisher to put out what appears to be, at this point, a manageable fire? You ensure your personal safety and always maintain a clear path to an exit.

If you chose A, Larry Riopka, fire and contractor safety manager in Workplace Safety and Environmental Protection (WSEP), encourages you to register for a fire safety workshop.

If you chose B, then you chose the right adventure, said Riopka. This is what Steve Siciliano, Min Li and Bing Si in the Department of Soil Sciences did on Oct. 5 when they saw smoke and flames coming from one of the college’s drying ovens. They pulled an alarm and grabbed a fire extinguisher.

“They handled the situation correctly and damage was minimal,” Riopka said. “Pulling the alarm and getting out safely are the most important things to do. The fire department gets here in four minutes or less and they’re trained and have the proper equipment to deal with fires. Each alarm is also responded to by WSEP, Campus Safety and Facilities Management Division.”

Fire is fast and unpredictable, he continued. “Activating the alarm is important. Each building has its own system and pull alarms are located by each exit. You also have to make sure you know the best points to leave the building.”

If the fire is small, locate one of the 3,800 fire extinguishers on campus to put the fire out, Riopka said. “But personal safety is number one, so if you don’t feel comfortable with a fire extinguisher, pull the alarm and leave.

Most of us on campus are not trained fire fighters. Try to shut as many doors as possible on your way out to slow the spread of the fire.”

If an alarm in a building sounds for longer than 10 seconds, evacuate the building, he continued. “We test alarms on the first Monday of every month, and when it rings for less than 10 seconds, it’s maintenance. If it goes off for more than 10 seconds, it isn’t a test, so evacuate the building as though there is a fire.”

There are about 25 to 30 fires on campus and more than 100 fire-related calls each year, he said. “I only count fires as those that generate smoke, not false alarms. The majority of the fires we respond to are cooking fires in residences, unattended food that creates lots of smoke.”

Most people, Riopka said, react properly when confronted by fire. “I always stress that if something doesn’t feel right or look right, call us to come check it out. We are a campus resource, that’s why we’re here.”

To report a fire call Campus Safety at 966-5555.
Courses/Workshops

STA•TIA Regression Analysis, Jan. 5, 10-noon, $50 for faculty, staff and students, n/a for others; STA•TIA Graphing, Jan. 12, 10-noon, $50 for faculty, staff and students, n/a for others; STA•TIA Programming, Jan. 19, 10-1 pm, $50 for faculty, staff and students, n/a for others; U of S Course Tools/Blackboard Learn f, Thurs., Jan. 24, 1:30-4:30 pm, $50 for faculty, staff and students, n/a for others.

Addition: Webworkshops, seminars and custom training are available, email its@usask.ca or visit http://training.usask.ca.

Information Technology Services (ITS) Training Services

Office Software Course
The Dept. of Computer Science is offering OFFT 202.3. Digital Document Processing in Term 2 of the 2011/12 academic year for people using Word or Excel for work or research. Course details can be found at www.cs.usask.ca/courses/course_descriptions/CH202.php.

WSEP Training Courses Registration at www.usask.ca/wsep/wsep_web/ course

Dec. 15, 16, 17, 10-11 am – 1 pm: Business Refresher I: Freshers, Jan. 9-11, 8 am-noon; 2 pm – 4:30 pm: Standard First Aid/CPR A, Jan. 25 and 26, 8-11 am – 4:30 pm: Laboratory Safety, Dec. 12, 10-3 am – 4:30 pm: Occupational Health/Chemical Level 1 Training, Feb. 4 and 6, 8-11 am – 4:30 pm: Radiation Safety, Jan. 30, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm: Safety Orientation for Employers: Dec. 15, 1-4 pm, Jan. 16, 1:30-5:30 pm: Safety Orientation for Supervisors: Jan. 9, 9 am-noon; Transportation of Dangerous Goods (for drivers), Dec. 14, 1-4 pm; Transportation of Dangerous Goods by air or road (Skopel), Dec. 5, 8:30 am-4 pm: Workplace Hazardous Materials’ Information System (WHMIS) III, Jan. 10-11, 12:30 pm-4:30 pm.

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

For information, go to www.code.usask.ca or call 306-966-5625.

Business & Leadership Programs

For more information, contact Laura Klosek at 966-5625.

USC•A•D Full Art Classes
Visual Art Survey (I, Jan. 16 – April 16) (evening)
Canadian & Aboriginal Art Survey, Thurs., Jan. 19 – April 19 (evening)
Drawing I, Thurs., Jan. 19 – April 19 (evening)
Drawing II, Thurs., Jan. 19 – April 19 (evening)
Drawing, Jan. Mon. 16 – April 16 (morning)
Drawing, Jan. Mon. 16 – April 16 (evening)
Drawing for Illustrations II, Tues., Jan. 17 – Apr. 17 (evening)
Life Drawing, Wed., Jan. 19 – April 18 (evening)
Life Drawing, Wed., Jan. 19 – April 18 (evening)
Pastel, Mon., Jan. 16 – April 16 (evening)
Pastel, Mon., Jan. 16 – April 16 (morning)
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College and University Level Programs

 Course

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College and University Level Programs

Course

Presentation and Registration for Webinars for Water Quality Experts. For further information or an appointment call 966-4551 or visit code.usask.ca/PTEDL.

College Art Galleries

 UPC 2010 (mornings)
 UPC 2010 (afternoons)
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Rhodes scholar

Anne Kelly, a U of S graduate student in English, has been awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for 2012.

The 23-year-old will receive tuition, school fees and a living stipend while she attends the University of Oxford where she will be enrolled in a medieval studies program. In addition to her strong academic record, Kelly is an accomplished athlete and community volunteer, activities which are part of the evaluation process for Rhodes Scholarships.

Read more about Anne Kelly at news.usask.ca

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.

Nov. 14-20
- Officers issued the following tickets:
  - 2 for operating an unregistered motor vehicle
  - 1 for using a cell phone while driving
  - As a result of a routine traffic stop, two males were arrested on outstanding warrants. Some drug paraphernalia was seized and turned over to city police.
  - Officers attended a minor physical altercation at a location.
  - Unknown culprit(s) wrote graffiti in a washroom in the Murray Building.
  - Miscellany was reported when someone cut off a block heater cord in U of S lot.

Nov. 21-27
- Officers issued the following tickets:
  - 1 for using a cell phone while driving
  - 9 for operating an unregistered motor vehicle
  - Officers responded to an alarm at Health Sciences. A generator in the loading dock area released smoke that was drawn in and dispersed throughout the building. The building was vented and users returned to the area.
  - Officers found a female patient on the University Bridge preparing to jump into the river. While she was distracted, officers approached, grasped the woman and got her to safety.

Around the Bowl

Carolyn Paterson has joined the Office of the Vice-President Research as awards facilitator for a one-year term. Paterson earned her PhD from the U of S has experience in preparing applications for awards, grants and scholarships.

Graduate student Heidi VanDenBrink received the Best Clinical Research Presentation award at the 57th Annual Meeting of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society in Toronto, and a travel fund award for her presentation at a symposium held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the North American Menopause Society in Washington, D.C.

VanDenBrink is supervised by Dr. Darcy D. Marciniuk, professor in the College of Medicine, delivered this year’s Distinguished Scientist Honor Lecture at the recent Chest 2011 International Congress, an honour bestowed by the American College of Chest Physician. The keynote lecture was established in 1973, and is awarded to a well-respected and published original investigator in pulmonary clinical physiology. Marciniuk’s lecture was entitled Activity Limitation in Patients with Respiratory Disorders.

University Heights Condo For Sale

- Main floor 2-BR, 2-Bath Clean, South-Facing, Corner Condo
  - $88 sq ft, taxes approx $1600 in 2011
  - 1 Electrically Parking Stall in well-treed lot, plenty of green space
  - Includes Fridge/Freeze, In-suite Laundry, Bil Dishwasher, and AC
  - Handy to stores, restaurants, banks, fitness facilities, and more
  - Close to U of Sask, and hospital...rapid transit to campus
  - Tastefully decorated and in immaculate condition

Call 306-934-1444 or see pics at www.saskshouses.com, ID 21594, $221,500

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Geography and Planning

• Philosophy in the Community
• Animal

Dec. 10, 2011

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Rugby Chapel, so named because it was paid for by the students and staff of Rugby School in England, was first established in Prince Albert, the original home of Emmanuel College. It was moved to the U of S campus in 1913 where it served as a classroom for this group of 1920 students, all clad in academic gowns. Shortly afterward, the chapel’s three heating stoves were replaced by a furnace, the ceiling was raised, the walls decorated and finally, a pipe organ was installed in 1923. The chapel now serves as the new campus Multi-Faith Centre.