Reshaping the workforce
University to ensure all jobs align with IP priorities

The University of Saskatchewan is taking a close look at jobs across its operation to ensure it has the right people doing the right work to help the institution meet its strategic goals.

Describing what is called workforce planning, Barb Daigle, associate vice-president of human resources, said it is a practice used by many organizations to evaluate “what the need is for each job, and what jobs actually exist.” It involves looking at existing positions and how each contributes to the mission of the institution, as well as what workforce will be required in the future, “and figuring out how to get from one to the other.”

Workforce planning has already started at the U of S, she said, through consultations with college deans and administrative leaders. Those discussions will continue until the end of the month when a model will be put in place to guide decisions about which jobs stay, which go and which change. Daigle said that process is expected to continue until April 2013.

Driving the process is the university’s projected operating deficit situation. “If you remove $44.5 million from a budget where 70 per cent of the expenses are salaries and benefits, there will be adjustments to the workforce,” Daigle said. “Before you fix the problem, you have to face the problem. Our workforce will look quite different at the end of this four-year planning period.

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Barb Daigle

Part of the process, she continued, is to teach leaders how to do workforce planning on an ongoing basis as best practice and as a way to support the university’s commitment to recruiting and retaining top quality faculty and staff.
Brushes with Words
Unique student partnerships create public art

Derrick Kunz

A ride on public transit may not be the most culturally enriching experience, but a group of students at the University of Saskatchewan have teamed up with residents of Sherbrooke Community Centre in the hope of changing that. During October, 30 pieces of original art with images and words will be on display in 30 different City of Saskatoon buses.

Students enrolled in the Master of Fine Arts in Writing program at the U of S were paired with residents from Sherbrooke to combine painting and poetry into one expression, creating Brushes with Words.

Over the course of four months, the students met with resident painters to discuss the inspiration for the paintings in order to write a poem to accompany each work. The residents “were part of the poetry as well, through word association exercises,” explained Jeannette Lynes, co-ordinator of the university’s Master of Fine Art in Writing program and author of five collections of poetry and one novel.

In only its second year at the U of S, the MFA in Writing—the only program of its kind in Saskatchewan and one of only seven in Canada—is offered through the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity (ICCC) in the College of Arts and Science. The two-year program is “largely workshop driven, teaching students to write a broad range of material, mostly poetry and fiction,” explained Lynes. “It’s very hands-on learning, and mentorship is a big part of the program. The thesis is a creative work, hopefully of publishable quality.”

When the ICCC was approached by Sherbrooke to partner with the community home for individuals with limited mobility and cognitive disorders, discussions consistently included the idea of combining painting and poetry.

Sherbrooke has a well-established art program and “we talked about how we could marry the writing of MFA students and the painting of Sherbrooke residents,” said Lynes. “We came up with ekphrasis, poetry inspired by visual art.” Ekphrasis comes from the Greek ek (out) and phrasis (speak). “We’re a very visual culture, so it seemed to fit.”

Patricia Roe, Sherbrooke’s communications and public relations leader said, “Verbal communication was pretty challenging for the students at first” because of the limited capabilities of some residents. “It taught [students] to listen acutely to interpret the painting and write about it. This is a powerful opportunity for students and artists.”

Andréa Ledding, a student in the MFA in Writing program, concurs with Roe’s assessment of the power of artistic collaboration. “The sharing of art is more than just unveiling a piece of work, it’s also the process and the journey. There is a partnership and a mutual sharing, and that is what I most enjoyed working with the residents—in particular Larry Fitzpatrick who I spent the most time with. Now I light up when I see him, the revealed person behind the art. I love that light in him, and it draws me.”

When asked why city buses were chosen to display the pieces, Lynes explained, “I’m interested in public art, and transit is public and for the people—everyday people. Saskatoon is good at making art accessible for the people.”

Recognizing the value of Brushes with Words for all involved, Lynes is considering future initiatives to enhance learning for students. “This was a big project for us, so we’ll take time to breathe a little bit. But Brushes with Words has hopefully jumpstarted a number of subsequent projects. I don’t know what those are yet, but there are lots of possibilities. This has been a wonderful experience.”

Derrick Kunz is an alumni relations consultant and editor of the Green and White.
IP3 commitment leaders named

Aboriginal engagement initiatives are at the forefront as the university begins to move forward on commitments made in its third integrated plan (IP3). Among the first group of IP3 commitment leaders announced by the Office of the Provost are people who will head projects designed to increase the visibility of Aboriginal cultural symbols and artwork on campus, in university ceremonies, events and publications, and on U of S websites. In addition, the university will be looking to coordinate its engagement strategies with the provincial K-12 education system. According to Kyla Shea, strategic planning and projects officer in Institutional Planning and Assessment, the emphasis on Aboriginal engagement projects reflects its importance to the institution.

Unlike in previous planning cycles, IP3 will see a phased-in approach to work on commitments, said Shea. “We’re not starting everything all at once. The commitments that are beginning now are a set of projects with defined outcomes and activities, and many build on work that’s already been done in the second integrated plan.”

We respect that this is a very sensitive topic because people treat budgets and accumulated surpluses as their own.

Laura Kennedy

College, unit contingency funds needed for budget adjustments

Colleen MacPherson

University finance officials are looking to recover some of the millions of dollars that have accumulated over the years in college and unit contingency funds in order to help the institution cover the one-time costs associated with reducing its operating budget.

You can think of them as college or unit savings accounts,” said Laura Kennedy, associate vice-president of financial service and university controller. “If the controller says that budget items are under budget, the controller will set aside reserve and another $9 million is ‘at the top end of that range.’ Kennedy added that the distribution of contingency funds is quite variable and there are some colleges and units with small deficits rather than contingencies.

A second group of commitments and leaders will be announced as early as January. The third integrated plan identified four areas of focus to be addressed in the current planning cycle, which continues until 2016. In addition to Aboriginal engagement, these include knowledge creation, culture and community, and innovation in academic programs and services. In the knowledge creation area, the first project will see the implementation of a research mentorship program for new faculty.

Initiatives like development of a new financial management framework and sustainability will begin under the umbrella of culture and community area of focus. In institution in programs and services, leaders have been named for commitments that address enrolment management, student aid, distributed learning and a Northern Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program.

Also in this area, Professor Beth Bilson from the College of Law will lead what is called a red tape commission. Shea said this project, based on a model used at Dalhousie University, “will look at places in our operation where we have excessive policy or process.”

How each commitment progresses will largely be up to the leaders, said Shea. “Some will set up working groups like we had in the last planning cycle. Some have chosen to go with really small teams that will do a lot of consultation.”

“We want to pay for an IT project today that will save salaries in the long run, or do renovations to a room in order to accommodate larger classes.”

The board has authorized the use of $10 million from its operating reserve for one-time funding, she added, “but we can’t clean that account out.”

Those discussions will continue until mid-November with a recommendation on contingency recovery expected to go before the Board of Governors in December.

“Ultimately what we would like to see in the longer term is an upper and lower limit on these funds,” said Kennedy. “We think it’s a good idea for colleges and units to have some funds available that will allow them to take advantage of opportunities that arise and also to identify specific financial risks, but we want to take a more thoughtful approach to this.”

A complete list of commitments and leaders, as well as updates on progress, can be found at www.usask.ca/plan

The Biology Building

The W.P. Thompson Biology Building is named after the university’s third president and founder of the Biology Department (1913). Designed by Irumi, Arnott and Sugiyama, it was constructed between 1957 and 1959, and officially opened in 1960. Set back from the Bowl, the flat-roofed cube-style building was Phase 1 of the Sir James Dunn Chemistry and Physics Buildings. Originally consisting of teaching and research wings, a header and greenhouse complex was added in 1962. Unlike many other Canadian universities, the Department of Biology at the U of S remained a single unit, balancing diverse sub-disciplines rather than separating into several distinct departments. Prior to the building’s opening in 1960, work in biological sciences was scattered among four campus locations.

Perhaps the most striking of the building’s features is the mosaic that adorns the south and west exterior walls. It depicts the four main stages of cellular mitosis. The artist, Roy Kyooka, chose chromosome patterns as a testament to Dr. Thompson’s important discoveries regarding the genetics of wheat rust. In 1988, the Geology Building was completed on the south side of Biology, resulting in the transformation of the south facade from an exterior into an interior wall, part of a new atrium.
Donation creates Pyke chair in geological sciences

A donation from the family of a U of S alumnus and prominent figure in mineral and petroleum exploration in Canada will create a new chair in the Department of Geological Sciences with a focus on hard rock geology.

The Murray W. Pyke Chair was announced Oct. 4 in Calgary. Pyke received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in geological sciences from the U of S in 1956 and 1958 respectively. He was founder and director of Comaplex Resources and Bonterra Energy. Pyke passed away in 2009 at the age of 75.

Pyke was passionate about Northern Canada and the Arctic, and it is expected the scholar who will occupy the chair position will undertake research in those regions in partnership with communities in the area.

The amount of the donation was not disclosed but a U of S news release said it is the largest ever received by the College of Arts and Science.

U of S survey results to be released through local media

Nearly seven months after canvassing more than 1,700 Saskatchewan residents on various hot-button issues, the College of Arts and Science is set to release the survey results through a unique, province-wide partnership with prominent media outlets.

Results from the survey, titled Taking the Pulse of Saskatchewan, will be released beginning Oct. 18 by the CBC and Postmedia News, which owns The StarPhoenix in Saskatoon and Leader Post in Regina.

The results will be profiled over nine days, with media focusing on separate thematic areas each day. The survey—a result of work conducted by more than 30 faculty and 40 students in the college’s Division of Social Sciences—gauged residents’ opinions on diverse and potentially divisive topics ranging from Aboriginal issues and immigration to crime and the economy.

“It really is an incredible project and partnership,” said Loleen Berdahl, project lead for Taking the Pulse and associate professor of political studies. “Our media partners will help personalize the survey data for the Saskatchewan public and create a portrait of the data. It really helps us engage with the community and present research in a new and exciting way.”

CBC Saskatchewan and Postmedia found unique value in this initiative, which is planned to take place annually to track long-term shifts in perception, said Berdahl.

“Saskatchewan is in the middle of great growth and change,” said Bob McLaughlin, editor-in-chief of The Star-Phoenix and Leader Post, as well as deputy publisher of The StarPhoenix. “It is the job of our newspapers to not only chronicle how life is evolving in the province, but to also raise questions and facilitate conversations about the issues we face every day. Working with the CBC and the university on this project allows us to do that work in some powerful new ways.”

Once released through the media, results from the survey will be available online on the Social Sciences Research Laboratory’s (SSRL) website. The SSRL is home to five interconnected research labs at the U of S, including the Survey and Group Analysis Laboratory that made Taking the Pulse possible.

Berdahl said the survey data will also help inform future scholarly and community-engagement work on campus. For example, the data could be used to strengthen grant applications, inspire researchers to connect with community-based organizations and, for students, shape essay and thesis topics.

CBC Radio’s The Morning Edition, with host Sheila Coles, will broadcast from the Arts Building Oct. 18 from 6-8:30 am to officially launch Taking the Pulse. Daily features will run on CBC television, radio and in both The StarPhoenix and Leader Post until Oct. 26.

Kirk Sibbald is a communications officer in the College of Arts and Science

Distinguished Chairs named

Three individuals have been selected as U of S Distinguished Chairs for 2012: Rajendra K. Sharma, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Len Findlay, Department of English, and Reuben Mapleton, Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. The Distinguished Chairs Program was created to honour and celebrate outstanding achievement in research, scholarly or artistic work by University of Saskatchewan faculty or emeriti. The honorary appointments are held for three years and renewable for a second term.

New Distinguished Chairs are, from left to right, Rajendra K. Sharma, Len Findlay and Reuben Mapleton.
Learning in the chemistry lab
Undergrad research a priority, a benefit for all

David Palmer remembers as a chemistry student being bored by class discussions about kinetics, or the rates of reactions, when all he wanted to do was make compounds. It wasn’t until he got into the lab and was following his own reactions that he cared about kinetics. “Then, all that stuff I had been lectured about fell into place.”

The head of the Department of Chemistry shared that personal anecdote to illustrate the value of letting undergraduates get their hands dirty, to get into the field, onto the ward or into the lab to practice what they learn in the classroom. Chemistry in particular, as both a science and a department, has a long history of encouraging and enabling undergrads to get research experience. In Palmer’s view, the department’s very deliberate practice of supporting undergraduate research contributes to the university’s effort to enrich the experience of students, but it also plays an integral part in the work of department faculty. “I don’t know of any member of our department who hasn’t benefited from undergraduate research students,” he said.

The efforts to get undergrads involved in research are growing in all disciplines across campus, but chemistry has a couple of distinct advantages. First, it is a very mature and hands-on science that has always been inextricably tied to laboratories. And, continued Palmer, “we are researchers who also teach, not teachers who also do research. It’s what we love to do.”

The U of S department is considered mid-sized compared to its counterpart at other Canadian institutions, said Palmer, but 14 of its 18 faculty members have Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grants. Some have several other grants as well. “That’s a ratio among the best on campus.” It also creates an enormous number of opportunities for students, both during the school year and over the summers.

So ingrained is undergraduate research in the department that all fourth-year chemistry students are required to take a research course that requires two presentations to the department and a report with production of a poster strongly encouraged. “Ideally, in the fourth year, the only labs for those students are research work.” A similar course is offered to third-year students as an option “and we require all first-, second- and third-year students to take courses with labs attached to them.”

Palmer stressed that making room for undergrads in chemistry labs is in no way a token effort. “We do the real stuff. We make more money waiting tables. To pay for equipment, we rely on research grants and research grant money, many faculty members take advantage of NSERC student scholarships to pay for summer jobs. “In order for us to be able to pay a reasonable wage over the summer, we rely on these matching programs.”

Most chemistry faculty have research groups—graduate students, technicians—so a student can join that group and take part in all the activities of the lab. And researchers will often tailor a project to capture the interest of a particular student, said Palmer. “These are bright young aspiring professionals. We want to give them a realistic research goal and a project they can feel ownership of. Chances are they won’t be totally independent but if you’re just an assembly line worker, you’re going to get the results you ask for.”

And in the Department of Chemistry, the results have been impressive. Palmer said their undergrads have had presentations to national conferences and won poster competitions. “This isn’t a hobby farm, this is the real thing. We’re not fooling around.”

Asked why undergraduate research in any discipline should be important to an institution like the U of S, Palmer said it is a way to create bonds like no other. “It connects faculty to students in a way that standing in front of a class doesn’t, and it connects students to what we stand for as faculty. Students are here to get a credential—I understand that—but students get a different view of professors when they see what we’re working on, how we’re working.”

In the big picture, Palmer sees research—any kind of research—as an important life skill, “a skill that goes beyond the work I do on molecules. Research is something everyone should practice beyond typifying a few words into Google.”

David Palmer at a recent undergraduate research poster and awards event.

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David Palmer

“...and how it’s done, and it’s a huge educational opportunity. And if they’re suitably impressed, they might even stay on and do graduate work.”

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David Palmer at a recent undergraduate research poster and awards event.

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David Palmer
Thank you!

Thank you for completing the survey. You have approximately 6 minutes to complete the survey.

Rodents of the FSD Customer Service Department are invited to participate in the survey design so that you see more detail.

- your opportunity to help us help you
- a measurement tool we use to monitor and improve services
- one way we determine if more or different training and communication is needed for any of our services.

Your feedback on our previous two surveys has contributed to the development of additional Publisher reports and expanded training offerings.

We are working to streamline the survey design so that you are primarily those questions coincide with your finance-related activities. So, if you are one of the lucky recipients of an FSD Customer Survey invitation, please take a few minutes to complete the survey. Thank you!

Unifi

A few of the questions you’ve always wondered about.

Why should I keep my Unifi Account Information up to date? Answer: Having the right access to financial information in Unifi will help you save time, so you’re not wasting time searching through extra information or finding what you’re looking to change. To request a change in your Unifi Access Code and/or removal of funds or expenses, fill out a Unifi Access Control Form on the Unifi information page of the FSD website.

Why is information about my APEF (Accessible Professional Expense Fund) located in PAMS? Answer: Providing your APEF balance and transaction information in PAMS makes it easier for you to access this information, especially if you don’t go into Unifi or FAST on a regular basis for other purposes. Your APEF information can be found under the Access Services tab in the “My Professional Funds” channel. Simply click on the fund number to see more detail.

Why do I get a blank screen when I log into Unifi Plus? Answer: You likely don’t have Java or the right version of Java installed on your computer to run Unifi Plus. For system requirements, please review the Desktop Requirements document on the Unifi Information page on FSD’s website. Your desktop support can help you with Java installation. If the problem persists, contact UniFi Support.

FSD Customer Survey coming soon

In November, we will issue the FSD Customer Survey to select finance users on campus. Started in 2008, the survey comes out every two years and is designed to:

- your opportunity to help us help you
- a measurement tool we use to monitor and improve services
- one way we determine if more or different training and communication is needed for any of our services.

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November 1, 2012. As in previous years, the university is offering automatic payroll deductions to all monthly paid employees through this program. Complete details are posted on FSD’s website www.usask.ca/fsd

New to the neighbourhood

Keith Thor Carlson has only just received the keys to the university’s new office in Station 20 West but he already knows what success will look like for the outreach and engagement initiative—more research output from faculty and grad students, and community organizations in Saskatchewan’s core neighbourhoods that see the U of S presence as valuable.

The history professor and special advisor on outreach and engagement in University Advancement said the Station 20 West location will allow the university to bring together its community service learning programs and community-based research to “explore opportunities for cross-pollination between teaching and research driven by community priorities.”

The U of S will occupy space on the second floor of the 20th Street building. Called a community enterprise centre, Station 20 West also houses CHEP Good Food Inc., Quint Food Junction Co-op and the Saskatoon Health Region’s Mothers’ Centre and Kids’ First program. The grand opening for Saskatoon Community Inc (CLASSIC) and the Student Service learning in the University Learning Centre, will also move to Station 20 West. Her role, said Carlson, will be to transform or create new courses downtown based on community needs, “and design and co-ordinate those teaching opportunities.” Additional staff includes Nola Woods, community relations specialist in University Communications, who will “plug existing outreach to regional colleges around the province into what’s going on downtown.”

Eventually, the space will also house an academic advising office for Métis, First Nations and new Canadians, he said.

Flexible space in the building will be made available free of charge to faculty and graduate students for research and teaching in the core community. Carlson added the Station 20 office will also operate in partnership with the university’s Office of First Nation and Métis Engagement located at English River First Nation just south of the city, and with existing programs like Community Legal Services for Saskatoon Community Inc (CLASSIC) to engage students in practicum and engagement work.

Station 20 West in Saskatoon, home of the university’s outreach and engagement office.

If it is (Station 20 West) works at all the way the designers intended, it’ll be a place that community members just go to.

Keith Thor Carlson

303 KELLOUGH ROAD

Ideally situated close to both elementary and high schools, and the soccer centre, this fully developed bi-level has been well maintained & features numerous upgrades! 1040 sq ft, includes 3+2 bedrooms, 2 baths, newer maple kitchen with granite counters, upgraded main floor bath engineered oak flooring, central air conditioning, updated lighting & double detached garage. Plus RV parking. $379,900

612 McPherson Avenue

Situated in East York from Rotary Park & river. This 1,672 sq storie, built in 1912, features extensive upgrading and is in move in condition! Includes upgraded maple kitchen with appliances, main floor laundry, 3 bedrooms plus 2 dens, wood flooring, upgraded bathroom with claw foot tub & separate shower. Lower level has family room & 3 piece bathroom upgraded in 2008. Detached garage. Attractive yard with deck & patio & great view of the river from veranda. Numerous upgrades throughout. $409,900

Renaming to honour Fedoruk

In tribute to Sylvia Fedoruk, the Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation (CCNI) is being renamed the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation. Fedoruk, renowned medical physicist, outstanding athlete and the province’s first female lieutenant governor, passed away at her home in Saskatoon Sept. 26. She was 85.

Fedoruk was part of the research team that developed the world’s first Cobalt 60 cancer therapy unit back at the U of S in 1951. The device and techniques Fedoruk helped develop are used to this day to treat cancers around the world.
Includes access to equipment, the Saskatoon Health Region salary. Additional support from protected research time and the U of S will contribute $200,000 over five years for the chair while Foundation and the U of S. The Saskatchewan Health Research Stroke Foundation, the three organizations—the Heart treatment.

and improve prevention and Source synchrotron to advance room and at the Canadian Light Saskatchewan Research Chair Kelly has been awarded the Saskatoon brain surgeon and doctoral fellow and course Merle Massie, a SENS post-

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doctoral fellow and course instructor. Massie co-teaches the class with Douglas Clark, assistant professor and Centen-

Chair in Human Dimen-
sions of Environment and Sustainability.

“At this year, we overhauled the course content for our class Human Dimensions of Environment-mental Change to include a trip where students are immersed in a place and learn from local residents what environmental issues they are facing,” explained Merle Massie, a SENS post-
doctoral fellow and course instructor. Massie co-teaches the class with Douglas Clark, assistant professor and Centen-

dial Chair in Human Dimen-
sions of Environment and Sustainability.

“The chair is supported by three organizations—the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation and the U of S. The first two will provide $1 million over five years for the chair while the U of S will contribute $200,000 for equipment, personnel costs, protected research time and salary. Additional support from the Saskatoon Health Region includes access to equipment, facilities and personnel.

Kelly’s research will use synchrotron imaging to trace how stem cells move through the brain after a stroke. He will also test the properties of stents—expandable mesh tubes placed inside blood vessels—with a view to improving these and similar medical devices. His research is expected to contribute to knowledge about the treatment and prevention of stroke, a leading cause of death and disability.

“It’s difficult to overstate the pivotal role of Dr. Mike Kelly in our health research community,” said Karen Chad, U of S vice-
president of research in a media release. “He is a superb surgeon … (and) a proven leader, able to help the students determine what pressures are of particular importance in the local view.

The group toured the Prince Albert Historical Society Museum, a fur trade-era freight trail, a First Nations heritage site and an abandoned homestead from the 1930s. They also walked the Kenderdine Campus trails at Emma Lake. A local person or U of S expert led each excursion. “Students were presented with different present and past field trip experience to develop what is called a resilience assessment of the region, explained Massie. A resilience assessment looks at the ability of a place or community to withstand stress like forest fires or develop-

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tance in the local view.
Turning science into fiction

Canada’s biggest science experiment, the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron, was the inspiration and primary filming location for the recently released feature-length science fiction movie Singularity Principle.

“Watching this whole production unfold was fascinating,” said Robby Tanner, controls engineer at the CLS. “The support and enthusiasm for this project in pre- and post-production was great.”

Tanner, also an associate producer on the film, said the idea for the movie actually came from the surroundings of the CLS and a screenplay was written to accommodate the facility. “Usually when you have a film project, you know your story and then work on finding a location. But this film was more of interest to the set.”

Tanner and his colleague David Deranian looked around the facility and thought the CLS would be the ideal filming location for a science fiction movie. The only thing missing was a screenplay. Tanner and Deranian agreed on the story concept of experimenting with parallel universes and how they may or may not be created as the main premise for the film.

The mechanism for creating parallel universes was the central object of the film “as a device to explore the human condition,” he said. “When you make a science fiction movie, it has to be somewhat plausible. The concept of parallel universes and how they may or may not be created is somewhat plausible.”

According to the film’s official website, the movie is about scientist Jack Brenner (played by John Diehl) who disappears after a lab experiment. His colleague and protege, Peter Tannin (Michael Denis) is interogated by a black-ops agency to learn how the experiment might be used to control gateways to other universes.

Tanner said what started as a weekend project turned into a full production with a cast and crew from around Saskatoon and the University of S. “It was like watching a small army at work.”

Singularity Principle was shot at the CLS over the three-week period in the fall of 2010. The CLS operates 24-hours a day for most of the year, but for three weeks in the fall and the spring, the facility goes off-line for maintenance, cleaning and the addition of new beamlines. “It’s the equivalent of a plant shutting down,” said Tanner.

A few other campus locations were also used in the movie, including Room 271 in the Thorvaldson Building, known as the Airplane Room.

“I thought this project could be incredibly daunting, but it keeps growing in ways we didn’t consider… It was neat to get to know the cast and crew and see the CLS through their eyes. To see the novelty of the CLS is really cool.”

Music students deserve to play fine piano: Jolly

Roger Jolly sits down on the piano bench and flips open a small bag next to him. Most of the pieces he will use to tune the piano look strange and unfamiliar, except for one he pulls out of his pocket—his iPhone. He puts it on the music stand and watches as sounds waves float in and out of a circle like a heart monitor.

“This app is worth about $1,000,” says Jolly, noting the confusion over an iPhone being used to tune one of the world’s finest pianos. He says the app will help test the piano’s frequencies and make it easier for him to tune the instrument perfectly for the room. It’s the only piece of electronic equipment he uses.

Jolly then grabs the entire keyboard with both hands and pulls it, hammers and all, out of the piano towards him. Now when he hits any of the 88 keys, he can see what the action of the hammers look like without hitting the strings.

“How can you see these two keys?” he asked, hitting a middle C and D simultaneously. “Notice how this key is jumping just a bit too high.”

Jolly takes a small tool that looks like a dentist pick and makes a few slight adjustments to the hammer of the D string. Jolly, a renowned piano technician and owner of the Yamaha Piano Centre locations in Saskatoon and Regina has, along with his wife Marie, donated one of the world’s finest pianos to the University of Saskatchewan. Worth about $250,000 new, it was given because “students deserve to play one of the finest instruments in the world,” said Jolly. “I think our students need to know, feel, experience and hear what the very best is, so they know where to set their sights for performance levels.”

The C. Bechstein D280, a 10-foot concert grand piano, is one of the 10 best pianos in the world, and it will be a part of the newest piano on a university campus in Canada,” he added.

The instrument was moved into Convocation Hall earlier this fall and Jolly tuned it himself prior to its first performance on Sept. 30.

“The piano is so sensitive that if I do whatever a pianist wants to do, including play the wrong notes quite well,” he joked.

Jolly continues to pull the keyboard in and out of the piano, testing each hammer and listening for irregularities in the sound each note makes.

“Can you hear this one? It sounds a bit chimy,” he both asks and tells at the same time. “I need to dampen the hammer a bit so it sounds clearer.”

Then, like a butcher tenderizing a piece of meat, Jolly jabs at the hammer’s fabric with a small, sharp pick. “This dampens the sound a bit … and there, you can hear it now, it sounds much better.”
Alumni achievements recognized

The Alumni Achievement Awards recognize graduates of the University of Saskatchewan for excellence, leadership and innovation in their contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of society. This year’s recipients will be honoured at a reception Nov. 2.

Austin Beggs (BA’74) for his role in expanding innovation and research throughout Saskatchewan. During his 28-year career at Innovation Place, Beggs was part of the team that transformed the research park from two buildings with six clients in Saskatoon into 28 buildings in three cities that house 185 clients. These clusters of expertise, innovation and research contribute close to $1 billion to the provincial economy each year.

Radhey Lal Kushwaha (PhD’97) for his service to the engineering profession. Kushwaha’s international activities and collaborations that reach into Asia, Africa and South and Central America have received much recognition from engineering bodies and industry, building on the reputation of the U of S. He has made significant contributions to soil–machine interactions, particularly to technologies that mechanically neutralize anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines, an area in which he is co-holder of three patents.

Robert McKercher, (BA’50, LLB’52) for his contributions to and the advancement of the law profession. McKercher—along with his brother, Donald—established the law firm now known as McKercher LLP. He served as president of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan branch of the Canadian Bar Association and the Canadian Bar Association. He and his wife helped establish two lecture series in the College of Law as well as the Huskie Academic and Athletic Award of Excellence.

Bruce McManus (BAPE’67, MD’77) for his contributions to cardiovascular research and treatment. As a well-known cardiovascular researcher, McManus’ work has focused in the areas of organ transplantation, and heart injury and failure. Some of his most significant contributions relate to the diagnosis and treatment of heart muscle injury in relation to viral infection, the prediction, diagnosis, treatment and management of immune and inflammatory diseases in transplanted patients and in distinct forms of heart failure.

Edward Turner, (Ag/Dep’48, LLB’52) for his leadership in agriculture and service to the University of Saskatchewan. As president of the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Turner was active in the expansion of the pool’s commercial enterprises and served on several national committees and boards including the Conference Board of Canada and as an advisor to the Economic Council of Canada. He was an advisor in negotiations of the Canada – USA Free Trade Agreement and other international agreements.

Karl Miller (BA’78, BComm’01) for his contributions as an entrepreneur and businessman. Combining his education in business and regional urban development, Miller has become an expert in probiotics and inflammatory bowel disease that has led to a role on a multi-disciplinary team with the Saskatoon Health Region.

Turner

Edward Turner

Robert McKercher

Bruce McManus

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McManus

Bruce McManus

The Young Alumni Achievement Award recipients:

Anne Doig (MD’76) for her leadership and commitment to family medicine and the medical profession. Doig, a clinical associate professor in the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences at the U of S, has served patients for 34 years in a full-time clinical practice. She has further served her profession through the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, the Canadian Medical Association and STARS, Saskatchewan’s new helicopter air ambulance service.

Anne Doig

Anne Doig

Elaine Golds (BA’64) for her commitment to volunteerism and environmental sustainability. Golds has spent more than 20 years as a full-time volunteer devoted to environmental activities in British Columbia. She has become a familiar public figure in the Greater Vancouver area, dedicated to the education of citizens, business people, and elected officials on environmental issues that include forests, water and fish habitat. She has inspired many other volunteers to protect BC’s natural resources.

Elaine Golds

Elaine Golds

Natasha Haskey (BSc’98, MSc’07) for her work improving the nutritional well-being of children. Haskey began her career as a registered dietician working with Saskatchewan families in pediatric nutrition, a field in which she acted as a mentor to both students and professional dieticians. Starting with her graduate research, she developed an expertise in probiotics and inflammatory bowel disease that has led to a role on a multi-disciplinary team with the Saskatoon Health Region.

Natasha Haskey

Natasha Haskey

Garrett Wilson, (BA’53, LLB’54) for his contributions to law, business and politics. Before being named an honorary life member of the Law Society of Saskatchewan, Wilson practised law for over five decades, serving as a Regina city prosecutor and counsel to the Regina Police Service. His interests in wildlife led to an honorary lifetime membership in the Regina Wildlife Federation. Wilson also served the Liberal parties of Saskatchewan and Canada in a variety of roles, including campaign manager.

Garrett Wilson

Garrett Wilson

Honorary alumni

In addition to the achievement awards, the U of S Alumni Association is conferring honorary alumni status on Wendy (Bates) Field, a long-time employee of U of S Alumni Relations, and Dr. William and Betty Albritton. Dr. Albritton is the former dean of the College of Medicine.
Lessons Learned
• Oct. 19, 1-3 p.m., Goodspeed Theatre, Room 210, University of Saskatchewan. Justice Dennis O’Connor, associate chief judge of the Court of Queen’s Bench will discuss the Walker Inquiry, will deliver the special keynote speech of the 2012 Annual University of Saskatchewan Faculty of Law event: The Walker Inquiry Ten Years Later: Lessons Learned

Library Matters
Letter series by members of the Dept. of English, 7:30 pm, Grace-Westminster United Church social hall, 505 10 St. East.
• Oct. 17, Professor Doug Thrope presents: Why Truth is Always stranger than Fiction
• Nov. 14, Professor Wei’s presents Appeal to the Public: The Stories from the Early History of the Oxford English Dictionary

Crown in Canada
Presented by the Joseph��-Shyama 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 from a wide variety of viewpoints. Speakers include Philip Coombs, U of M; Roger Cooper, CEO of The Globe and Mail; John Fraser, master of Massey College, Jim Miller, U of T Department of History and Candace Petkau, assistant professor on the Crown and its role in Parliament. For more information, visit the website at usask.ca/crown.

Building a better West Conference
The U of S for the Crown of Canada/Co-operation between the U of S 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 from a wide variety of viewpoints. Speakers include Philip Coombs, U of M; Roger Cooper, CEO of The Globe and Mail; John Fraser, master of Massey College, Jim Miller, U of T Department of History and Candace Petkau, assistant professor on the Crown and its role in Parliament. For more information, visit the website at usask.ca/crown.

Community Music Education
Courses/Worshops
Contingent on College, Nov. 16, 17, 23, 24, 25

Crown in Canada

Football
• Oct. 17, 7 p.m. Manitoba
• Oct. 18, 7 p.m. UBC

Soccer
• Oct. 13, 11 a.m. vs. Alberta (women)
• Oct. 13, 10 a.m. vs. UBC (men)
• Oct. 15, 5:30 p.m. vs. Alberta
• Oct. 15, 2:15 p.m. vs. UBC (men)
• Oct. 27 and 28, 2:15 p.m. vs. Lethbridge (men)

Hockey
• Oct. 12, 7 p.m. Manitoba (women)
• Oct. 13, 7 p.m. Manitoba (women)
• Oct. 17, 7 p.m. Alberta
• Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Manitoba
• Oct. 26 and 27, 7 p.m. UBC (women)

The Arts
Catnap
Catnap, a play written and directed by drama student Paul Hemm, will be performed daily Oct. 17-19 from 10:30 am in the Mitchell Building. The play explores the confines of the hard-edge oeuvre. For more information, contact Nicole Whitton Elliott at 966-6625 or check out our website: community.music.usask.ca

Employee Development Programs
Courses/Worshops
• U of S Coyee Leadership Program – Oct. 15, 18, 19, 22, 26, and 28. Course fee $995.

U of S Language Program
Courses/Worshops
Engaging English: Class placement and testing and registration for fall registration on or before Oct. 15. Further information or an appointment: 966-6351 or coe-usask.ca/PTEL

Gwenna Moss Centre for Research Training
Courses/Worshops
For more information and to register for workshops visit usask.ca/gmc.

Business Writing & Grammar Workout, Nov. 15-16, 8:30 am-12 noon. Creating and Editing text that is clear, concise and accurate. For more information, call 330-4986 or visit training@usask.ca or visit training.usask.ca

Saskatchewan Public Interest Research Group (SPIRG)
Courses/Worshops
For information or to register Email spirg@usask.ca or visit www.spirg.usask.ca

WESP Safety Training Courses
Courses/Worshops
• OSH 400: 1-5 p.m., Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
• OSH 401: Safety and Training, Oct. 22 and 23, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
• OSH 402: Safety and Health in the Workplace, Nov. 19 and 20, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
• Laboratory Safety: Oct. 17, 22, 29, Nov. 14, Dec. 7 and 18, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
• Radiation Safety: Nov. 21, Jan. 23, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
• OSH 403: Safety Orientation for Supervisors: Oct. 26, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
• OSH 404: Safety Orientation for Supervisors: Nov. 1, 3, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
• OSH 405: Transportation of Dangerous Goods: Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
• OSH 407: Transportation of Dangerous Goods: Nov. 29, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

ITC Training Courses
For information or to register, email trainscu@usask.ca or visit the training usask.ca

USCAD Fall Classes
For more information, visit www.buildabetterwest.com

continued,
• Adobe Dreamweaver - Introduction Course, Oct. 15, 9-4 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• Adobe Illustrator - Introduction, Oct. 16 and 18 OR Nov. 15 and 17, 1:30-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• Adobe InDesign - Intermediate Course, Oct. 15 and Nov. 1, 1:30-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• Adobe InDesign - Introduction Course, Oct. 16 and 18 OR Nov. 27 and 29, 9-noon, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• Adobe Photoshop - Introduction Course, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 9-6 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• Adobe Photoshop - Photo Retouching Course, Nov. 7, 1:30-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• ArcGIS - Introduction, Oct. 22 and Oct. 24, 6:30-9:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• HTML Basics Workshop (with HTML 5 Overview), Oct. 29, 9-11:30 am, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• iPad Tips and Tricks, Oct. 24, 1:30-3 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• Make the Most of Your Mac - Introduction, Oct. 17, 10:30 noon OR Nov. 6, 3-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• MS Access - Fundamentals Plus, Oct. 23 and 25 OR Dec. 3 and 5, 1:30-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• MS Access - Fundamentals, Oct. 29 and Oct. 31 OR Nov. 27 and 29, 1:30-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• MS Excel - Fundamentals Plus, Nov. 6 and 8 OR Dec. 3 and 5, 8-noon, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• MS Excel - Fundamentals, Oct. 22 and 24 OR Nov. 13 and 15, 9-noon, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• MS Outlook - Fundamentals Plus, Nov. 15, 1:30-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• MS PowerPoint - Fundamentals Plus, Nov. 17, 9-noon OR Nov. 14, 3:30-6 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• MS PowerPoint - Fundamentals, Oct. 17, 9-noon OR Nov. 14, 3:30-6 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• MS Word - Footnotes/ Figures / Master Documents Seminar, Oct. 19 OR Nov. 20 OR Nov. 9 OR Nov. 23, 1:30-3 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• Make the Most of Your Mac - Outlining and TOC’s, Oct. 17, 10:30 noon OR Nov. 6, 3-4:30 pm, $150 students, staff, faculty, $150 others
• Faculty Workshops: contact training@usask.ca or 966-4866 for more information on these workshops geared to faculty
• Online Training Library: Ask us if you would like your department to purchase Pre-Licenses, giving you access to thousands of training videos
• IT4U – Computer Training and Support for Students, contact help@usask.ca
• Many courses are available to off-campus users. Visit training.usask.ca for more information.

Technology Week

The eighth annual Technology Week takes place at the U of S Oct. 29- Nov. 2. A variety of sessions will take place daily at various locations on campus, including a keynote presentation by Michael Geist, Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-Commerce Law, on Nov. 2 at 10:30 am in ESB 46. Visit www.usask.ca/technologyweek or contact brad.flavel@usask.ca for more information.

Academic Integrity Awareness Week

A number of special events for faculty are being held as part of Academic Integrity Awareness Week. To register and for full information on all sessions, including those for students, go to www.usask.ca/academicintegrity

• Oct 15, 2-3 pm, Clarifying Copyright with Jennifer Mainland
• Oct 16, 2-3 pm, The Academic Dishonesty Gamble: How Students May Be Assessing the Risks in Your Class with Susan Bern
• Oct 17, noon-1 pm, Academic Integrity - Ideas, Strategies and Conversations with Leslie Martin
• Oct 17, 2-3 pm, Panel Presentation: Media and Integrity - Integrity Beyond the Academic Arts 241 open to faculty and students
• Oct 18, 10-noon - 1 pm, Policies and Procedures with Lea Pennock

Savings Bond campaign

Canada / Payroll Savings Bonds application forms are available online through the CSB e-campaign which runs until Nov. 1. The U of S campus is beautiful most times of the year but never more so than in the fall. This photo of the Archaeology Building was taken by Shannon Seymour who works in faculty support in the College of Law.

October 12, 2012
University Secretary Lea Pennock describes the boardroom, where some of the most important decisions affecting the institution are made, as one of the most elegant spaces on campus.

Located on the second floor of the Peter MacKinnon Building, the boardroom was refitted top to bottom during the renovation of what was then called the College Building. It’s technically advanced with electronic everything—window blinds, screen, projector, speakers and microphones—but it’s the light controls that are the hardest to master, said Pennock, pushing buttons in an effort to illuminate the room for the OCN photo shoot. “If anyone can figure these out, I’ll give them an engineering degree.”

The room is beautifully appointed. The large, curved custom-built table comfortably seats the 11 Board of Governors members and the various resource officers who attend board meetings. Pennock explained that the board chair, Nancy Hopkins, sits at the head of the table with the president on her left and Pennock herself to her right. As for the other members of the board, “some like to sit in the same spot for every meeting, others like to mix it up.”

And around the room hang, in chronological order, paintings of the university’s 12 chancellors, starting with an impressive portrait of Edward L. Wetmore, who served from 1907-1917, on the south wall. A portrait of chancellor number 13, Vera Pezer, will be hung in the boardroom next year.