Residence staff experienced a busy start to the fall semester as a record number of students moved into the university’s residence buildings.

While the final numbers are still being tallied, residence manager Sylvia Cholodniuk estimates that about 1,900 students have occupied the available 2,000 spaces. And on Sept. 3, residence staff set a record with more than 600 students registering in a single day.

“We have never, ever processed that many students in a day,” said Cholodniuk.

“Thank goodness for good staff, because I don’t know what we would do if I did not have the complement of staff that I have. The staff have been key to the success of getting everything ready and opened.”

The record number of students living in residence is a result of the opening of two more buildings in the university’s College Quarter development—Birch and Pine Halls. Students moved into College Quarter’s Spruce and Aspen Halls last year.

Students have also settled in at McEown Park, four high-rise buildings located just south of the main campus, and Voyageur Place, a group of four halls on the main campus. While there are still about 60 spaces available at Voyageur Place, Cholodniuk is pleased with the residence numbers overall, noting about 780 of the 800 spaces that opened at College Quarter during the last two years are filled.

Another 262 spaces will come on stream soon when the new graduate student residence, Graduate House, opens. Part of Graduate House, which is also located in College Quarter, is expected to open in January 2013.

Cholodniuk attributes the interest in residence to a number of factors, including proximity to campus. “There’s the safety concept, the convenience—all of those things,” she said.

During the summer, the university raised awareness of the benefits of living in residence through print advertising and social media marketing.

“I think the new building has created all sorts of buzz around residence, because there has been a lot of publicity and a lot of awareness of the new housing complex—and it is beautiful,” said Cholodniuk.
GAA returns medicine restructuring to Council for reconsideration

Colleen MacPherson

Editor’s Note: At press time of this issue of On Campus News, Brett Fairbairn, provost and vice-president academic, announced that an agreement was reached in Convocation Hall Sept. 6 marking a major milestone in the process of restructuring the College of Medicine. The meeting, Martin Phillipson said that while the democratic process worked, “I’m a little bit disappointed but not surprised” that the motion under debate—to have Council reconsider its May 17 decision to support a restructuring proposal from the College of Medicine—passed by the necessary two-thirds majority. The vote, taken by secret ballot, was 200 in favour and 93 opposed, a 64-per-cent majority. It was the first time the more than 1,000-member GAA has achieved a quorum of 50.

Phillipson is vice-provost of College of Medicine organizational restructuring and one of the architects of the proposed new structure.

The debate in Convocation Hall mirrored the May 17 Council meeting with those opposed to the restructuring concept largely taking exception to the process of its introduction and claiming a lack of appropriate consultation with college faculty and students. Those supporting restructuring argued it is critical to address a number of issues within the college, including accreditation.

Rob Tyler, chair of Council’s planning and priorities committee, opened the debate by reading the original motion and explaining the committee’s rationale for recommending Council support restructuring.

The creation of three divisions in the college—Divisions of Clinical Research, Medical Education and Biomedical and Population Sciences—would improve certification concerns, particularly relating to the assignment of and accountability for teaching, he said. The change is also designed to support growth in research activity and clarify the college’s relationship with the health region.

Speaking as the mover of the GAA motion and as chair of the college faculty council, Dr. Tom Wilson said the introduction of the new governance model was rushed, and “I believe Council members did not have sufficient information to make an informed decision. Faculty will work “as a committed group” to achieve the goals of change, he said, “(but) we just don’t want this particular structure.”

In her allotted speaking time as seconder of the motion, Claire Card, professor of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, said college faculty “clearly should have had a voice and a vote in this matter,” and that the Council motion should have been tabled to allow for further consultation. She reminded GAA members that if the motion passes but Council reneges its support for restructuring, the GAA has the legislative authority to dissolve Council, “and I propose that that would be the next step.”

Phillipson then detailed the consultation process the proposal went through, stressing the concept is not a plan—the plan is still being developed—but rather a document for discussion. Six working groups are already making refinements and planning implementation of the new structure, he said. A progress report is scheduled to go to Council Sept. 20.

Prosser Brett Fairbairn, who sponsored the original Council motion, reiterated his concern about “deeply rooted structural problems” in the college identified by accreditation bodies and reflected in low performance by U of S medical students on national exams. He added the college’s research capacity is lagging behind its Canadian peers; the U of S school brings in just eight per cent of the university’s total research funding.

See Strong, Page 9
The committee members are in place and the principles for decision-making have been approved by the provost. They are prepared to tackle the job of reducing its operating budget by $44.5 million annually and achieving a balanced budget by 2015-16. In May, the university announced that the projected rate of growth of its expenses was outstripping revenue, and that it would undertake a process of budget adjustment to bring them in line. That process, said Provost Brett Fairbairn, will involve a no-stone-unturned approach aimed at financial stability for the institution and long-term prosperity.

The situation came to light in the Multi-Year Budget Framework, a tool used by the university to project financial pressures. It showed expenses in major categories, the largest being salaries and benefits, will rise faster than projected revenue. The largest source of revenue is the provincial government grant, which is unlikely to show an economic increase of more than about two per cent per year, said Fairbairn.

“Fairbairn has successfully managed budget reductions in the past, and we will do so again,” he said. “It will take a collective effort guided in large measure by the agreed-upon priorities of our current integrated plan and by the vision of our strategic directions.”

Overseeing the search for cost savings and operating efficiencies is a steering committee co-chaired by Fairbairn and Greg Fowler, acting vice-president of finance and resources. The provost explained that the budget adjustment work is divided into four quadrants —central administration and central academic processes as well as administrative and academic functions that are distributed among the colleges, schools and units.

A complete list of steering committee members, including those leading the work in each quadrant, can be found online at usask.ca/finances.

The reduction target of $44.5 million annually represents just over eight per cent of the total 2015-16 operating budget, and achieving that goal will require strategic and selective action. Fairbairn cautioned there is no expectation that all the necessary savings and efficiencies will be found on the administrative side of the operation; the budget adjustment process could include the closure of academic programs, departments or colleges.

The findings of each quadrant working group will be reviewed and considered by a steering committee, he explained. The steering committee will then make recommendations to the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP), which in turn will provide recommendations to the Board of Governors when its approval is required. Various committees of University Council will also be brought into the process when necessary, Fairbairn said. He has committed to providing the campus community and Council with regular updates as the project moves forward.

Health Science move-in date weeks away

Occupancy is still a few weeks away for the new Health Science building as the structure continues to undergo stringent testing to ensure it is functioning as designed.

“This is a very complex building and until we got to this final stage, I don’t think people realized the level of scrutiny it takes to turn this building on,” said Brad Steeves, director of operations for the Council of Health Science Deans.

While the majority of the building is clean and ready for occupancy, engineers, technicians and health and safety personnel representing both the contractor and the university’s Facilities Management Division (FMD) are working to ensure it will operate flawlessly, he explained.

That work includes verifying the performance of all systems—that fire alarms are integrated and tested, emergency generators operate, air conditioning and balancing is working in every room, that lab air supplies are correct and fume hood ventilation is optimal.

“They’re doing is ensuring this is a safe place to work,” Steeves said, “and all of these processes are taking longer than anticipated. There’s a huge responsibility on the contractor to get this done and a huge responsibility on FMD to verify the systems are operating as the plans before the building is turned over.”

Steeves expects the first occupants to move in within four to five weeks, “maybe,” and a grand opening originally scheduled for September has been moved to a yet to be determined date. The upside is that the campus community will be so again, he said. “They’re really looking at what make sense in terms of the flow of the lab for people who, in many cases, have never worked together before.”

But even with extra time required for critical systems checks, Steeves said “everybody’s anxious to move in. There’s a different feeling right now; we’ve moved from anxiety to excitement.”

First class of student reps

The above image is of the first Student Representative Council, 1989-1990. The quote below is from the 1912 Yearbook:

“THE UNIVERSITY of Saskatchewan has laid plans with a view to future development. In this environment it was only natural that its students should form an organization which would represent the interests of all students. The purpose of The Students Representative Council, to use the words of its Constitution, is to act as a unifying force in University life, and as the supreme representative body of the students, to deal with all matters of interest outside the province of other student organizations. Although only in the third year of its existence, the Council has done much to justify its formation. It has issued two Yearly Handbooks; has conducted two very successful University Theatre Nights, has inaugurated and carried through successfully the first series of Inter-University debates with the University of Alberta, and has opened negotiations to arrange annual debates with the University of Manitoba. In addition, the Council has secured the control of the publication of the "GRADUATION YEAR BOOK" of which this is the first number. It will also own and control the official University publication THE SHEAF.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES

First class of student reps

Patrick Hayes, U of S Archives

The first class of student representatives under the new system was inaugurated and carried through successfully the first series of Inter-University debates with the University of Alberta. In addition to inaugurating and carrying on the tradition of inter-university debate, the Council has also been active in other ways. It has issued two Yearly Handbooks; has conducted two very successful University Theatre Nights; has inaugurated and carried through successfully the first series of Inter-University debates with the University of Alberta, and has opened negotiations to arrange annual debates with the University of Manitoba. In addition, the Council has secured the control of the publication of the "GRADUATION YEAR BOOK" of which this is the first number. It will also own and control the official University publication THE SHEAF.

U of S Archives, B-174
College of Medicine: An issue of collegial governance

By Claire Card

On May 17, 2012 University Council without Notice of Motion approved the “College of Medicine Organizational Restructuring.” The University Council approve a new academic governance model for the College of Medicine, along with consequential changes to the College’s bylaws which would see the establishment of three new divisions: the Division of Clinical Research, the Division of Medical Education, and the Division of Biomedical and Population Sciences, and the discontinuation of the existing models of clinical instruction and research, as outlined in attached “Concept Plan” effective July 1, 2012.

In spite of being resoundingly rejected (87%) by College of Medicine faculty on May 9, 2012, COM faculty passionately expressing their concerns, not for change per se, but for meaningful engagement of their faculty in its deliberations, as outlined in motion approved the<br>Faculty of Medicine. The “Restructuring” was ostentatiously “a handful of administrative protocols … related to academic administration” (“The Sheaf,” March 29, 2012), and Accreditation, however the COM is fully accredited through 2017 (OCN March 22, 2012), and had an action plan to address potential deficiencies. The admin authors reported a lack of research intensiveness at the COM, although their Integrated Plan addresses this. Provost Fairbairn stated “some university’s medical faculties bring in 40% of the research dollars, while the COM brought in 8%. He failed to note those universities have triple or higher full time faculty numbers, better infrastructure, massive endowments, Heritage funds, 10 fold larger start-up funds, and more nimble administrative procedures. In fact the COM has the second lowest full time faculty (245) complement of any major Canadian medical faculty.

Tellingly former COM Dean Albritton stated that “without the support of the faculty the restructuring would fail.” Fortunately the GAA voted by over a 2/3rds majority to send the matter back to the University Council for reconsideration. All University members should recognize the importance of participation in democratic Collegial governance, which protects our Academic Freedom to decide on what we teach, how we deliver our programs, and the right to dissent when we disagree. Please support rescinding this motion at Council by: emailing Council members representing your College or School (see www.usask.ca/university_secretary/council/members.php), and attend Council’s open meeting (Sept. 20, 23:30 pm, Arts 241). Help maintain the academic freedom and the ability of faculty to self determine the collective good in academic decisions regarding their College.

Claire Card is a professor of Large Animal Clinical Sciences and former chair of University Council

College of Medicine: Fundamental restructuring needed

By Brett Fairbairn

One of the comments I have read and heard recently is that, at the College of Medicine, “change is needed—just not this change.” I’ve been thinking about whether “change” is what the college needs.

I listened very carefully to all the speakers at the General Academic Assembly who spoke in favour of reconsidering the college’s new divisional structure. One or two of them mentioned change briefly and in general terms. Multiple speakers gave lists of the college’s numerous successes. Others spoke passionately about the primacy of patient care. Speakers also addressed the tensions among the missions of teaching, research, and service: how they didn’t see a way to do any more of one without the others suffering.

But what I did not hear, from any member of the college except the acting dean, was a passionate dedication to doing a better collective job of teaching and research. I did not hear deep concern about the college being last or second-last in the country in research, similar in teaching, and on warning of probation. Such judgments by one’s peers should cause anguish in the hearts of dedicated academics, and a burning desire to do better. I heard no burning desire — and no new ideas.

As I said at the meeting, I know people are working very hard, doing long hours of patient care. But they are working in a system that doesn’t accomplish academic outcomes no matter how hard they work.

Sometimes, a system is less than the sum of its parts, which is pretty much the definition of a dysfunctional organization. In our medical school the academic positions in clinical departments, the remuneration, the accountabilities, the structures and practices are not aligned with the mission of a university. We should not be paying full univer- sity salaries in so many cases where time is spent overwhelm- ingly on clinical service.

University resources are for research and teaching. Service is the business of the health regions. At every other medical school in the country, university clinicians also spend long hours with patients. But they do so within different structures, ones that concentrate university resources on research and teaching.

We need to learn from the medical schools that perform better than we do, which is basically all of them. At great medical schools, clinicians want to be part of a research-enriched environment where they can participate in, learn from, and shape the leading edge of practice. They want to teach students because students are the future of the profession, not just because a dean tells them to teach.

The burning desire not to be last is missing from what I have heard from our medical school lately. And even now, long after the May 2012 structure was adopted by University Council, I have heard no different or better ideas about how to improve. If there is a better idea out there, I very much want to hear about it. But it needs to be an idea about more than “change.” That word by itself does not capture what this college needs. Change is what you need when you are tenth and want to move up to eighth.

Our medical school needs a thorough, fundamental restructuring, one that puts it back together differently in such a way that service needs are between the health regions and the clinicians, while university academics and university salaries are for teaching and research. The people of the province deserve an academically fine medical school, and it will take more than incremental change to get there.

Brett Fairbairn is Provost and Vice-President Academic
Out of this world

Ethan Vishniac brings prestigious journal to U of S

Kris Foster

Anything dealing with the physics of the universe—from several thousands of kilometres to billions of light years away—can be found in The Astrophysical Journal.

“It’s a broad mandate,” said Ethan Vishniac, editor of the journal and professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics. “What we get varies a lot. I probably receive around 60 submissions (for the journal) every week.”

Coming out three times per month, with each issue around 500 pages in length, the journal uses a lot of content. And the content, as one would expect given the vastness of the universe, covers a wide spectrum.

“ Astrophysics treats astronomy as another branch of physics,” explained Vishniac. “It is a broad science that pulls in people with a lot of different expertise and we publish everything from observations to theoretical research.

“I read all of the submissions and can recognize if something is off base. But I’m not an expert in all areas, so I send what is appropriate to a team of science editors who review them more closely. If it is too close to Earth, we suggest they find a more appropriate journal, and others are just stark raving mad,” he said with a laugh.

“Amazingly enough, those that are stark raving mad often come from retired engineers with obsessive personalities. I love to tell my wife that,” he said in reference to his spouse President Ilene Busch-Vishniac, a mechanical engineer.

As a peer-reviewed academic journal, the publishing process is similar to other journals, Vishniac said, but with one key difference. “We go beyond simply saying ‘publish or not publish.’ We handle the reference process as an opportunity to improve the paper. We suggest changes or additional references.”

That extra time and effort has really paid off for the journal, which has been around since 1895.

“It is a self-fulfilling prophecy in a way. People volunteer their time for the journal because it is seen as worthwhile; people put in time because it is valuable and it is valuable because people put their time in.

“In the past, the editor did everything, but among previous editors is (Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar) a Nobel Laureate. So we have gradually moved to a distributed system that spreads the workload.”

Vishniac, who has been with the journal for 15 years, six as editor-in-chief, has moved the journal, and its managing editor, with him from Baltimore, MD, to Hamilton, Ont., and now to Saskatoon.

“It’s a relatively light operation to move, but I am thankful the managing editor has followed me. I think she, like me, likes the intellectual breadth of working with this community. It is a lot of fun, even the parts that make me nuts.”

Doomed dome

Colleen MacPherson

A little beat up, a bit weather worn, the Dome as it is called at the university’s Crop Science Field Laboratory on Preston Avenue will be torn down this fall, having done yeoman’s service since 1968 as both a storage facility and an engineering experiment.

Tacked up inside one of the building’s two overhead doors is a piece of cardboard on which someone thought to record its details. Built by Herbert Construction of Dundurn, the dome is 80 feet in diameter and 28 feet tall at the centre where natural light filters in through fibre glass panels. It encompasses 5,020 square feet of space and was built at a cost of $2.85 per square foot—$14,307 in total. But it is the style of construction that makes the Dome so unique, according to Bryan Harvey.

The professor emeritus in the Department of Plant Sciences recalled that the builder made a deal with the Department of Mechanical Engineering to test the unconventional structure “so we got it for a song.” Except for the framing around the doors and the skylight, the building is constructed entirely of plywood sheeting covered by asphalt shingles, which as far as Harvey can remember, have never been replaced.

A careful look at the highest points in the Dome reveals small hooks from which mechanical engineers hung weights in an effort to test its structural integrity. “They realized they’d have to actually destroy the building” before it reached the breaking point, a testament to the worthiness of the design.

“It’s the acoustics that are really interesting,” said Harvey. “Sound really echoes and there are places where you can’t be heard by someone standing right next to you. Then there are other places where you can whisper, and someone standing on the other side can hear you.”

Kirk Blomquist can also attest to the odd acoustics. On the day On Campus News visited, lab employees were starting up and moving out equipment, and the sound was deafening. But had there not been a tractor in the way, Blomquist, superintendent of field operations, would have demonstrated that at the very centre of the structure, there is no echo at all.

Besides being an engineering experiment, the Dome has been a storage facility for the College of Agriculture and Bioresources’ small plot field research equipment—the specialized seeders, combines and tractors used to work test plots. The building has served its purpose, said Blomquist, and is definitely showing signs of age.

“ This is a design that worked really well for farmers when farms were small. Although we don’t have big equipment, we now have more of it and it’s very expensive so it needs to be stored inside, but it’s really tough to store square things in a round building.”

Kirk Blomquist inside the Dome.

Colleen MacPherson
We sincerely thank those who were engaged in the graduate program review process. Department heads, graduate chairs and their faculty colleagues have all invested time and energy in the review activities to ensure that we adhere to international standards. In particular, we would like to note the important work of our university colleagues pictured to the right who served as internal members of the review panels.

Dr. Lawrence Martz, Dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research

Thank you!

Total reviewers for graduate program review:

Dr. Sandra Bassendowski, College of Nursing, reviewer for Educational Psychology and Special Education
Dr. Keith Carlson, College of Arts and Science, reviewer for Interdisciplinary Studies
Dr. Patience Elabor-Idemudia, College of Arts and Science, reviewer for Educational Foundations
Dr. Linda Ferguson, College of Nursing, reviewer for Curriculum Studies
Dr. Murray Fulton, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, reviewer for Business Administration
Dr. Louise Humbert, College of Kinesiology, reviewer for Educational Administration
Dr. Robert Lucas, College of Arts and Science, reviewer for Finance
Dr. David J. Parkinson, College of Arts and Science, reviewer for Law
Dr. Larry St. Louis, College of Arts and Science, reviewer for Professional Accounting

We very much appreciate all of your contributions to this important initiative.

The review outcomes will be presented to University Council in the fall of 2012. For more information on the graduate program review, please visit www.usask.ca/gpr.
Equipment upgrades part of RenewUS

The University of Saskatchewan is moving forward with some major infrastructure projects that will contribute to facilities being warm in winter and cool in summer, and to the reliability of the power being on now and into the future.

Over the next two years, as part of the first phase of the RenewUS program, two chillers and one boiler in the Heating Plant and two transformers that keep the university connected to the SaskPower electrical grid will be replaced with modern and more efficient equipment.

A new, $6-million model is expected to be installed and ready for use by the winter of 2013, and it will produce 100,000 pounds of heat without taking up any more space than the old one, said Cruikshank. “This is an example of how much more efficient this equipment has become over the years.”

Another estimated $5 million will be spent on two new chillers. This equipment cools water that is circulated through campus buildings. The water absorbs interior heat before being circulated back to the chillers to be re-cooled, it is an air cooling system rather than air conditioning.

Cruikshank explained that federal regulation requires the two chillers be taken out of service by Jan. 1, 2015 because of the halocarbon refrigerant they use. They will be replaced with equipment that uses environmentally friendly refrigerant.

The size of the new units will depend on physical space and budget, he said, but both should be operational by the summer of 2014.

At the Preston Substation on the east edge of campus, two transformers, both manufactured in 1968, will be replaced at a cost of about $3 million. Cruikshank said there are four transformers in the substation that provide electricity to campus from SaskPower, “in essence, we’re the electricity distributor on campus.” The two oldest units are showing signs of deterioration “and it’s difficult to predict how long they’ll last once they start to degrade.”

The new transformers, expected to be online by early 2014, will allow SaskPower to upgrade service to campus to the lower-cost 138 kilovolts (kV) from the current 72 kV, said Cruikshank. They will also make it easier for the university to quickly connect to the Saskatoon Light and Power transmission grid should there be a long-term outage in the SaskPower system.

Speaking to the media effectively: Media Training 101

Does the idea of doing a media interview make you nervous? Would you like to do more effective interviews with reporters? Are you interested in talking to reporters about your research but worry about your message getting lost? Are you an administrator called upon to speak to reporters about your work at the university? Anxious about the process?

This three hour media training session will help participants learn how to manage media requests from the moment a call comes in from a reporter or producer. Participants will also become acquainted with techniques that will make your interviews more effective, whether they are for TV, newspapers or radio.

The session includes practice interviews and playback analysis. This session is led by Ivan Muzychka, associate vice-president communications, and Kathryn Warden, director of research communications.

There is no charge and sessions are being offered on the following days from 1 – 4:30 pm:

- Friday, November 16,
- Wednesday, December 5,
- Wednesday, January 23, and
- Thursday, February 14.

Please register early as each session is limited to eight participants.

To register, please call Tina Murdock at 966-1473 or by e-mail at tina.murdock@usask.ca.
Car-share program to launch

Kris Foster

A new car sharing service at the U of S is being offered to the entire campus and city of Saskatoon to address the high financial and environmental costs of owning a car.

With the launch of WeCar on campus this fall, the U of S is pioneering the first car-sharing program in Saskatoon, said Heather Trueman, who works on sustainability initiatives in the Facilities Management Division (FMD).

Car sharing is a service that allows people to rent cars for a short period of time, usually in hour intervals. It has really taken off in a lot of larger cities like Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal, Trueman explained. The U of S program, run by Parking Services, is expected to be launched Sept. 14.

“This acknowledges that we need to provide more choices for commuting to and from campus. If people know they have access to a car for a short period of time, they might leave their own cars at home and carpool, take the bus, walk or walk,” she said adding it is also a great service for students living in residence who are without a car.

“We sent out an RFP and chose Enterprise (car rental company) to set up the WeCar service on campus,” Trueman explained. “We are starting with two cars, one parked by the PAC by the University Club and the other at McEown Park.”

Getting into the driver’s seat of one of the cars is easy: “You just have to sign up using a valid driver’s license and student number if you’re a student and you get a membership card,” Trueman explained. “Then you book the cars online for when you want to use it.”

Once the car is booked, users swipe the membership card over a sensor in the wind shield to unlock the car doors and access the keys.

The fee is minimal, ranging from $6-10/hour depending on the package selected. “Faculty and staff pay a $5 application fee and their annual membership fee is waived. Students and other Saskatoon residents pay an annual $35 membership fee, which is offset with $35 in credit. Once signed up, members simply pay by the hour or by the hour plus kilometers according to the package they have chosen,” Trueman said.

Promoting the program on campus is Edwards School of Business student Kayla Michalenko who began working with Enterprise as a co-op student. “Kayla was hired to sign up people on campus. You’ll find her in the Arts Tunnel and all around campus at events, advertising the service and answering questions.”

Getting the service underway, Trueman said, “is more than another transportation option. It is testimony that there is support to explore more sustainable transportation practices and choices at the university. It will be a success every time someone decides to leave their car at home and commute by other means because they have access to WeCar for a trip they need to make during their day. If we see car sharing take off in Saskatoon, then we know it is a success.”

The Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness has announced a number of appointments. Carolyn Hoessler, a former educational development associate at Queen’s University, has moved to the U of S, to the position of program and curriculum development specialist.

Roxanne Martine has joined the centre as a curriculum assistant. She was previously the manager of curriculum and instructional support at the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies. In his role as instructional design assistant, Ryan Banow will be focusing working with faculty to transform teaching and learning on campus and in online environments.
University ranking season has begun and the first big release of numbers offered up a pleasant surprise for the University of Saskatchewan.

According to the 2012 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) compiled by the Shanghai Ranking Consultancy, the U of S is among the top 200 institutions in the world overall, and in the top 200 in two of five broad subject field rankings—engineering/technology and computer sciences, and life and agricultural sciences.

In the overall ARWU ranking, the U of S is shown in the 201st-300th-place category, a spot it has occupied for some years. Only the top 100 universities are given specific rankings, explained Carisa Polischuk, a senior research analyst in Institutional Planning and Assessment (IPA), “likely because the scores are really close after 100th place. We’ve seen other rankings do the same thing.”

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Nelson Chen, who is also an IPA research analyst, said the U of S may well have been in the top 200 position in the subject field rankings for years but its position only came to light this year when the ARWU published more information than ever before. In past years, it has only provided subject rankings for the top 100 universities.

The ranking puts a great deal of weight on Nobel Prizes won in the subject field categories, he explained, and with no such recent prizes for the U of S, “our position is really the result of criteria like the number of papers published, those papers being published in the top 20 per cent of journals in each subject area, and numbers of citations.”

The other three subject fields in ARWU are natural sciences and mathematics, clinical medicine and pharmacy, and social sciences. The U of S position in these areas is uncertain as only the top 200 were published, said Chen.

The ARWU uses third-party data, with 40 per cent of the weight on quality of faculty, 40 per cent on research output and 20 per cent on quality of education and per capita performance combined. Unlike the two other major world university rankings—the Times Higher Education and QS—the ARWU uses no reputational survey data which can be quite subjective depending on who you send it to, how they respond and what universities do to advertise themselves,” said Chen.

There are 22 Canadian institutions included in ARWU, four of which are in the top 100 overall—the University of Toronto at 27th, the University of British Columbia 39th, McGill 63rd and McMaster 92nd. A total of 10 Canadian universities share the 201-300th-place category including the U of S.

In the subject field ranking, 19 Canadian universities, including the U of S, were in the top 200 in at least one subject; McGill, the University of Alberta, UBC and the U of T were in the top 200 in all five of the subject fields.

Polischuk said that while the ARWU is among the more objective of the rankings, “Canadian students aren’t necessarily paying attention to it, but international students are,” which may affect recruitment.

Karen Chad, U of S vice-president of research, said ARWU “is one of several key national and international performance measurement tools we are tracking to assess our comparative research impact. Our aim is to move into the ARWU top 200 universities overall, an accomplishment that could bolster our efforts to attract top faculty and students from around the world.”

Strong college benefits university

The mindset of the class of 2016

Every fall since 1998, Beloit College in Beloit, Wis. has published what it calls the Mindset List, a snapshot of how the incoming class of first-year students view the world. Here is a selection from the Mindset List for the Class of 2016, most of who were born in 1994.

Visit the Beloit College website for the complete list.

• They have always lived in cyberspace, addicted to a new generation of “electronic narcotic.”

• Their lives have been measured in the fundamental particles of life: bits, bytes, and bauds.

• They have never seen an airplane “ticket.”

• Women have always piloted warplanes and space shuttles.

• Exposed bra straps have always been a fashion statement, not a wardrobe malfunction to be corrected quietly by well-meaning friends.

• They grew up, somehow, without the benefits of Romper Room.

• They have had to incessantly remind their parents not to refer to their CDs and DVDs as “tapes.”

• There have always been blue M&Ms, but no tan ones.

• History has always had its own channel.

From Page 2

compared to 40-50 per cent in other medical schools.

“The college does not have another 10 years to make progress on accreditation and research issues,” said Fairbairn. “It does not have another 10 months,” a reference to an accreditation site visit scheduled for early 2013.

The debate toggled back and forth between those supporting the GAA motion for Council reconsideration and those opposed. Many of those speaking in favour were applauded for their comments but the loudest applause were for retired dean Dr. Bill Albritton. Although he supported the restructuring motion at the May 17 Council meeting, Albritton urged the GAA to support the request that Council reconsider its decision. It is wrong for Council to impose restructuring on a college that is “overwhelmingly resistant to the concept,” he said.

The acting dean of medicine, Lou Qualtiere, said GAA members should only support the motion “if you think restructuring is not essential. We must have a better College of Medicine” but that will not occur without “substantial restructuring.”

Among the deans who spoke was Peter Stosich from the College of Arts and Science, which operates with a three-division structure. It has, he said, produced “a lot of really wonderful results for faculty, for staff and for students.” He added “we need a really strong College of Medicine for this university to move forward.”

The restructuring concept for the College of Medicine is on the Council agenda for its Sept. 20 meeting.

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**Conference**

The Crown in Canada
Presented by the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and other partners, The Crown in Canada. A Diamond Jubilee Assessment takes place Oct. 26-28 at Government House in Regina and will examine constitutional monarchy in Canada from a variety of viewpoints. Speakers include Philip C. Gourevitch, publisher and CEO of The Globe and Mail; and John Fraser, master of Maclay College, Jim Milford, U of S Dean of History and Donald Smith, an emeritus scholar on the Crown and its role in Parliament. More information at the conference website www.winnipeg.ca.

The Arts

Sneilgrove Exhibitions

- The exhibitions are open from Sept. 17-21. A Sense of Proportion by Shawn Storry and Memory, Translation and Memory by Linda Sz Paradek.

Courses/Workshops

Continuing Education and Development for Nurses
For more information call 966-8899, email payton.prairie@usask.ca or visit www.
edusask.ca/ed

- Sept. 17-21, The Business Analyst’s Course
- Oct. 10-12, The Project Management Course

Saskatchewan Conference - Saskatoon

- Oct. 19, Chris Whitlefield presents Biochem- ical modeling of acidification patterns
- Oct. 26, Philip Handler presents Determin- ing precipitation phase in the Canadian Rockies

Baseball and Race

- Sept. 24, 7:30 pm, Nutley-Timmins Theatre, the intersection of Culture and Creativity and the Dept of History present C. Nord Thompson, Dept. of History, Duke University, who will give a lecture entitled Baseball and Race in Canada: The Case of Jackie Robinson.

Law Lectures

MLT Theatre, Law Room 150
- Sept. 18, 1 pm, A Discussion on Law and Innovation with Cory Foy (Foy is part of Saskatoon Innovation Week)
- Sept. 24, Amanda Potain, South Texas College of Law, presents Legal Disparity in the Protection of Human Trafficking Victims

Philosophy in the Community

- Oct. 10, 7 pm, The Refinery, 606 Eighth Ave., Professor Eric Dayton presents Is the Truth Just What it is Useful to Believe?

Provost’s Panel on Innovation

date of Sept. 16-19, 7:30 pm, Nutley-Timmins Theatre, a Provost’s Panel on Innovation explores what it means to be innovative and “how do I know I’ve been successful?” with speakers Julia Vasileva, Dept. of Computer Science, Stephen Fenn, Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence, Roger Pierson, Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences and Ken Coates, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy

Philosophy Colloquium

- Sept. 18, 1-3 pm, Nutley-Timmins Theatre, Sara Geurin, University of Washington, Seattle, Dept. of Philosophy and North- west Centre for Philosophy for Children, presents Making a Place for Philosophy in Schools (and Why)

Johnson-Shoyama Events

- Sept. 23, 5-6 pm, Waskamisiwin Centre – classes with Jim Greer and Kim West, to enhance Student learning with Kim and Jennifer Crane. Nowlin and Shantz will speak about their work in the gallery Sept. 20 at 11 am.

10 Years of Amati

- The U of S at Amati Quartet begins its 10th season Sept. 15 with a program of music by Haydn, Brahms and Dvorak. Concerts take place at 2 pm and 7:30 pm in Third Avenue United Church. For more information about the concert and tickets, visit amatiquartet.ca

**Seminars/Lectures**

Innovation Week
A continent’s great past taking place in conjunction with Innovation Week. Visit www.buildabetterwest.com for details on these and other events.
- Sept. 19, 9-11:30 am, Patrick Bélanger, Ottawa, Fundy National Park, presents The Changing Nature of the Canadian Rockies
- Sept. 20, 2-3:30 pm, Ken Greenberg, Digital Processes in art: memory and creativity and the Dept. of history, Duke University, who will give a lecture entitled Baseball and Race in Canada: The Case of Jackie Robinson.

Public in Political Public

- Oct. 2-4, 6-8 pm, Room, Diefen- barker Building, R. Saadatan, dean, Political School of Government and Public Policy and director, Centre for the Study of Religion, Politics and International Relations, Open and Global, President, Global Britain, presenting back the ‘public’ in public policy

Geography and Planning Conference

- Fridays, 1-3 pm, Kirkirk 146
- Sept. 21, Courtney Fothergill presents Arctic Infrastructural development and management strategic and environmental

- Sept. 28, Ann Akkerman presents The Age of Discovery and ‘Utopia’ of St. Francis of Assisi.

- Oct. 5, Winston Zeng presents Web-GIS applications at the ‘Spatial initiatives’

- Oct. 12, 1-3 pm, Highlights from the upcoming plenary session Sept. 21 titled Energy Polices and Politics in Western Controversies, Challenges and Choices. Panel will include Roy Romanow, Dept. of Political Science and Bruce Macfarlane, Queen’s University; Jeremy Rayner, Johnson- Shoyama School of Public Policy; and Dan Bellegarde, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. For information on the registration, visit prairiepsa.com

**Progressive Development**

Business and Life Partnerships

- 10 months, Sept. 17 to May 12, Partners in Development, presents Business and Partnerships as a New Form of Venture. (For more information, contact tracy.nielsen@usask.ca)

Creating Active Communities

Workshop
- Oct. 18-20, 9 am-5 pm, Smoky Hills, Healthy Kids presents researchers Nazeem Muhajarine, Meghan Winter and Candace Myklebust in a one day workshop on the built environment and health. To register, or for more information, contact tracy.nielsen@usask.ca

Centre for Continuing & Distance Education

- For more information visit www.cce.

**Community Music Education Program**

FAMA (Future Musical Arts for All) children’s choir, ages 7-12, Thursdays in September from 4-5 pm for 3 weeks at Government Park United Church. Fee: $45. For more information, contact Nicole Willock at 966-6625 or visit communitymusic.usask.ca

**Maintenance Management Professional Certificate Program (PEMAC)**

- Oct. 1 and 2: Module 1 Introduction to an Integrated Maintenance Approach — Leading Innovation, inspiring creativity Series with Sheryl Bellegarde, Federation of Saskatchewan of Political Studies; Duane Bratt, mount of Political Studies; and Heather Malin, college of Medicine.

**Employee Development Programs**

- Crisis Conferences, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 10, 2012 and Oct. 17, 2012, presents Crisis Conferences in a celebration of student success Oct. 3.

**U of S Language Centre Programs**

- To register call 966-4351
- Full Time English Class: placement testing is available at the Centre for the Study of Religion, Politics and International Relations and registration is available on the www.saskatooninnovationweek.com website. Details are available at www.buildabetterwest.com

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No place for people

It’s not very pleasant in the room where the servers for the university’s high performance computing operation are housed. It’s cold, windy and very, very loud but as Jason Hlady explained, “it’s optimized for servers, not for people.”

The room in the Spinks Addition of the Thorvaldson Building contains super computers, hundreds of computers set up in clusters that chew away at research computational problems in disciplines like physics, chemistry, mathematics and statistics, and of course, computer science.

One of the enemies of high-performance computing is heat, said Hlady, who is co-ordinator of the operation. Tightly packed together, the computers generate an enormous amount of heat that has to be dissipated by a constant flow of cool air. As with all mechanical systems, failure is a possibility so the room is equipped not only with its own fire suppression system but also with a safety mechanism that shuts down the computers if the temperature reaches 35 degrees Celsius. An air conditioning failure in July triggers just such a shut down—“It happens,” said Hlady—but technicians quickly had the cool air blowing again.