Inside

Cattle drive Page 7
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The wonder of science

Visitors of all ages took in the displays, exhibits and lectures that were part of Cameco Spectrum 2013 held in the Engineering Building Jan. 17-20. This little girl, who visited campus with a group of school children, marveled at a device that drew on paper an image sent remotely from a tablet.

Building a new library

Meticulous planning, measuring for collection move

Colleen MacPherson

The rule of thumb for carpenters is measure twice, cut once. For librarians working to set up a new library, the rule is similar—measure twice before putting anything on the shelves.

And that’s exactly what has been happening as Susan Murphy and her staff prepare for move-in day at the Leslie and Irene Dubé Health Sciences Library in E Wing of the Health Sciences project. The head of the health sciences branch library is no stranger to major moves of library material but nothing in her career matches the complexity of what is expected to happen this spring.

“I came into this project part way through, in July of 2008, so the plans had more or less been drafted out,” said Murphy. “We knew the size of the space and what was going into the library. My job has been to fine tune.”

Referring to plans that paper the walls of her office, Murphy described the still-under construction library. It is just over 3,000 sq. meters on three floors, more than double the size of the current Health Sciences Library. The print collections will be housed on compact shelving that moves along rails “similar to what you’d see in your doctor’s office to hold files.” The aim is to reduce the footprint of the print collections “to leave more space for students. That’s one of the goals.”

Because medical students are now required to have a laptop “and with the general embracing of mobile technology,” the new library will be peppered with electrical outlets and network lines, and movable seating throughout “means students can arrange it in ways that work best for them.” About two dozen group study rooms, each equipped with whiteboards and large-screen monitors, will allow for collaboration but “we will have quiet areas because we recognize that quiet study is still necessary.”

A large circulation desk, an IT help desk, and offices, work space and meeting rooms for staff complete the layout, all of which will be bathed in natural light from a curved wall of windows facing College Drive and the Wiggins Road entrance to campus.

But Murphy is leaving the details of all of that to the contractors. Her focus is on moving about five kilometres of print materials into the space from six locations across campus, and ensuring that every book ends up exactly where it needs to be.

She explained that the health sciences collections, including books and print journals, are currently spread out. The majority of it is in the main Health Sciences Library but...
kinesiology materials are in the Education and Music Library, and most of the back issues of print journals are in the Murray Library. Other materials are in the Natural Sciences Library and in general purpose storage in two locations. Murphy uses the term repatriation when she talks about gathering all 156,000 print items into one space.

“There may be so much more efficient for our client group. It will be nice to have everything under one roof.”

Murphy said work is underway mapping on paper which call number ranges will go where in the new space. “We need to do that because we need to insert repatriated material.”

The materials’ call numbers go from A to Z, she explained, but the kinesiology collection, which has GV call numbers, must be inserted in the correct spot. The same is true of all repatriated materials. “There may be some Rs or Qs coming from natural sciences, and sometimes it’s inserting one book at a time rather than a range of call numbers.”

Staff have spent long hours doing very precise measurements of all materials in all locations, measuring twice in fact so they know exactly how much space is needed on each shelf once the materials are all brought together. The information is on massive spread sheets that will guide the shelving process.

Facilities Management Division staff will move the materials on specially built book trucks that hold 500-600 pounds. Murphy expects it will take about three weeks to move just the materials in the current health sciences library.

And, everything has to be relabelled to ensure it is returned to the right branch. Right now, the kinesiology materials, for example, are labelled for return to the education and music library; that needs to be changed to health sciences as it does for all repatriated materials.

In addition to measuring and mapping, staff have been running time trials on various aspects of the move, including loading and unloading the book trucks, and relabelling a single bay or section of shelving. It takes about one hour per bay, and there are hundreds of bays.

“I think we’re fairly well organized,” said Murphy.

The plans will continue to be refined until it is time to move, which Murphy said will be June at the earliest. Once 51 per cent of the existing health sciences library materials are in the new location, the old library will be closed, the new one opened, and a retrieval process will be used while the remainder of the collection is moved.

Faced with such a daunting process, Murphy is remarkably calm but that’s thanks to some similar experiences earlier in her career. In fact, this will be her third major library move, the others being at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology in Edmonton and at the University of Alberta. She was also involved in bar coding every item in the University of Lethbridge library.

“It took forever and I lost all the skin on my thumb, but I met my future husband on that job.”

Most librarians, she said, would experience a move or a renovation over their career “because physical facilities need to evolve to accommodate the way people work and learn, and the materials they use.” But few have the chance to move into a brand new building.

“That is why Murphy is looking forward to the Canadian Health Librarians Association conference taking place in Saskatoon in May. “People are very excited about coming to the conference to see the new library. We’re planning on giving tours; it’s a great opportunity for us to profile the new library.”

She warned though, that when librarians gather, they are neither quiet nor reserved. “We’re loud and we eat lots. There’s a very gregarious bunch—there’s very little shushing that goes on.”

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**Books moved, shelves filled**

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**University Council Elections**

University Council is responsible for overseeing and directing the University’s academic affairs. The participation of faculty members willing to stand for election as members of Council is essential to the continuing good governance of the University.

This year there are 16 member-at-large faculty positions to be filled. All members of Council whose three-year terms expire on June 30, 2013 are eligible for re-election. There is also one vacancy for a one-year term, due to an administrative leave.

If you wish to stand as a candidate for election to University Council or if you would like further information contact the Office of the University Secretary at 966-4632 or visit the Council website at usask.ca/university_secretary/council/elections.php

Please submit your nomination to stand for Council by Friday, February 1, 2013.
The Government of Saskatchewan has appointed four new members to the U of S Board of Governors, effective Jan. 17, 2013 for three-year terms. Lee Ahenakew, David Dubé, Nancy Pokipnis, and Art Dumont, all of whom on the board have expired.

“We are pleased to welcome four individuals whose qualifications, experience and background will benefit the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors,” said Susan Milburn, vice-chair. “The members who are leaving the board at this time have offered tremendous service and we are grateful to them for their voluntary dedication of time and energy that board service represents.”

Ahemakew, Ford, Isaac, and Dubé are the new members. They replace Garry Standing, Nancy Hodgkins, David Sutherland and Art Dumont, all of whom on the board have expired.

Ahemakew, holds a Bachelor of Social Justice degree from the U of S, and recently relocated to Saskatoon from Dundas, Ont. where he worked at the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business as the vice-president of member relations. He is currently employed with BHP Billiton. He has served on several boards and his expertise in corporate Aboriginal relations will make him a valued member of the U of S board.

Dubé holds an Advanced Bachelor of Arts in political science degree from the U of S and is a Huskie football alumnus. He is the president and chief executive officer for the Concorde Group of Companies, has served on numerous other boards and is a generous supporter of the university.

Ford, is also a graduate of the U of S. She specializes in conflict resolution and has a particular interest in mediation, workplace conflict assessments and workplace harassment investigations. She owns her own law practice and has practiced law in Saskatoon since her admission to the Saskatchewan Bar in 1977. She has served on several other boards in the past.

Isaac, also graduated from the U of S as well as from the London School of Economics. He brings expertise in finance, taxation and business technology services through his work at Cameco as chief financial officer and senior vice-president. He has served as the dean of the Edwards School of Business and on several other boards.

Greg Smith, the fifth government appointee, will continue to serve on the board for a second three-year term. A new chair will be chosen by the board at an upcoming meeting.

The U of S Board of Governors is responsible for overseeing and directing all matters respecting the management, administration and control of the university’s property, revenues and financial affairs. The board consists of five members appointed by the Government of Saskatchewan, one student member (currently Jared Brown), one faculty member (currently Linda Ferguson), two members appointed by University Senate (currently Susan Milburn and Grit McCreath), and two ex-officio members (the president and chancellor).
The challenge of achieving financial sustainability is being tackled on many fronts at the University of Saskatchewan, including a comprehensive review of all academic programs and administrative services.

Given the title TransformUS, the review was announced in a letter to the university community on Jan. 11 from President Ilene Busch-Vishniac. That letter explained the resources available to the university are not sufficient to maintain the current breadth of programming and activity. TransformUS involves an immediate examination of every program and service “to assess its contribution to our overall success,” the president said, and the development of a priority list of programs and services needing greater investment of resources and those from which resources will be withdrawn.

Busch-Vishniac clearly stated the primary objective of TransformUS is cost cutting. TransformUS is modeled on one detailed by Robert C. Dickeson in his 2010 book Prioritizing Academic Programs and Services and will be adapted to the U of S circumstances.

Provost Brett Fairbairn outlined Dickeson’s model to University Council last year, and on Jan. 24, Council will be asked to approve TransformUS in principle. Dickeson defines a program as “any activity or collection of activities of the institution that consumes resources (dollars, people, space, equipment, time).” The first step in the process is the formation of two task forces, one to assess academic programs and the other to examine administrative services and academic support programs. Both will include broad representation and have been charged with finding ways to encourage student input and participation. Information regarding the member nomination and expected timelines for the task forces will be announced to the campus community in the near future.

According to information on the university’s finances website, the four-part role of the task forces is to develop criteria for ranking programs; develop a ranking system for determining outcomes; collect data; and complete a report with recommendations on the outcomes for the president and provost by Nov. 30. It is expected programs and activities will be grouped into various categories such as “maintain with reduced resources,” “maintain with enhanced resources” and “eliminate or merge.”

Any program termination will follow normal procedures with University Council actively involved in changes to academic programs. The university’s Board of Governors will be informed of any changes that have budgetary implications. The Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning will be responsible for developing an action plan and timetable. This is expected in December and beyond.

In the case of an academic program termination, the university will ensure students have the chance to complete their studies in a reasonable time. If staff is affected, all lost contracts, collective agreements and U of S policies will be adhered to during the change.

Two principles will govern the work of the TransformUS task forces. The first is that assessment criteria be holistic, taking into account various assessment factors including financial and non-financial, and other measures of performance. The second principle is that criteria must result in a fair assessment to ensure programs or services are treated equally. Assessment criteria will be shared with the university community for comment.

University Council, at its Jan. 24 meeting, was asked to approve in principle the undertaking of a university-wide process for prioritization of service/support and academic programs, as Council will ultimately be asked to approve any forthcoming recommendations that affect academic programs.

In addition to the program review process, the U of S is continuing to take a strategic, unit-by-unit look at its workforce. Every college and administrative unit is participating in workforce planning by reviewing its priorities and job positions to both find reductions and refocus employees work in priority areas.

In a news release issued Jan. 5, university officials announced that about 40 employees would receive layoff notices over three weeks with more job losses planned for April. The January layoffs are expected to save the university $2.5 million per year. In a letter to employees Jan. 17, Fairbairn and Greg Fowler, acting vice-president of finance and resources, said immediate savings from workforce planning will help the institution meet its budget targets in 2012-13 and 2013-14. The U of S has about 7,500 people on its payroll.

In addition to these two projects, university officials continue to evaluate some 400 cost-saving ideas submitted by members of the campus community. The suggestions have been divided into eight groups, including compensation strategy, revenue generation and diversification, reducing institutional footprint and maximizing value of university spending. Fowler and Fairbairn’s letter said each will be assessed for its financial impact, adding that beyond TransformUS and workforce planning, “it will take projects in multiple areas to achieve the full $4.5 million change the university must accomplish” by 2016. 
Khan Wahid wants to help your doctor see a whole other side of you.

The associate professor of electrical and computer engineering and his team are developing new patent-pending technology for video endoscopy capsules.

When it comes to getting a good look at your ailing innards, there are few tools more useful than these high-tech pills, which contain a video camera, battery, light-emitting diode (LED) and a transmitter, explained Wahid. They are especially valuable for diagnosing causes of bleeding or abdominal pain like Crohn's disease, peptic ulcers or colorectal cancer.

"Doctors are not satisfied with the current image quality from endoscopy capsules. Wahid and his team are also looking at the rather intrusive data recorder worn by patients after swallowing the capsule. Their solution is a mobile device application and a SIM card-sized adapter that transmits information directly to the patient's smartphone."

measured only 11 millimetres by 26 millimetres, is they can "jump" areas of tissue without imaging them, so doctors do not get a continuous picture, he explained. To meet the challenge, Wahid’s team has developed algorithms that much more efficiently capture and process images, decreasing the workload of the onboard computer chip while increasing quality and the frame rate to provide images more frequently. This helps extend battery life, ensuring the capsule remains in operation throughout its eight-to-10-hour journey. The result is technology that allows for a more complete, real-time diagnosis of gastrointestinal diseases, and may make it possible to add features to future endoscopy capsules.

Wahid and his team are also working to improve the technology in several ways, which will lead to more consistent, accurate diagnosis," Wahid said.

Khan Wahid holds a component of an endoscopy capsule that transmits to a smartphone.

Doctors are not satisfied with the current image quality from endoscopy capsules. Khan Wahid

"Doctors are not satisfied with the current image quality from endoscopy capsules. Wahid and his team are also looking at the rather intrusive data recorder worn by patients after swallowing the capsule. Their solution is a mobile device application and a SIM card-sized adapter that transmits information directly to the patient's smartphone."

World-renowned agricultural researcher and scholar Roger Beachy has been named founding executive director and CEO of the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the U of S.

"I was drawn to the vision of the new institute and the spirit of innovation and collaboration that led to its creation," he said.

"With Saskatchewan's unique strengths in bio-science and agriculture, I am committed to helping GIFS take its place among the most exceptional in the world."

Over his 40-year career, Beachy has become internationally recognized for research in food crops, production agriculture and the applications of biotechnology in agriculture, nutrition, and human health. He founded the Danforth Plant Science Centre in Missouri and was the first director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. He also served as chief scientist of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Research under his leadership has led to several patents and more than 230 publications. He is a member and fellow of a number of scientific societies, and is past president of the International Association for Plant Biotechnology.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Beachy to the university and look forward to the vision and passion he will bring to the work of the new Institute," said U of S President Ilene Busch-Vishniac. "His leadership and expertise, including U of S excellence in agriculture and food-system related research, will contribute greatly to our university’s preeminence and research capacity in these areas."

GIFS was launched on Dec. 10 by the Province of Saskatchewan, the U of S and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. (PotashCorp) with commitments of $35 million from PotashCorp and $15 million from the province over the next seven years. The institute will build upon Saskatchewan’s unique resources, innovation and expertise, including U of S excellence in agriculture and food-system related research, to address the increasing global demand for safe, reliable food.

Beachy will help launch the institute and plans to remain actively involved in a senior oversight capacity as GIFS becomes established.

"To have a tangible impact on food security, the institute requires strong, respected leadership," said Bill Doyle, president and CEO of PotashCorp. "Roger brings immediate credibility to this initiative and is the best person to lay the groundwork that will help the institute achieve its long-term goals."

**MORE STORIES, PHOTOS AND COMMENTS ONLINE**

Read more great stories online at news.usask.ca, like Denise Heppner who has committed to trekking to the base camp of Mt. Everest then summiting Mr. Kalaphatar as a way of helping women and children who are—or are at risk of being—exploited, enslaved, oppressed or trafficked.

For information or to obtain a nomination form, contact the Office of the President at 966-6613 or visit the president’s website at usask.ca/president
Students use atrium for study and fun

Colleen MacPherson

It seems students from across campus have found a new favourite place to study for final exams – the atrium in the D Wing of Health Sciences.

Brad Steeves, director of operations in the Council of Health Science Deans office, said students filtered into the five-storey light-filled atrium before the holiday break, taking advantage of the comfortable seating and the writable walls. Steeves explained that white boards line the collaborative spaces on each floor and at the end of day, were covered in notes, drawings and formulas. But, as soon as the studying was done, the fun began. Steeves said he ran across one group of students throwing tennis balls back and forth to each other from balconies high above the atrium floor. “I guess it was kind of a stress reliever,” he said.

Then, one morning, dozens of paper airplanes were found scattered across the atrium floor with one firmly stuck in the acoustic panels on the walls between the third and fourth floors. “I guess they’re trying to make history, like in Thorvalson 271,” said Steeves, referring to what is often called the Airplane Room, a reference to the floor of the atrium. “I guess it was kind of a stress reliever,” he said.

Several volunteer orators will be required because of the large number of convocation ceremonies; six or eight people in the role would be ideal, said Penny Ro. “We’re hoping to recruit people from the university but not necessarily just faculty members. Orators could be staff or students as well.”

Although the position is voluntary, the selection will involve an audition. Pennock also promised lunch for those orating at convocation. As an added perk, “people would get to put on their CV that they’re the university orator. And once we have an orator, I wouldn’t rule out other things we might get them to do.”

Anyone interested in auditioning for the position of university orator are invited to contact either Pennock or Langer for details. ■

Around the Bowl

Heather Exner-Pirot has joined the College of Nursing in the new position of strategist for outreach and indigenous engagement where she will focus on engagement with international indigenous and northern Aboriginal communities. Exner-Pirot held positions with the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy and the International Centre of Northern Governance and Development prior to joining the college.

Christine Smith has taken up the position of assistant manager at the Huskie Store after serving for 13 years as the manager for Mac cosmetics at the Bay.

The Canadian Society for Chemistry has awarded its John C. Polanyi Award to John C. Polanyi award to Ron Steer, in recognition for his work in the field of solar energy. The chemistry professor and his team are attempting to make organic photovoltaics, also known as dye-sensitized solar cells (DSC), a more efficient source of electricity.

In the College of Dentistry, Debora Senger has joined the staff in the position of alumni and stewardship officer. Senger worked previously with the Study Abroad office and is currently an MBA student in the Johnson-Shoyama School of Public Policy. Also joining dentistry is Gary Keegan, who will work as the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition as major gifts officer. Keegan comes to the U of S from the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy as a reference to the floor of the atrium. “I guess it was kind of a stress reliever,” he said.

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic has announced the following appointments:

Liz Harrison’s term as associate dean, School of Physical Therapy in the College of Medicine, extended for the period July 1-Dec. 31.

Dianne Miller as acting head of the Department of Educational Foundations until June 30.

Maureen Reed as acting assistant director of the School of Environment and Sustainability until June 30.

FEEL THE ELECTRICITY

March 14 - 17

Show your school pride by cheering on your Huskie Men's hockey team at the PotashCorp CIS University Cup presented by Co-op!

For more excitement, register a team for the 32-hour High Voltage Classic road hockey tournament hosted by the U of S student branch of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. Sign up at highvoltageclassic.com.

UCUP merchandise available at usask.ca/bookstore/ucup.

January 25, 2013
Although many pieces of the puzzle remain to be filled in, plans to find a new home for the university’s Beef Cattle Research and Teaching Unit have garnered strong support from the industry it serves.

The most recent step in the effort to relocate the unit is an application by the university to the Municipality of Blucher asking for approval to build a new beef cattle unit on U of S land south of the town of Clavet. Currently located just north of Circle Drive on the east side of the South Saskatchewan River, the unit is a vital component of education and experiential learning for agriculture and veterinary medicine students, as well as a key source of technology transfer to the burgeoning feedlot industry in Saskatchewan.

Andrew Van Kessel, head of the Department of Animal and Poultry Science in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, said the current facility was built in 1952 and houses about 700 head of feedlot beef cattle. It is used not only to train students interested in feedlot management but also for important nutrition and health research specific to the feedlot industry. The problem, he said, is that drainage issues on the current site make it difficult to remove water from cattle pens, posing potential animal welfare issues.

The options are limited, he said. One is to refurbish or remodel the existing unit. Another is to relocate it which aligns with long-term plans for use of university lands outlined by the Vision 2057 project, but he was adamant that closing it down altogether is not on the table. “This is an important site for experiential education for both undergrad and graduate students, and with a major animal industry here, and a growing feedlot industry in Saskatchewan, we can have a really positive impact with our research not only in this province but throughout western Canada.”

Van Kessel said initial planning for the unit would see it expanded to accommodate 3,000 head of cattle with some pen capacity increased to 200 head from the current 25. “This is a case where we feel we need to mimic a commercial operation for the purpose of technology transfer to the industry.” The new unit would include a handling facility, an amphitheatre space for teaching students and working with producers, and a metabolism facility for intensive physiological work related to digestive function and nutrition studies, he said.

Relocating the unit to what is termed a greenfield site will also allow for studies into the long-term effects of such operations on soil and groundwater chemistry and microbiology.

The importance of the teaching and research unit’s work was underscored last summer when the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association, which represents beef producers across the province, announced a commitment of $1 million to the redevelopment of the facility.

“We spend considerable time ensuring our research is applied and has impact in the industry,” said Van Kessel, “The support from the cattlemen’s association is key in that it signals the beef industry is behind this project and believes in it. They see that our contributions to teaching and research are valuable to the industry.”

There are no firm timelines in place for the relocation of the unit, nor is there secured funding beyond the industry commitment, but Van Kessel believes industry partners like the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association can have a positive influence on the end result. “We can’t do the kinds of projects we do without their support.”

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Sustainability through education

Sustainability is a hot topic, but there is often a difference between an organization's sustainability policy and practice. Aiming to help an organization's practice match its policy is one of the areas to be studied in the newly launched Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI) at the U of S. The institute, the first of its kind in Canada, was recently awarded a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant totalling $256,000, to physically create SERI to include an online hub for collaborative research, as well as a physical hub for in-person work. This new infrastructure, explained Marcia McKenzie the institute’s director, will enable faculty, graduate students and community partners to work together on environmental sustainability issues in relation to social and economic priorities in five broad areas including research, education, governance, operations and community outreach.

Among the projects to be housed in SERI is the Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN), which is a $3-million grant funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. SEPN is made up of 30 researchers from across Canada—including five from the U of S in the College of Education, the Department of Geography and Planning, and the School of Environment and Sustainability—and 11 organizations from around the world, such as the David Suzuki Foundation, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education and the Assembly of First Nations. “Greenwashing, for example, is an area SEPN is concerned with. This means labelling yourself as green or environmentally sustainable but beyond a surface level, carrying out business as usual. Through analysis and research on policy and practice, we can work with educational institutions to address this gap and create a more sustainable future,” said McKenzie, an associate professor in the College of Education where SERI is housed.

Members within SERI will also be working in consultation with partners in Saskatoon—including the City of Saskatoon, the Saskatoon Public School Division and the Saskatoon Catholic School Division—on Education for Sustainable Development initiatives. Other SERI projects include a participatory research digital media project on sustainability issues important to youth, and contributions to community initiatives such as the Saskatoon CarShare Co-operative.

“It matters because the path we are on as a country and globally is not environmentally sustainable,” explained McKenzie. “With SERI we have space for educational institutions, government, and non-government and community groups to come together and engage with environmental issues like climate change on a deeper level.”

Through partnerships, research, and education, McKenzie hopes the institute can help address the denial of environmental issues. “Denial of climate change has been on the rise over the past decade,” said McKenzie. “There is dissonance between how we are used to living and the change we need to make. We may be making the planet unlivable for future generations, but we don’t want to change the way we’ve grown accustomed to doing things, so we either deny or ignore the realities of the issue.”

To that end, McKenzie said that environmental protection needs to become as much a priority as economic gains, and will require “involvement from grassroots to policy makers so that we can work on solutions at all levels.”

Marcia McKenzie, director of Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI) at the U of S.
Cross-cultural conversations

Kris Foster

The U of S is opening its doors to more international students than ever before, but making sure those students have the English skills to succeed in and out of class and on off campus is no small task.

I came to the U of S, I visited all sorts of centres across campus,” said Marie Lovrod, co-ordinator of the Women’s and Gender Studies program. “There were programs that helped students acquire English for academic purposes, but there were few opportunities for international students to interact with domestic students, basically as a learning resource. Most of these students are just visiting the Language Centre and are often in numeracy fields and that means cross-cultural conversations don’t happen a lot.”

So Lovrod, who arrived in Saskatoon in 2006 from New York, where interactions with people from all corners of the world are quite common in educational environments, began looking for ways to get international students from the Language Centre into her women and gender studies classes so they could learn through conversations with English-speaking students. The semester systems of the university and Language Centre are different, but with the help of the Language Centre, Lovrod was able to find a four- to five-week overlap when she could bring international and domestic students together in a seminar class on feminist qualitative research.

“Both groups had something to learn from each other,” said Lovrod, who eased the international students into her class with the help of Lisa Krol, Kara Loy and other Language Centre staff. “The international students who participated in the seminar classes got to practice English and the women and gender studies students got to learn that in qualitative research, you can’t make assumptions about word views.”

The class also included a chance for the students to take part in “everyday interactions, like going to a movie or the art gallery. There are powerful lessons for both groups and they had brilliant observations.”

The experience from the trial class led to more support from the university community. “Immigration is a hot topic and we want to explore the possibility of making these opportunities available to more students,” she said.

They also hope to share what they learn with those beyond the university community. “Immigration laws in Saskatchewa are changing. For example, there are more international students in public schools making this transition and acquiring English skills. We would like to have conversations (with school divisions) and share what we learn.”

“The report will be done this term, but we already have seen positive results like improved listening scores and reading comprehension scores. It is useful to take part in discussions with people with different perspectives and who lived under different policies. It was transformative for the students and the instructors.”

Lovrod and her colleagues from the Language Centre know for certain is that people with different perspectives and large amenities room. $269,900

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Financial Services Division

Audit Results Positive

The audit of the university’s 2011-12 financial statements was positive with no significant financial management issues identified. In large measure this was due to the efforts made across campus to address audit remediation and internal controls recommendations from the previous audit following the 2010-11 audit. At that time, the Financial Services Division implemented a number of initiatives that needed to be addressed to satisfy board requirements and effectively respond to the auditor’s recommendations. As of August 2012, 20 of these had been addressed and two were in progress.

FSD

Financial Services Division

Items addressed

The most significant items were in the areas of revenue recognition and ongoing financial review and reconciliations. For the first, procedures added to ensure complete and timely reporting of revenue from grants and contracts. For ongoing financial review and reconciliations, FSD introduced an automated monthly process that is currently being completed by about 50 per cent of colleges and units. To fully meet board and audit requirements, the team worked together to reach 100 per cent participation in this activity. Other items among the 20 included enhanced internal review and oversight related to monthly financials, information technology security, and segregation of duties (ensuring more than one employee is involved in areas of work that involve risk of theft or fraud).

Students Xin Shen and Alice Liu (front row) participated in the Bridging Course Pilot Project, a project many people helped launch, including Lisa Krol (curriculum co-ordinator at the Language Centre), Kara Loy (ESL co-ordinator at the Language Centre) and Marie Lovrod, co-ordinator of Women’s and Gender Studies.

Pilot Project, which allowed international students to enroll in a women and gender studies class and be intentionally grouped with a couple students over an ongoing period of time. The pilot class is now over and graduate student Sara York, who participated in one of the original classes Lovrod initiated, is preparing a report on the outcomes by interviewing students and arranging focus groups.

“the report will be done this term, but we already have seen positive results like improved listening scores and reading comprehension scores. It is useful to take part in discussions with people with different perspectives and who lived under different policies. It was transformative for the students and the instructors.”

Lovrod and her colleagues from the Language Centre know for certain is that people with different perspectives and

Health researchers recognized by SHRF

Michael Robin

Five U of S health researchers were recognized with awards from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation (SHRF) at its annual Santé! Awards on Dec. 6.

Adam Baxter-Jones, associate dean of graduate education and research in the College of Kinesiology, received SHRF’s Research Excellence Award for his work with supervisor Erin Parkinson, vice-dean of humanities and fine arts in the College of Arts and Science. “We were able to launch the ‘Bridging Course Pilot Project’, which allowed international students to enroll in a women and gender studies class and be intentionally grouped with a couple students over an ongoing period of time.”

The pilot class is now over and graduate student Sara York, who participated in one of the original classes Lovrod initiated, is preparing a report on the outcomes by interviewing students and arranging focus groups.

“the report will be done this term, but we already have seen positive results like improved listening scores and reading comprehension scores. It is useful to take part in discussions with people with different perspectives and who lived under different policies. It was transformative for the students and the instructors.”

Lovrod and her colleagues from the Language Centre know for certain is that people with different perspectives and large amenities room. $269,900

1019 10TH STREET EAST
Walking distance to U of S & Broadway area, this stunning brand new, semi-detached 2017 4 1/2 is professionally designed with upscale features throughout! Great room with gas 3 sided fireplace, kitchen with custom cabinetry, Cambria countertops, display lighting, island with extensive Blanco Antico countertop & stainless steel appliances. 3 bedrooms including huge master suite and sitting area with deluxe ensuite & steam shower. Double detached garage. Fully landscaped $279,900

101-102 KINGSMERE BOULEVARD
This well maintained Hawk’s Landing condo was built in 2008 and is in move in condition! 935 sq ft, features south exposure, spacious kitchen with white cabinets & stainless stainless steel appliances, laminate flooring “the two davids”, 2 full baths & laundry room with washer and dryer! Includes underground parking and large amenities room. $269,900

Financial Services Division

Audit Results Positive

The audit of the university’s 2011-12 financial statements was positive with no significant financial management issues identified. In large measure this was due to the efforts made across campus to address audit remediation and internal controls recommendations from the previous audit following the 2010-11 audit. At that time, the Financial Services Division implemented a number of initiatives that needed to be addressed to satisfy board requirements and effectively respond to the auditor’s recommendations. As of August 2012, 20 of these had been addressed and two were in progress.

FSD

Financial Services Division

Items addressed

The most significant items were in the areas of revenue recognition and ongoing financial review and reconciliations. For the first, procedures added to ensure complete and timely reporting of revenue from grants and contracts. For ongoing financial review and reconciliations, FSD introduced an automated monthly process that is currently being completed by about 50 per cent of colleges and units. To fully meet board and audit requirements, the team worked together to reach 100 per cent participation in this activity. Other items among the 20 included enhanced internal review and oversight related to monthly financials, information technology security, and segregation of duties (ensuring more than one employee is involved in areas of work that involve risk of theft or fraud).

Further work required

The two areas still in progress are the development of a disaster recovery plan for our information technology systems and what has been completed, it needs to be tested to fully satisfy audit requirements; and creating a comprehensive budget of the entire university operations that will encompass research and endowment activities in addition to operating activities. Progress has been made in this area with the TABBS model development and our Multi-Year Budget Framework for the current four- year planning period.

Efforts made across campus to improve our financial management processes have made a significant, positive difference in audit reviews, and we achieved this in a relatively short timeframe. Our approach at the U of S is one of continuous improvement; work to achieve continued strong processes is ongoing and we will always look for opportunities to

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**Saskatoon Youth Symposium** The first Saskatoon Youth Symposium this year focused on workshops and presentations aimed to address issues in the international, innovation, sustainability and urbanization starts Jan. 25 and continues Jan. 26 of 8 U. S. 5. S. Speaks include Lindsay Labelle, CPI and president of STÉP, Eric Anderson, president of the BetterBeans for Realco. Realco, the Honorable Yvonne Stewart, Minister of Agriculture; and Nola Findlay, executive vice president and chair in community health and epidemiology.

- **Rainbow Explorations Lecture**
  - Feb. 1, 11:30 am in arts 106
  - Victoria Maclennan, veterinary microbiology, presents resur-

- **Amati Concert**
  - Feb. 26, 1:30 pm, Regis, the University’s largest and most successful concert series.
  - Group/ensemble, Architecture of a novel swine influenza virus: the contribution of CIHRF projects and presentations aimed to address issues in the international, innovation, sustainability and urbanization starts Jan. 25 and continues Jan. 26 of 8 U. S. 5. S. Speaks include Lindsay Labelle, CPI and president of STÉP, Eric Anderson, president of the BetterBeans for Realco. Realco, the Honorable Yvonne Stewart, Minister of Agriculture; and Nola Findlay, executive vice president and chair in community health and epidemiology.

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For more information and to register, email training@usask.ca or visit training.usask.ca

WSEP Safety Training Courses

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- Biosafety: classes available online
- Standard First Aid with CPR A
- First Aid Recertification Course
- Laboratory Safety: Feb. 11, March 13, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Occupational Health Committee Level I Training: Feb. 6 and 7, 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.
- Radiation Safety: April 11, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Safety Orientation for Employees: Jan. 28, Feb. 6, 1 p.m.
- Safety Orientation for Supervisors: Feb. 11, 1:30 p.m., March 15, 9 a.m.
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods (Receiver): March 6, 11 a.m.

Financial Town Hall

The fourth in a series of town hall meetings to discuss the university’s operating budget adjustment process will be held Feb. 26 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in Convocation Hall.

Wine and Cheese Celebration!

Tuesday, February 12, 2013
4:31 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Gordon Snelgrove Gallery
191 Murray Building

After 30 years in the College of Arts & Science, Donna is retiring.

Please join us to thank Donna for everything she has done for the College and for the University of Saskatchewan.

Submit Coming Events

Information for Coming Events will be accepted until 5 p.m. on deadline day.

Next OCTN, Friday, Feb. 8, 2013 Deadline Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

ocn@usask.ca, fax 966-6815 or use web submission form at www.usask.ca/ocn
This year, On Campus News is using the back page to explore places on campus that are off the beaten path—often behind locked doors—and to introduce you to the people who work in them. Suggestions for this feature are always welcome; email ocn@usask.ca

Watch Adam Harrison’s video tour of the phytotron in the Feb. 1 e-newsletter On Campus Now e-newsletter.