Rethinking the student experience

College of Arts and Science looks to renew first-year program

Colleen MacPherson

The process of improving first-year programming in the College of Arts and Science is really one of deciding what a college graduate should have experienced and learned during their time in the college, and working backwards from there.

According to the report of the college’s First Year Review Steering Committee, that student will have, among other assets, strong communication skills, will think critically, will be a world-minded citizen, will understand the socio-cultural position of Aboriginal Peoples in Canada, and will have had a taste of multiple arts and science disciplines. Lesley Biggs, a history professor and chair of the committee, said this kind of learning outcomes model is being used sporadically but needs to be “part of our culture in the college.”

The first year review committee was set up two years ago and charged with finding ways to reinvigorate the first-year experience of arts and science students with an eye to improving recruitment and retention. Step one, said Biggs, was an exploration of the growing body of scholarship around teaching and learning, and best practices in first-year education. What the committee found was that the college’s distribution model, that is the credit unit requirements for a general liberal arts education, “is considered fairly outdated. It does give students a sense of the breadth of what’s available in arts and science but I think we can develop a more systematic and interdisciplinary approach to the model.”

Having set out what an arts and science student should experience, a list that has been adopted as college program goals in its third integrated plan, the committee report goes on to recommend three strategies for implementation, the most ambitious being curriculum renewal.

“I would like the college to be a destination point known for its exciting, innovative undergraduate programs,” Lesley Biggs

Making a difference in the world

Provost’s academic address 2012

Because this issue of On Campus News was printed prior to the provost’s academic address, quotes from the address were taken, with permission, from Brett Fairbairn’s speaking notes and may vary slightly from his delivery.

As the University of Saskatchewan approaches the milestone of a one-billion-dollar budget, Provost and Vice-President Academic Brett Fairbairn used his fourth annual academic address to explore whether universities provide value for that level of investment by making a positive difference in the world.

“Knowledge as power; self-governing service to the public interest.”

Universities exist in a dynamic time of competing and changing perceptions and expectations, he said. As a result, there are those who believe the institutions have moved away from what has traditionally been viewed as the ideal. The first view the provost addressed is that universities are the preserve of the privileged, “or alternately, that we have been inundated by the mediocre masses.”

“The connection between universities and privilege is an old one based in truth, he said, “and goes back to a day when it was unequivocally true.” Another

See Universities, Page 2
Universities must be aware of their responsibilities to society: Fairbairn

From Page 1

old idea is that diverse enrolment dilutes standards. By defining learning outcomes for students and by strategically managing enrolment, universities can address “the kernel of truth in concerns about quality and access.”

The suggestion universities are not fulfilling their role because of corporatization was the second view the provost addressed. He acknowledged that universities, by necessity, have features of corporations—specialized staff, professional financial management, strategic planning—but these are features of all modern organizations, “selective adaptations that are appropriate to our needs and circumstances.” Both universities and penitentiaries have locks on their doors but that does not make a university a prison. “Our not-for-profit orientation toward the public interest, combined with openness and plurality of purposes and stakeholders, gives a university an inner life that is distinctly different from virtually any other corporation.”

Then there is the suggestion universities have become undemocratic, but Fairbairn argued democracy is “never something that will be achieved fully.” It is “done too little to document and explain the external impact of what we do.”

That said, he mentioned several success stories connected with the U of S, life- and society-altering work in agriculture, vaccine development, human reproduction, history, law and other disciplines. “Our university prominently features established, signature areas of research that have been inspired in part by Saskatchewan realities and in which this province can make a global contribution.”

Success also comes in the “spirit of discovery” U of S graduates take with them into the world. “It should not surprise us that people who have undergone a challenging education do better in life, in aggregate, in every measurable way … (and) young innovators mentored here have done remarkable things.”

Universities make a difference, Fairbairn concluded, but the institutions must be aware of their responsibilities. Other organizations like governments, corporations and even communities depend on universities for leadership, expertise and ideas, but universities will never be without their skeptics and critics. Listen carefully, but do not “simply accept their prescriptions,” he advised.

“In an age when knowledge, more than ever, is power, we should not shrink from our mission both to create knowledge and to democratize it.”

We have the responsibility together to decide what being a university means in today’s context.

Brett Fairbairn

The complete text of Brett Fairbairn’s 2012 academic address along with a video can be found on his website www.usask.ca/vpacademic under the heading Our Office.

Elected Degrees and the Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award

The College of Graduate Studies and Research is calling for nominations for the Distinguished Graduate Supervisor Award. The deadline for nominations is March 1.

The College of Graduate Studies and Research is also calling for nominations for the earned Doctor of Letters (D.Litt.) and earned Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) degrees to be awarded to graduates of the University or to members of faculty. Drs. Li and Pedras are the latest additions to a list of alumni and faculty who have been recognized for a lifetime of outstanding achievement based on their research, scholarly or artistic work. These are the highest degrees granted by our University and honour our most accomplished colleagues.

Nominations, including a covering letter providing a rationale for the award, should be forwarded to the Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research, University of Saskatchewan, 105 Administration Place, Saskatoon SK S7N 5A2

Contact Bea Reid for information at bea.reid@usask.ca

www.usask.ca/cgsr

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February 10, 2012

Conversations in the Clouds

By necessity, have features of
Sharing the ecology message

Melanie Elliott may have the best office mates on campus – they’re extremely quiet, take up little space and never tie up the phone.

But Sniffles the garter snake, Sally and Mander the tiger salamanders, the collection of unnamed stick bugs and the big brown bats named Burkill and Elizabet are key members of Elliott’s team in providing ecological education to the community, education that is centred largely on the message that “wildlife needs a place to live.”

Elliott, who is the program manager for ecological education in the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education, brings both biology and education degrees, years of experience, and of course her animals to work with school children, teachers and adults, work that ranges from in-class programs and the very popular Ecology Camps for Kids to tours that take people to very special, and often endangered, environments around the globe. While the ecology message is an important one, she also recognizes her role in demystifying the science and the university.

Follies Feature Talking Movie

A Mere Detail

The first feature film presented as a talkie was The Jazz Singer, released in October 1927. The first showing of a “genuine talking movie” in Saskatoon was in Convocation Hall on March 8, 1929. A Mere Detail was one of the main attractions on the programme of the Varsity Follies, the year-end variety show. The above image is a scene from the film. The plot involved three college boys who become heirs to a ranch, and the young lady of the ranch included the “snappy harmonies” of the Ukulele Band, singing and dancing, a melodrama presented by Emmanuel College, a farce performed by the students of the School of Medicine and a News-Reel of campus activities.

Children don’t hold back – they verbalize their excitement.

Melanie Elliott

“I often feel like an interpreter,” said Elliott. “I start with the academic and make the knowledge available to people.”

Elliott got her start in ecology education in 1991 with the Saskatoon Zoo Society, a position she accepted after working some 10 years as a research technician at the U of S. “I gave up the research for teaching really, teaching volunteers, developing tours for school groups. I developed a Grade 1 program for the public school division and I just loved working with teachers.”

Moving to what was then the university’s Extension Division, Elliott set up Ecology Camps for Kids, a program now almost 20 years old, and ran field trips and workshops. “So much of our education is theoretical. I wanted people to learn about nature on the ground.”

Her work in and around Saskatoon focuses largely on the conservation of wetlands and grasslands, a story she tells through the lens of the plants and animals that inhabit those environments. Children, she said, “know habitat is a big problem” and she leads them through building bird and bat houses, and discussions of endangered species. “All of this ties into waste reduction so I set up a worm composter for the classroom and get into their recycle bin and teach them how to make new paper. Children realize ‘Oh yes, we can do something that makes a difference.”

Elliott works mainly with Grades 1-6 students and does about 30 workshops a year in classrooms. Her presentations are very closely tied to curricula “but you can make ecology fit almost anywhere.” In terms of job satisfaction, a highlight is always “the nerdy kid who limpets onto you and says ‘This is the best day of my life.’ Children don’t hold back – they verbalize their excitement.”

And nothing is more exciting for the kids, either in the classroom or at ecology camp, than meeting her animals although they are not the cutest of creatures – “I’m going with underdogs here.” The salamanders and snake have met thousands of kids but it is the bats that really pique their interest. Elliott’s interest in these mammals has actually made her the go-to person in Saskatoon when bats need rescuing. She has collected well over 100 bats around the city, many of which are knocked down by house cats.

“The vet college can only do so much with these animals,” she said. “There’s the rehabilitation part and the release part because the real goal is that they’re returned to the wild.” To help, Elliott has developed a hibernation protocol in her home cold cellar that allows her to safely house bats until mosquitoes appear in the spring and she can release them. While not protected by the province, she has a provincial permit to keep small animals, and a permit from the university’s animal care committee because she uses them for teaching.

When it comes to adult ecological education through tours, “we really focus on national parks and protected areas. We give lectures before we leave on the geography, the culture and history of the area and often on wildlife and bird identification. The whole point is to make sure everyone has a rich experience.”

The most popular tour on her schedule is to Churchill, Manitoba, a place she has been to 20 times, in summer to see Beluga whales and arctic nesting birds, and in fall to observe polar bears waiting on shore for the ice to form in Hudson Bay. There, and in destinations like Costa Rica, Elliott arranges accommodation at research facilities and finds opportunities to tap into the expertise of scientists working on site.

Inventing U of S faculty to participate in programs like ecology camps is another way Elliott works to “demystify the science.” That and her keen awareness of the value of exposing kids to the university campus goes a long way in helping students make the transition to post-secondary life.

Elliott tells the story of being a high school student and taking a swim class at McMaster University. “I thought it was so cool to be on campus. I’ve had kids tell me ‘I wasn’t afraid when I started university because this was my ecology camp.”

The University of Saskatchewan has joined Project Hero, a national scholarship program for children of Canadian Forces personnel killed during an international operation.

“There are close to 70 Canadian post-secondary institutions that take part in this program including University of Regina, University of Manitoba, a place she has been to 20 times, in summer to see Beluga whales and arctic nesting birds, and in fall to observe polar bears waiting on shore for the ice to form in Hudson Bay. There, and in destinations like Costa Rica, Elliott arranges accommodation at research facilities and finds opportunities to tap into the expertise of scientists working on site.

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explained David Hannah, associate vice-president of student affairs. The award will be equal to tuition and student fees for up to four years of full-time undergraduate study, plus an annual stipend of $1,500 for up to four years to help offset additional costs of university attendance such as books and supplies, rent and food.

The University of Saskatchewan has joined Project Hero, a national scholarship program for children of Canadian Forces personnel killed during an international operation.

“Those have included the ‘snappy harmonies’ of the Ukulele Band, singing and dancing, a melodrama presented by Emmanuel College, a farce performed by the students of the School of Medicine and a News-Reel of campus activities.

The U of S joins Project Hero scholarship program

The U of S has authorized an annual allocation of $25,000 from the operating budget for this award, which was formally endorsed by the Scholars and Awards Committee of Council. Hannah said that the university had not yet had an applicant for the scholarship.

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Next OCN deadline is February 23, 2012
Centre marks year of co-ops

The University of Saskatchewan’s Centre for the Study of Co-operatives is celebrating the United Nations International Year of Co-operatives 2012, proclaimed to recognize the contributions co-operatives make to the social and economic development of communities around the world.

The centre is making plans to acknowledge this milestone in the life of the co-op movement, which claims close to 18 million members in Canada and more than a billion members worldwide. “This year offers an important opportunity to educate the public about the enormous role co-operatives play in building communities, revitalizing economies, and creating jobs here in Canada and around the world,” said Centre Director Lou Hammond Ketilson.

Activities kicked off Jan. 25 with the first in a series of seminars celebrating local, national and international co-operative achievements. At the seminar, Jean-Emmanuel Bouchard, president of the Quebec Federation of School Co-operatives, explained how his province’s student co-ops are training the next generation of co-operators. Seminars in February and March will examine issues of gender equity in fair trade coffee co-operatives in Nicaragua, issues of northern Ontario throughout the year.

The centre is also reconceiving its museum exhibit “Building Community: Creating Social and Economic Well-Being” into components for circulation in small communities, said Hammond Ketilson. The smaller exhibits will tour Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northwestern Ontario throughout the year.

The centre will wrap up with a major conference titled Co-operatives 2012, International Year of Co-operatives, to take place Nov. 1-3 in Saskatoon, she said. Presentations will consider how co-operatives can support local development, encourage education and contribute to lasting prosperity in the context of economic, social and political realities.

More information about the centre’s International Year of the Co-operative activities can be found at www.usaskstudies.coop.

Nora Russell is publications and communications officer with the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives.

Antediluvian words transmogrify the language

In many ways, Wayne State University is very much like our own University of Saskatchewan. Both institutions are located in the heart of major communities, Saskatoon for us and Detroit for Wayne State’s main campus.

The two universities have a comparable number of buildings but theirs are situated on almost 200 acres where as we have a bit more elbow room—about 1,800 acres inside our city limits. Wayne State boasts that it has the most beautiful urban campus in the United States, and I think that’s a claim the U of S can rightly make here in Canada. Wayne State has the edge on students—about 32,000 to our 21,000—but we both have students from across our respective countries and from many, many countries around the world.

And when asked to describe the nature of the institution, both would invariably incorporate the word research as a descriptor. Wayne State is dedicated to preparing students for an interconnected global society and the contemporary urban environment while our research focus tends toward the natural and life sciences.

As I say, there are many similarities between the two universities, but there is one marked difference: Wayne State has the Word Warriors, and we don’t.

Word Warriors has, for four years, made a concerted effort to raise the profile of some of the English language’s most expressive but neglected words. In addition to presenting a word of the day on its website, Word Warriors also releases an annual top 10 list of words it thinks should be, and deserve to be, used more often. As the website explains, some of the words have enjoyed their time in the sun, but have fallen out of favour while others have never really managed to gain a foothold in everyday language.

The 2012 list, prepared by Word Warrior editors with input from the public, contains some fabulous words, words that are precise, fun to pronounce and downright beautiful. I have two personal favourites on this year’s list—Styxpehan, which I had the pleasure of hearing used in a sentence by one of our very own academics, and transmogrify, a term my boys bandied about when discussing a cardboard contraption they built in the basement. They picked it up from Calvin and Hobbes cartoons—thank you Bill Watterson.

So, straight from the Word Warriors, here is this year’s list of words, complete with definitions and example sentences. I would love to see each used at least once in our next integrated plan.

Antediluvian: Antiquated; old-fashioned; out of date. Literally “before the flood,” referring to the Biblical deluge. This company’s vacation policy is positively antediluvian, so I’m giving you three weeks off this year.

Erstwhile: Former; bygone. When I’m in the presence of a powerful person, my own concept of equality gets blurry and I have a regrettable tendency to truckle, if only to be polite (Ian Frazier, in Travels in Siberia).

Penultimate: Next to last. Everyone’s heard of the Last Supper, but the Penultimate Supper has been largely forgotten.

Sisyphean: Actually or apparently endless and futile. After Sisyphus, doomed by the gods to roll a stone uphill, only to have it always roll back down. Washington endured a Sisyphean nightmare of whipping raw recruits into shape, only to see them melt away when their one-year enlistments expired (Ron Chernow, in Washington).

Superlicial: Contemp-tuous, disdainful; condemning. I knew I was about to go into the tank socially when I noticed the supercilious way she was looking at my red shoes.

Transmogrify: To change completely, usually grottesquely, in appearance or form. So Gregor drifted off to sleep, never dreaming he was in a Kafka story and would transmogrify into a hideous insect overnight.

Truckle: Submit obsequiously; be subservient, kowtow. When I’m in the presence of a powerful person, my own concept of equality gets blurry and I have a regrettable tendency to truckle, if only to be polite (Ian Frazier, in Travels in Siberia).
Six prints by Pablo Picasso make a welcome addition to the University of Saskatchewan art collection, fitting in nicely with existing work by many contemporaries of the Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker and ceramicist who is considered one of the most influential artists of the 20th century.

“We have a number of prints, paintings and ceramics in our collection by close contemporaries of Picasso that parallel his work stylistically,” said Kent Archer, director and curator of the U of S art collection. “That provides important context for these new works.”

Frederick Mulder, an alumnus and private art dealer who is considered a world expert on Picasso prints, donated the six prints to the university Jan. 31. Three of the six are linocut posters, part of a series Picasso produced between 1951 and 1964 for the southern French town of Vallauris where he lived from 1948-1956. Known for its ceramics, arts and crafts, exhibitions and bullfights, the town played a large role in the development of Picasso’s linocut style and technique.

Five of the six prints were donated in honour of people significant to Mulder: Rudy Kratzen, professor emeritus; photographer Courtney Milne; Professor Emeritus Don Kerr; Mulder’s first professor at the Western College of Agriculture and Bioresources; and U of S President Peter MacKinnon.

Archer said there are plans to exhibit the prints along with other recent acquisitions, and possibly to permanently locate them “in some relation to the people they’re in honour of.”

The prints will undergo an independent appraisal to determine their value, which Archer roughly estimated at about $60,000.

Donations like Mulder’s are an important way for the university to acquire new works, said Archer. “We have a very small acquisitions budget so this is one of the primary ways to build the collection. We have an acquisitions committee that considers all of the artwork offered to us and while we don’t accept everything, we do receive artwork valued in the neighbourhood of $300,000-$500,000 in gifts annually.”

Donation to prostate research

The University of Saskatchewan Prostate Research Team has received $26,000 from Motorcycle Ride for Dad (MRRD) for prostate research.

The funds will support the project that focuses on the development of improved diagnostic and treatment tools for prostate cancer in humans, using a dog model and imaging at the Canadian Light Source. The research uses male dogs that have died from various causes, and that have been donated to the study from veterinary clinics.

MFEO is an organization that raises funds to support prostate cancer research and raise public awareness.

Heritage award for U of S

The U of S has been recognized by the City of Saskatoon’s Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee for its efforts to preserve and restore the historic aspects of campus.

The committee named the university the 2011-12 winner in the heritage space category of its heritage award program. The report from the panel of award judges noted that U of S facilities respect the institution’s original master plan “as a key document to guide development on a modern university campus.” The judges were also impressed with the preservation of various outdoor spaces on campus, and with the fact new buildings on campus are constructed of materials similar to those used in the original buildings but with modern interpretations.

Entrepreneur-in-residence named

Local business person Michael Chubbi has been named entrepreneur-in-residence (ErIn) for 2012 by the U of S Industry Liaison Office, in conjunction with the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

In his new role, Chubbi, who is general manager of Saskatchewan Coconut Company, will work with the colleges to uncover and evaluate commercialization opportunities.

The ErIn program aims to create collaborations between businesses and the university that could lead to commercializing U of S researchers’ know-how and technology.

Accessibility, affordability report released

Regardless of their income status, parents who lack a post-secondary education are not likely to see their children pursue college or university studies.

That is the key finding in a U of S report entitled Accessibility and Affordability Report 2011 that looks at access to university education in Canada and Saskatchewan.


U of S News Briefs

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sequencing of courses, course content, methods of assessment and methods of course delivery to ensure “the program goals for all majors fall in line with the college goals.” A key consideration will be interdisciplinary programming but “it’s not our intent that everyone turn themselves into pretzels to meet the program goals but rather that they ask the question, ‘are there opportunities (for change) we hadn’t thought of before?’ We want people to do this and to do it carefully. It’s a lot of work to re-align courses” so the target date for completing curriculum renewal is the end of the third planning cycle in 2015.

Other implementation strategies listed in the report include expanding Learning Communities to any first-year student interested in participating, and creating a welcoming and supportive environment for Aboriginal students. Work is already underway with the University Learning Centre on a business plan for broadening the availability of Learning Communities, said Biggs, and various transition programs for first-year Aboriginal students have been amalgamated within the college’s Aboriginal Student Achievement Program.

Speaking about the committee’s report, Peter Stoicheff, dean of the college, said his main objective “was to ensure the recommendations were very evident … in our integrated plan, and they are. We are quite committed to seeing them through,” he said, adding various kinds of resources will be needed to affect the change the college wants. Expertise, both internal and external, is one, as is time, particularly for members of a new Curriculum Innovation Steering Committee that will guide the renewal process.

“In terms of strictly financial resources, I don’t know what the exact cost implications will be,” Stoicheff said, but he does not expect major changes to the college offerings. “We can’t just keep adding” so the college will focus on finding “innovative way to make connections for students. How do we make use of the fact we have mathematicians and studio artists in the same college?”

Biggs echoed that thinking when asked what the College of Arts and Science might look like at the end of the curriculum renewal process.

“I would like the college to be a destination point known for its exciting, innovative undergraduate programs,” she said. “I would like to see signature or flag ship first-year programs, which could include, for example, courses on climate change taught by faculty from various disciplines. One of the committee members suggested a course called What is Beauty? that could be taught by someone from the fine arts but also a scientist. We need curriculum that energizes students. And I would like to see classes at the 200, 300 and 400 levels that are more interdisciplinary within divisions in the college and across divisions because the world in which we live doesn’t exist in disciplinary silos.”

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Lesley Biggs, chair of the First Year Review Steering Committee
A funding program unique to the University of Saskatchewan is allowing researchers and students to pursue work around the world and, for one recipient, make an unexpected U of S connection.

“Last time I was in Uganda, something amazing happened,” says Adil Nazarali, professor of pharmacy. “I wanted to explore possible collaborations with the Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) and was surprised to learn that the president of the university, Frederick Kayanja, is a U of S alumnus.”

Nazarali has been travelling to his native Uganda with graduate students Rick Lorenz and Eisha Grant to work with the Foundation for AIDS Orphaned Children along with veterinary medicine professor, Dr. Claire Card, and associate professor of nutrition and dietetics, Carol Henry. Backed by funding from the university’s Global Partners II (GPII) program, the team is assessing the needs and challenges faced by the roughly 1.2 million Ugandan children orphaned by AIDS.

In an area where the need for medical professionals is vast, Nazarali and Mbarara University are now developing an interprofessional course that will see U of S students spend six weeks in Uganda visiting a health site where they will learn about the Ugandan health care system and health management, and develop leadership skills.

GPII began in 2008 as a partnership between the U of S Office of the Vice-President Research and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), which provided just over $212,000 of the nearly $400,000 budget. The remaining funds were raised within the university. The program has funded 33 projects, including nine graduate students.

Laurel O’Connor, assistant director of research services in the International Research Office, says that while many grant programs are highly competitive and involve large amounts of money for research already underway, GPII provided grants of up to $10,000 in “seed money” – small amounts needed by researchers to start the relationships that help get things off the ground.

This program, hosted and managed by the U of S, is serving as a pilot for the IDRC. The U of S is the only university to participate in this program to date.

Funding recipient Dr. Ron Siemens, a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics, appreciates the flexibility offered by the program.

“The joy of the funding is that we were able to do what we needed to do when we got on the ground in Africa. You can’t anticipate everything and this funding allowed us the necessary flexibility,” he says. Siemens is helping a new university in Mozambique develop community-based curricula and training in research principles for medical students.

Another recipient of GPII funding, Donna Rennie, professor in the College of Nursing, travelled with Josh Lawson, assistant professor of medicine, to Poland, Belarus and Ukraine where they are conducting asthma research.

For them, the GPII funding led to further in-kind donations in support of their research. The opportunity to take these preliminary steps in international research can lead to meetings that would not have happened without travelling, said Rennie.

Lisa Buchanan is a graduate student intern in the U of S Office of Research Communications.

Pharmacy professor Adil Nazarali used GPII funding to visit Uganda where he works with orphaned children.

Lisa Buchanan
February 10, 2012
College centennial focuses on the future

According to Dean Mary Buhr, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources’ centennial is as much about celebrating the future as it is the past.

“The centennial gives us the opportunity to highlight what the college has accomplished in the past and that then forms a foundation from which we can talk about where we are going in the future,” said Buhr. “When you look at how much the college has changed over the past 100 years, you recognize that it will probably have to change an equivalent amount in the next 100 years – and it will always be to address the needs of the province and the world in all the things that constitute agriculture and bioresources.”

Centennial celebrations are well underway at the College of Agriculture and Bioresources with a kick-off and an all-years alumni reunion held at the beginning of January. The next event is an open house on June 22 showcasing research and innovation at the college. Buhr indicated that the open house would be an important event for the college as it “gives us the chance to show the university campus, the community, industry and our alumni, who we are and what we have become.

“Most people in the western world hear the term agriculture and understand by that farming and form a mental picture of someone standing in a field with a pitchfork but they don’t understand the breadth of what agriculture is and they don’t feel related to it all,” she continued. “Agriculture is also policy and business models, reclamation of damaged land, creating better feed for animals, designing healthy foods and being able to grow fuel and fibre and plastics on land that food crops can’t use.”

When the college undertook a name change in 2006 to become the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, it was to better reflect the scope of research and teaching at the college. Buhr hopes that the open house will provide some clarity to modern agriculture, and help people to see that agriculture is all around them, “in farms, yes, but also in cold-tolerant strawberries, in young entrepreneurs and fuel from cow poop, and healthy people, plants, animals and environments.”

In September, the centennial celebrations will continue on with a barbeque, complete with cake, to celebrate with the students who Buhr points out are the most important resource of the college.

“The students are the future and we must never lose sight of that. Yes, we do the research but we are also providing students with the wealth of knowledge that the world so desperately needs to make a reasonable future for itself – and that’s the most important thing we can do.”

Buhr suggests that the next 100 years in agriculture and bioresources will be anything but boring. With issues like a global need for food security and climate change, the college will have much to contribute. She thinks the best plan is to be proactive.

“Whatever we do, whatever crops or products or production methods we develop, will be useful somewhere in the world. I think we need to prepare as best we can for the kind of variations that we expect are coming, and then plan well enough to be able to adapt to the unexpected variations that come our way.”

Buhr would like to see the college “support the province as it moves into expanded use of resources, expanded in both the sense of doing more things with resources that we have, and the sense of properly using more of the land base that we have and using it in a more sustainable fashion. The environmental piece is key and that is because we all need to be cognizant of what our practices be such that we are giving as much back, if not more, than we are taking out.”

Kira Glasscock is communications co-ordinator in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources

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**University Library Dean’s Award for Excellence**

Have you received exceptional service/work from a University Library employee or team?

**Awards Information**

*The Awards* Nominate an individual or a team who has demonstrated exemplary service work toward fulfilling the library’s mission.

*The Criteria* All library employees building continuing appointments are eligible for nomination.

*The process* Nomination forms can be found at library.usask.ca and submitted to the Library Executive Assistant no later than the last working day in March.

*More information* Can be found at library.usask.ca or by contacting the Library Executive Assistant.

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**Consumer Services to end cigarette sales**

As of May 1, university-operated retail outlets on campus will no longer sell cigarettes.

Greg Fowler, director of Consumer Services, said the decision to stop selling cigarettes at the Tuck Shop, the North 40 in the Agriculture Building and at Innovation Place was made after much discussion. One argument was that smokers need to be able to purchase cigarettes somewhere on such a large campus. “On the other side was the fact we wanted to continue our health focus, and that carried the day,” Fowler said.

The decision is in line with the commitment Consumer Services makes to environmental and social responsibility in its integrated plan for 2012-15. Fowler added. The proposal to discontinue cigarette sales was discussed with the U of S Students’ Union and other groups, he said, “and what I see is support for the decision.”

Cigarettes will continue to be sold at the Mac’s Convenience Store in Lower Place Riel.

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For more news, photos and comments visit us online:

news.usask.ca
Where in the world is the U of S?

Lisa Buchanan

A new online map to be posted Feb. 13 will allow members of the University of Saskatchewan community to see what their colleagues are up to in every corner of the globe.

The map, which shows U of S connections in countries around the globe, is a joint project of the International Office and International Research Office, along with the Spatial Initiative, provider of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services to campus. Created using GIS, a computer-based technology that manipulates, analyzes and displays digital geospatial data, the map will keep itself up to date by using databases to track the university's research activity, student mobility including exchanges, and agreements with other institutions.

"Through the GIS map, we hope to increase the numbers of connections between U of S researchers working in the same parts of the world that will lead to deeper levels of involvement and better sustainability of our partnerships," says Tom Wishart, special advisor on international initiatives.

Leigh-Ellen Keating, director of the International Office, says, "Our researchers have a lot of international activity going on, from field research to prestigious fellowships, but we didn't have a means of tracking all of these projects and accomplishments." The map will be accessible at http://spatial.usask.ca/international and on the International Office website.

Lisa Buchanan is a graduate student intern in the U of S Office of Research Communications.

New calendar includes day off for students

Kris Foster

 Changes are coming for the next academic calendar: the number of days between the last day of classes and the first day of exams, he explained. "It used to be at least two days; now it is between 24 and 48 hours. We have made the commitment that in the future we won't schedule (an exam) within 24 hours if we don't have to."

Throughout consultation with colleges and University Student Council (USC), Isinger said the proposed policy change did not receive a lot of pushback. "We have always tried to build the best exam schedules for students, but losing those days makes it impossible, but getting out early for the holidays seems to be compensation."

Another change approved by Council at its Jan. 26 meeting was the introduction of a fall reading day for students only starting in 2012. The impetus behind this change was to create more balance between the two terms, Isinger explained. "The break in the second term is appreciated and a similar break in fall would give student a chance to catch up, relax or travel as well."

The new reading day will land on the Friday preceding Thanksgiving, creating a four-day weekend. "We couldn't find an entire week in the schedule because we need a certain number of teaching days in each term. An entire week would be too many days to make up, meaning we have to start classes in August or end later than usual. A one-day break was manageable and we were able to get the requisite number of teaching days in the calendar year."

Other universities in Canada have a fall break for students, he continued, and it is something that has been brought up at the U of S on numerous occasions. "We finally got the ball rolling by talking to all the colleges and they were enthusiastic."

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Uranium Industry One-Day Course
The Carson-Center for Nuclear and Uranium Training, in partnership with the Hanford Site, Office of Environmental, Safety, and Health, and the National Nuclear Security Administration will present a one-day course on the International Uranium Industry. Monday, March 16, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. in Edrums Room 144. Cost $450.00. For more information visit www.usask.ca.

Verbal Judo
Campus Safety is offering Verbal Judo courses throughout the year. Verbal Judo teaches the skills necessary to remain calm, and focused during any verbal encounter. Classes can be set up to accommodate individual departments or groups of 5-12 people. For more information contact campus safety at usask.usafc.com.

Continuing Nursing Education
For more information visit www.usask.ca/nursing.

• Feb. 20-21, 9-noon, $150 for faculty, staff and students; $185 for others
• March 1, 1-3:30 pm, $150 for faculty, staff and students; $185 for others
• March 12, 11-noon (weekend)
• March 20 and 21, 9-noon, $0 for faculty, staff and students; $185 for others
-WEB Safety Training Courses
For more information and to register, visit www.usask.ca/wecp.Web/ course
-• Feb. 15, 12:30-4:30 pm, $0 for faculty, staff and students; $185 for others
-• March 28, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (men) vs. Manitoba (women) and 1-4 p.m. (men) vs. Manitoba (women)

Wise Solutions - Professional Development Network for Professional Development - open to all levels offered. Program starts Feb. 20 and ends Feb. 25, 2012. Course materials included. Fee: $450.00


Masters Garden Strategies
Spring Fling, Feb. 20, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Keynote speaker is Lyndon Poyer. 576.00 (all included lunch) or 540.95 (half day without lunch). On Feb. 26, Pomerin will present two more workshops – Gardening for Food and Proper Use of the Color in the Garden (540.95 each or $900.00 for both). If you plan on attending both days, the fees will be the same. For further information contact Nicole Wiltz Elliott at 966-5625


Gordon Walls Competition
The Walls Memorial Opera Competition offers a $5,000 jackpot and an opportunity for performing singers to appear with the Regina and Saskatchewan Symphony Orchestras. The competition will be held in EBS and begin Feb. 25, 1-3 p.m. and Feb. 26 and 9:30 a.m. at Convocation Hall. For more information visit www婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀婀蜈蚣脚/ index.php

The Arts
NFB Children’s Films During Reading Week
The Mayne offers four short NFB children’s films in the Collaborative Learning Lab. Show times are at 1 p.m. on Feb. 27, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Feb. 28, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Admission is free. For more information visit http://nfb.ca

Greystone Theatre Presents... Greystone Theatre presents All Through the Night, Shirley MacLaine, directed by Natalia Markina. Performances are until Feb. 11. The play tracks the struggles of a group of German gentle women during WWII as they carve a path through their everyday lives. Tickets are available from the Dept. of Drama or at the box office one hour before performances. Call 966-1918 or visit http://artsteats.saskatoon.ca/drama/ greystone/ College Art Galleries
Information for May 5, Rural Readymade is a group exhibition organized by the College of Art

Kenderdine Art Space
The Mechanical Self, work by Cathy Dykxhoorn, Micael Lesar and Patrick Ziesar, in the Kenderdine Art Space. For more information visit Kenderdine Art Space on Facebook.

Jazz Ensemble Performance
The Saskatoon Jazz Ensemble, conducted by special guest Brian Proctor on tenor sax will perform March 29 at 2 p.m. at the Broadway Club in Saskatoon. For more information, contact the Dept. of Music at 966-6815.
Campus Incidents

Selected incidents reported by the Department of Campus Safety. Report all information about these and other incidents to Campus Safety at 966-5155.

Jan. 23-29
- Officers issued the following tickets:
  - 1 for speeding
  - 1 for smoking while in a vehicle with a minor
  - 3 for operating an unregistered motor vehicle
  - 2 for disobeying a stop sign
  - 1 for disobeying a traffic control device
- A driver was suspended for 24 hours and charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle and having no driver’s license.
- A second driver was suspended for 24 hours and charged with driving without due care and attention.
- A third driver was suspended for 24 hours and charged with having no driver’s license.
- Marijuana was seized from an on-campus residence.
- A male was arrested on an outstanding warrant.
- Two pairs of shoes were stolen from a locker in PAC.
- A wallet containing ID, credit cards and cash was stolen from a locker in PAC.
- A wallet was stolen from an office in STM. There is a suspect in this matter.
- File is still under investigation.
- An iPod was stolen from the Murray Library. It had been left unattended.
- A locker in the Agriculture Building was broken into and contents, including cell phone, credit cards and keys, were stolen.
- A locker in Spinks Addition was broken into and a backpack containing credit cards, cash and an iPod was stolen. The backpack was later recovered in a washroom, however, contents of any value were missing.
- A female was detained by campus staff for shoplifting in a campus retail shop. After returning some items to the store clerk, she managed to evade the clerk.
- Graffiti was reported in washrooms at the Diefenbaker Building.
- Officers responded to a report of a natural gas odor at Emmanuel and St. Chad. SaskEnergy attended and found a small leak in a release valve, which was then fixed.

How One Inspiring Course Changed the Course of My Life

This year’s 3M National Teaching Fellows want you to know that Canadian university professors care about teaching. So they’re saying thanks to the teachers who changed their lives.

Read other stories of inspiration, and thank your own teachers at thankateacher.org
Not much has changed in the northwest end of the Bowl since January 1962, assuming you discount the copse of mature trees, construction of a Geology Building on the far right obscuring Thorvaldson, a couple of additional storeys added to the Arts Tower, Marquis Hall on the far left and a big new health science complex completely engulfing the original College of Medicine building. At least the snow is still white.

Looking for ideas

We are already thinking about a feature for the back page in our 2012-13 publishing year. In the past years, we’ve highlighted art, architecture, oddities and this view from here. If there is something you would like us to feature in this space, send an email to ocn@usask.ca