Academic architecture

Considering the potential for a unique U of S program

Ernie Barber is very cautious when he talks about an academic program in architecture at the University of Saskatchewan, always using the word “if” rather than the word “when.”

Barber’s caution is a deliberate effort to manage expectations and enthusiasm in order to allow for a period of what he termed discernment, thoughtful reflection on what such an academic program might look like, how it might connect across campus and how the U of S might be able to advance architectural education in important ways. “This is not about pushing ahead with a school of architecture,” said the acting dean of engineering. “It’s about understanding the potential for an academic program. I want to make sure the University of Saskatchewan does not miss an opportunity … but we might decide this is not more important than the least important thing we’re already doing.”

The road to this point of discernment has been an interesting four-year journey, said Barber, who first became involved with the notion of an architecture school while serving as vice-provost of teaching and learning. The idea came from the Saskatchewan Association of Architects (SAA), which commissioned a feasibility study in 2008 and endorsed a proposal for a school in 2009. “And that was really neat,” he said, “because it demonstrates that not all of all the good ideas come from within the academy.”

The focus, he said, has been on an administrative structure that would make a school happen “but if the university is to do this, we need to do more than just produce professional architects. We need research and scholarly work, and community engagement.” As ideas about an architecture program have matured, Barber said activity over last two years has been centred on building relationships with various partners—the city, provincial government, the professional association and individual architects and potential donors. Barber said he stayed involved in the proposal “because the most likely administrative attachment point for a school of architecture is the College of Engineering.”

In the last academic year, however, his thinking changed. “I came to the conclusion that unless the proponents of a school could persuade industry and government to pay for it in its entirety, we would have to switch our attention from the business case to the academic case.”

To do that, the dean met last fall with some of his colleagues.

See Discernment, Page 2
We Are All Treaty People

Online Treaty Module
Faculty and Staff Professional Development

We all come to treaty education from different places.

Some of us may have a very sound understanding of treaties but most of us have had little formal treaty education. Regardless of our past we now have an opportunity to increase our knowledge by taking advantage of this online module.

In conjunction with the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning, the Office of the Provost and a number of other on-campus partners, the GMCTE has developed a training module to help faculty and staff learn about the importance of treaties in Saskatchewan (and Canada), and why they matter for our work.

This module is comprised of:

- An online component, which takes approximately an hour and a half to three hours to complete; and
- A three hour face-to-face workshop.

Workshop dates are Tuesday, March 26 and Monday, April 29. Please sign up for the session of your choice at: usask.ca/gmcte/services/indigenous_education/treaties

For more information, please call 966-2231

Correction

In the Feb. issue of On Campus Nine, Lalita Bharadwaj, associate professor in the School of Public Health, was incorrectly identified as being a member of the Department of Chemistry. OCN apologizes for this error.

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Disclosure part of renewal

From Page 1

to ask very basic questions: “Are you ready to explore what architecture education could look like on this campus? How might an architecture program link with what you’re doing in your college? What can you bring to this effort?”

“Those ways of having architecture faculty help you do some of the things you’re doing in new and creative ways.”

“The result, he said, was an assurance “we could do a good creative exploration of the idea” but Barber wanted to go further.

“We want a distinct program. We want to do something different, not just fill in the spaces between architecture schools on the map of Canada.”

Architecture is about culture, environment, sense of place and design thinking, he said, and consideration needs to be given to how a U of S program might incorporate those elements.

“We also want to learn more about where the leading thinkers, doers and educators are taking architecture. If we knew that, we could set those experiences in our own context where we could make the largest contribution to the evolution of architecture education.”

A working group has been set up with university and professional architects and others who are attempting to answer some of those questions while bridging between the profession and the academy. Barber said an important step has been for him and others from the U of S to meet with the SAA and its members to ask them “not to push us too hard. We need this interlude to get our thinking together on the academic side.”

Part of the effort to understand what an academic program might look like is a series of three “architecture is…” symposia at the U of S featuring renowned educators and professionals discussing material and technical innovation, environment, culture and community engagement, and design thinking and teaching.

The public events will take the idea of an architecture program “deeper into campus,” said Barber.

So far, Barber has been pleased with the results achieved—openness from colleagues to explore an academic program, support from the profession (“they’ve been incredibly patient with us”) and a stellar line up of speakers for the symposia. He does, however, regret there are so many distractions on campus, including budget cuts and program prioritization.

“It’s a hard sell to talk about new initiatives when we’re already having trouble paying for what we’re already doing (but) we have to see organizational renewal as important and this is part of organizational renewal.”

Barber said he will present the provost with a discernment report before the end of this academic year. That report will detail the opportunities for an architecture program at the U of S, what that program would look like, its distinctive features and how it would fit into the current array of university programs.

He is also advocating for a formal advisory board involving all the stakeholders in an architecture program. “This is about the university but we shouldn’t come to any conclusions on our own. We have an obligation to work with industry and government to help come to some conclusion about whether there should be architecture education in this province.”

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Date, time and location
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Good night, sleep tight ...
Bedbugs proves to be disgusting and interesting

First, the good news: they can’t jump and they can’t fly. The bad news: they can climb and cling very well indeed, which is why hitchhiking bedbugs have shown up in some very unlikely places. Bedbugs have enjoyed resurgence around the world due to the phasing out of pesticides like DDT, and the bugs’ evolved resistance to chemicals like pyrethroids that have kept them in check, says James Armstrong, a U of S master’s student who is studying the pests. Consummate travellers, the bugs move around the world the same way as everyone else, via trains, planes and automobiles.

And while there is a social stigma that bedbugs are associated with poor hygiene or housekeeping, this is not the case, said Armstrong. “Cleanliness has nothing to do with it. Bedbugs don’t care if you have a clean house or a dirty house. That’s irrelevant to them. You can have a perfectly clean house and still have bedbugs.”

While he said it is a little early to call himself an expert, Armstrong knows more about bedbugs and their habits, than most about the tiny bloodsuckers. His graduate project, under the supervision of parasitologist Neil Chilton, is to sequence the mitochondrial DNA of the bedbug, batbug and swallowbug. This knowledge can be used to help determine where an infestation is coming from, or if it is coming from several sources.

Armstrong also sits as an advisor on a city task force on bedbugs, where he contributes his specialization of reproduction, habits, effective baits and attractants. While he finds the bugs fascinating, he admits to a certain caution while he tagged along with an exterminator friend recently to infested houses in Saskatoon and Swift Current to collect specimens. “I was very concerned when I started going to collect samples for my study, about bringing them (bedbugs) home, because I’d have to go into houses with infestations,” he said. Fortunately, thanks to special boots and gloves—and never kneeling down on the floor—the only bugs came back in bottles, safely euthanized in alcohol.

Armstrong explained that while bedbugs are not exactly friendly to humans, they’re even worse to each other. “They’re got a really interesting method of reproduction. It’s called traumatic insemination, and it’s exactly as horrific as it sounds,” he said. Basically, the male bedbug stabs the female in the chest to inseminate her sometimes killing her in the process. “It’s thought to have evolved due to female choosiness, so males evolved this antagonistic behavior. It’s disgusting, but interesting.”

While bedbugs may have received a bit more attention as of late, there’s no reason for alarm, said Andrea Smida, biosafety manager with the U of S Facilities Management Division (FMD). “We’ve always had them in the city, but they come out of the woodland from time to time,” she said. On campus, a bedbug that recently showed up on a chair in the Natural Sciences Library was the first case in about five years. One critter that showed up in the Murray Library turned out to be a batbug, a close relative of bedbugs that usually does not feed on humans.

Smida explained that any report of a bedbug is first assessed and a response, like bringing in a professional exterminator, is rolled out immediately to prevent the pests from getting established. It’s a lot of work to get rid of them, that’s the problem,” Smida said. “You have to make sure the area is prepped properly. If it isn’t, the treatment won’t be successful.”

Bedbugs can range from one mm in size for a nymph, or immature bug, to about five mm for adults. They love the dark and will crawl into cracks and crevices like the seams on mattresses or under box springs, so you may never see them. Look for fecal spots or blood spots—little black or red spots on bedding, especially near the seams. If you suspect bedbugs at home, a carbon dioxide trap can help confirm their presence. “A CO2 trap is the best attractant they’ve found, according to the research,” said James Armstrong, a master’s student who specializes in the pests. “Interceptor traps are also a great measure (and) they’re only about $20,” said. These traps are basically a bowl within a bowl, placed under all the bedposts. Bugs travelling to the bed will get caught in the outer bowl, while those leaving will show up in the inner bowl. Be sure to move the bed away from the wall slightly, and ensure the bedding does not touch the floor to give the bugs a climbing route. Because bedbugs can be hard to eradicate, it’s best to call in a professional exterminator.

For suspected bedbugs in residence, contact the U of S residence office. For all other areas on campus, contact the FMD main office at 966-4700. □

Beating the bugs

Michael Robin

Centre construction contract close

University officials are very close to awarding a contract for construction of the long-awaited Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre.

Greg Fowler, acting vice-president of finance and resources, said Feb. 22, that negotiations with the contractors who submitted bids on the original project tender late in 2012 have resulted in significant cost reductions, and “by early-mid-March, we should be able to move forward with a final contract.”

Four firms bid on construction of the 2,350 square metre building designed by Douglas Cardinal Architects. A new budget. Fowler said the bidders were invited to seek cost reductions in their original proposals, with particular attention paid to items like masonry, landscaping and furnishings. “Some were more enthusiastic than others,” he said, but in the end, details from the contractors that were submitted to the university Feb. 19 indicate the gap has narrowed considerably. Fowler said the university officials will now work with a limited number of firms to reach an acceptable price for the building.

The architect has been closely involved in the process to ensure the final product is true to his design, Fowler said, and “we’ve been very diligent about maintaining the space program and scope of the building. I’m very optimistic that we can still meet the target of opening the building in the fall of 2014.”

Michael Robin

Television teaching

Patrick Hayes, u of s archives

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Television teaching

Patrick Hayes, u of s archives

This image is from September 1987 and pictures Michael Hayden, professor of history, delivering a lecture. This was the first year the university offered televised courses in Saskatoon and discussions led by on-site tutors or proctors. Student comments and questions were conveyed by telephone and were heard by participants at all locations. The instructor’s responses were transmitted by television. For additional assistance, students could consult the instructor during office hours using toll-free telephone lines.

March 1, 2013

U of S Archives, A-10863.
A number of probing questions—about rumours, about budget adjustment initiatives and even about how students can help—were at the heart of a Feb. 26 town hall meeting held to provide an update on the institution’s financial situation.

The meeting began with Provost Brett Fairbairn and Greg Fowler, acting vice-president of finance and resources, restating the university’s projected $44.5-million deficit by 2016 and the goals of the budget cutting measures—a sustainable operating budget with the best people and programs possible in place, and resources focused on university priorities.

Fairbairn noted the four-year timeline for trimming the operating budget gives the U of S “the time to make the right decisions. We don’t want to end up in a repeat cycle of having to make cuts to our budget.”

Fowler reiterated the need for changes to the university’s workforce, its largest single expense. Some 30 administration and support positions have been eliminated since November, he said, in units that “were ready to proceed,” but every college and unit will do workforce planning before the end of April. Staff reductions to date will amount to about $2.4 million in budget savings by 2016.

Fairbairn also described the university’s program prioritization initiative—called TransformUS—that will see two task forces spend the year evaluating every program and service against a set of criteria. Final rankings will be submitted in a report to the president by Nov. 30. An implementation plan for change will follow that will see increased investment in some areas, no change, or the elimination or reduction of programs and services.

The goal of TransformUS, said Fairbairn, is to save the university $20-25 million annually with $5 million of that earmarked for reinvestment in high-priority programs. TransformUS, he added, will drive future workforce planning.

Totaling all of the efforts made so far, Fowler said about $5 million in savings have been realized, about 10 per cent of the reduction target.

Patti McGougle, vice-provost teaching and learning, then chaired a question period, toggling between online queries, written questions submitted at the meeting, questions from speakers on the floor and from Twitter. The first asked what or who caused “this state of affairs,” which Fairbairn described as a combination of lower projected provincial funding, compensation growth, deferred maintenance challenges and going concern pension payments.

Asked from the floor what University Advancement is contributing to increasing revenue, the provost acknowledged a conscious investment in expanding its fundraising function but compared to other institutions with well-established endowments and funding sources, “we’re coming late to much of that work.” Expect to see a major fundraising campaign in the next year or two, he said, but advancement work is “more of a long-term strategy.”

Barb Daigle, associate vice-president of human resources, took the microphone to address a question about compensa-tion workers to assist laid-off employees, largely “to protect them (employees) from their own emotional reaction,” which in some cases may be strong.

People generally do not want to react badly in front of co-workers or their boss, she said, so not allowing people to return to their workplace is common practice. “What appears to be harsh on the face of it is really rooted in the best interests of people.”

Daigle also addressed a question about compensa-tion for senior administra-tors, explaining the university takes the strategic approach of setting all pay relative to market salaries in similar positions. “We don’t increase compensation in good times and roll it back in bad times,” she said. Taking that strategic approach, she went on, aids the university in its recruitment efforts for senior positions.

A graduate student asked what more students could do to assist the university. Fairbairn expressed the need to continue to hear the student voice and encouraged them to submit questions, comments or sugges-tions, attend meetings and participate in opportunities to share their ideas about priorities.

The U of S wants to hear from “anyone who makes an investment in post-secondary education.”

He also responded to a question about tuition being used to shore up revenues, assuring the audience the U of S intends to stick to its practice of making tuition decisions based on comparability, access and affordability, and ensuring quality. “You’ll notice that the financial need of the university is not a criterion on the list.”

Fowler answered a question about possibly contracting out non-cost effective services by saying the board has directed that all costs be explored. He added, however, that the univer-sity remains bound by all collec-tive agreements and provincial labour legislation.
Setting up D Wing
Move in begins but researcher concerned about space shortage

By Colleen MacPherson

Through a wall of windows along the hallway, visitors to D Wing of the Health Sciences building can watch what it takes to set up a scientific laboratory—an extraordinary amount of lifting, piling, unpacking, sorting, and organizing. Here, there is no such thing as moving “day”, it is more like moving month.

With all of the building commissioning hurdles now cleared, the process of bringing together researchers into group labs has begun, and will continue until the summer of 2014, according to Curtis Larson, associate director of operations in the Council of Health Science Deans Office. It can be delicate work but mostly it is hard work that requires meticulous planning and scheduling, said Larson, and so far, things are going well.

Larson led a tour of the transitional cancer research lab that will eventually house five principal researchers and their staff. Visible through the windows are rows of research benches, still-crated equipment and piles of boxes. With windows on the exterior wall providing natural light, Larson said some have commented that the labs feel like fishbowls but the design is intentional.

“This building is about interprofessional, interdiscipli- nary teaching and research so students walking by are going to be able to watch that in action,” he said. Key to the move in process is a permanent crew of four from materials handling in the Facilities Management Division (FMD). Marty Schaaf heads that crew which moves up to 2,300 kg of equipment a day from labs all over campus. “We’re always sore at the end of the day,” he said. “It comes with the job.”

Schaaf works with Larson as well as with office and lab staff to co-ordinate what moves when. Much of the equipment is new and must be moved in shipping crates, the largest so far being a cell sorter that weighed in at 1,270 kg. Existing equipment may end up out of alignment due to being moved but Larson said nothing has been damaged.

Karen Mochoruk, the cancer lab’s head technologist, said there is a lot of excitement around the move. She expects it will be month before the lab is fully operational in Health Sciences and, until then, the current lab in the Saskatoon Cancer Centre is winding down but not shutting down. The goal is “a very smooth transition” from one space to another.

Grouping researchers in shared lab space is a new concept at the U of S, said Larson, “and we’re all going to have to make this work together. The culture will have to change immensely.”

One researcher who has concerns about moving into a shared lab in Health Sciences is Jeremy Lee, professor of biochemistry in the College of Medicine. “Basically I’ve been assigned a bench,” he said, as much as 50 per cent less space than he currently has in his lab, and that may actually slow down his research. The limited space will mean cleaning up and getting out new equipment every time the work changes rather than having room to conduct more than one experiment at a time. “In this new culture, that won’t really be possible.”

“And the idea of sharing equipment has problems of its own,” he continued. “It’s human nature—if you share equipment, you don’t look after it like you would your own, or clear up what you’ve just finished … and that is exacerbated by a lack of space.”

Lee, who does single molecule research into protein folding and misfolding, is scheduled to move into the molecular design lab in Health Sciences with five other principal investigators, and a sixth to come later. He estimates over 50 people will be using the same lab “and there’s no getting around the fact there’s much less space.”

He is also concerned that graduate students will not be located close enough to the research benches. Three of his students have been assigned space on the same floor as the new lab, but on the other side of the building. A fourth will be housed three floors up. “It’s an odd and inefficient design,” he said.

Typically, researchers and students have desk space very close to research benches so they can do other work while experiments are running. In the new lab, “you can’t multi-task because your desk is too far away, and that’s one of the most important lessons students have to learn.”

Even Lee’s own desk is further from the benches than he would like. “As it is now, if a student drops a flask or starts swearing, I’m right there. If you can rectify it quickly, you can probably go on with the experiment but if you don’t get there in time, it can ruin a whole day. Being on site is very important.”

Lee said he knows that others share his concerns and is hopeful the problems will be resolved “but the college (of medicine) keeps talking about expanding to accommodate more researchers and they’re already out of space. They need to start building a new building now if that’s their plan.”
### Week at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pipe Ceremony</td>
<td>Jigging and Fiddling Workshop</td>
<td>Significance of the Drum Workshop</td>
<td>Conversational Cree Workshop</td>
<td>Unpacking the Past, Engaging the Present, and Building Towards an Anti-Oppressive Future Conference</td>
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<td>LOCATION: Native Law Centre</td>
<td>LOCATION: Education Student Lounge</td>
<td>LOCATION: Education Student Lounge</td>
<td>LOCATION: Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber</td>
<td>LOCATION: Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hot Breakfast</td>
<td>Reconciliation Discussion with OTC</td>
<td>Native Spirituality 101 (and soup and bannock)</td>
<td>Dispelling the Myths Panel</td>
<td>LOCATION: Room 1004, Education Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>TIME: 9:30 am</td>
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<td>TIME: 12 pm</td>
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<td>LOCATION: Room 1004, Education Building</td>
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<td>LOCATION: Aboriginal Students’ Centre</td>
<td>LOCATION: Roy Romanow Student Council Chamber</td>
<td>LOCATION: Aboriginal Students’ Centre</td>
<td>LOCATION: Convocation Hall</td>
<td>Aboriginal Pre-Health/Health Science Role Model Session</td>
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<td>Aboriginal Women in Leadership Panel</td>
<td>Aboriginal Graduate Presentation and Lunch</td>
<td>USSU Speaker Series: Joseph Boyden</td>
<td>USSU Speakers Series</td>
<td>TIME: 11:30 am</td>
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<td>TIME: 10 am</td>
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<td>TIME: 1:30 pm</td>
<td>TIME: 6 pm</td>
<td>LOCATION: Lower MUMPS, Health Science</td>
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<td>LOCATION: Graduate Commons</td>
<td>LOCATION: Graduate Commons</td>
<td>LOCATION: Room 241, Arts Building</td>
<td>LOCATION: Dakota Dunes Casino</td>
<td>Aboriginal Symposium: Taking Stock</td>
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<td>Signing Ceremony with The Office of Treaty Commissioner</td>
<td>Flag Raising Ceremony</td>
<td>Significance of the Drum Workshop</td>
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<td>USSU Speakers Series: Joseph Boyden</td>
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<td>LOCATION: Convocation Hall</td>
<td>LOCATION: Room 241, Arts Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Love Stories for Mother Earth: Artistic Responses to Idle No More</td>
<td>Reconciliation Discussion with OTC</td>
<td>Reconciliation Discussion with OTC</td>
<td>Graduation poster competition</td>
<td>USSU Speakers Series</td>
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<td>Baking Bannock with Bob Badger</td>
<td>Pizza and a Chat with the College of Agriculture and Bioreources</td>
<td>Native Spirituality 101 (and soup and bannock)</td>
<td>USC Speaker Series</td>
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<td>LOCATION: Marquis Hall</td>
<td>LOCATION: Atrium, Agriculture Building</td>
<td>LOCATION: Room 1E80, Agriculture Building</td>
<td>Location: Graduate poster competition</td>
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<td>CHEP Food Bingo</td>
<td>Walking Together: Students Share Stories of their Educational Journeys</td>
<td>Walking Together: Students Share Stories of their Educational Journeys</td>
<td>Speech by President Busch-Vishniac</td>
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<td>LOCATION: Room 146, Arts Building</td>
<td>Round Dance</td>
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<td>Two-Spirited: Our Aboriginal Identities and Queer Identities</td>
<td>Two-Spirited: Our Aboriginal Identities and Queer Identities</td>
<td>Two-Spirited: Our Aboriginal Identities and Queer Identities</td>
<td>Graduate poster competition</td>
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<td>ISC Banquet</td>
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<td>LOCATION: Room 146, Arts Building</td>
<td>LOCATION: Dakota Dunes Casino</td>
<td>Location: Education Gym</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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**Everyone Welcome!**

For the most up-to-date event information, visit: aboriginal.usask.ca

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March 1, 2013
Around the Bowl

Richard Julien, Dept. of Religion and Culture, is the inaugural recipient of the Peter T. Millard Award established by the U of S Faculty Association to mark the 10th anniversary of Millard’s death and the 35th anniversary of the organization’s certification. The award recognizes Julien’s activism and involvement with the USFA.

SaskBusiness magazine has named Daphne Taras, dean of the Edwards School of Business, one of Saskatchewan’s 10 Women of Influence for 2013.

Ken Ladd, associate dean in the University Library, will serve as acting dean for a year starting May 22 while Vicki Williamson is on administrative leave.

The Professional Association of Internes and Residents (PAIRS) has awarded Dr. Michelle Persad, a resident in internal medicine, its Dr. Brad Ardell Spirit Award which celebrates excellence in team building, creativity, and compassion and empathy in clinical practice.

Through a pilot program with the College of Arts and Science, Xin Shen became one of the first international students to take a university class while completing his final English for Academic Preparation (UPREP2) class. Instructors and staff provided support to help him transition into full-time academic study.

We partner with colleges and units to provide
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• development and delivery of distance learning and off-campus degree and certificate programs,
• conference and event planning with online registration services, and
• professional development and training to campus staff, groups and units.

Indspire

On Feb. 14, the U of S welcomed about 165 Aboriginal high school students to campus. The students, from all over Canada including British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the Northwest Territories, were in Saskatoon for the Indspire Youth Awards. Along with about 40 chaperones, the students spent the day on campus and had the chance to tour the U of S, take part in interactive college sessions, dine at STM and hear from USSU President Jared Brown and U of S alumnus John Desjarlais.

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No.  Issue Date       Deadline Date
13  March 15, 2013    March 7, 2013
15  April 12, 2013    April 4, 2013
16  April 26, 2013    April 18, 2013
17  May 10, 2013      May 2, 2013
As more animals are calling Saskatchewan’s prairie fields home, one U of S researcher is paying special attention to two in particular: moose and wild boars.

“My research program is at the interface between wildlife and agriculture,” said Ryan Brook, assistant professor in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. “So when I came to the U of S three years ago, I looked at what major issues are facing producers and what issues have the potential to be major.”

At first, Brook looked at elk that came into cattle areas and the costs associated with them feeding as well as the transmission of diseases like chronic wasting disease. When he started thinking about long-term issues, Brook settled on wild boars and moose as two mammals posing potentially significant problems.

### Moose on the Move

Although most think of moose as a species specific to boreal forests, over the past 15 years the animals have been moving more and more into farmland, Brook said.

“They cause considerable crop and property damage. Farmers have reported seeing moose eating flax, canola and field peas. They love peas. But most importantly are the vehicle collisions.”

Since 2006, 10 people have been killed in Saskatchewan in highway collisions with moose. Saskatchewan Government Insurance estimates collisions with moose costs about $3.5 million in damage annually. By capturing moose in the province, outfitting them with satellite-based collars and then tracking them over a two-year period, Brook is hoping to determine why the moose crossed the road.

“The big questions are why have they moved into these new habitats and why and where do they cross roads. Are there highways that have a higher risk and is that related to too little shoulder cover, or the type of crops close by, or even road salts?”

### Boars Gone Wild

In the U.S., wild boars are responsible for billions of dollars in damage to agricultural crops, Brook explained. “They will eat anything. They are also rooters and will dig with their noses and this causes damage to native ecosystems. Not to mention they are aggressive and will harass livestock.”

Wild boars are a potential source of diseases, too, he continued. “The outbreak of E. coli in spinach in California a few years ago was tied to wild boars coming into the area and spreading E. coli. In Spain, they are a major reservoir of bovine tuberculosis.”

Wild boars are still a relatively small problem in Saskatchewan but their population numbers could explode very quickly, Brook said. “They could be a really significant problem in Saskatchewan. They are the most prolific reproducer of any large mammal in the world. Females on average have 12 offspring each year and can reproduce at six months of age. They have no natural predators in Canada that we are aware of (so) the survival rate is quite good. All of these factor contribute to the problem.”

Book has set up a series of trail cameras around Saskatchewan to gather information on where they are in the province, reproductive rates, habitat use and how the boars affect other animal populations. He is also surveying rural municipalities to get an idea of what they are seeing on the wild boar front. All of this, he continued, will contribute to a better provincial picture.

What Brook does know is that to curb the wild boar population, you have to be aggressive. “In California, they kill 60 per cent of the entire population every year just to keep it at the same level year to year.”

**Moose are netted by helicopter and then radio collared for tracking.**

**A wild boar captured by a trail camera**

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**Edith Rowles Simpson Lecture**

**proudly presents**

**Dr. Doug Powell**

Professor of Food Safety
Kansas State University
Canada Can Do Better: Avoid Food Safety Complacency and Demand Safe Food

**Date.** Monday, March 4, 2013  
**Time.** 7 pm  
**Place.** Neatby-Timlin Theatre  
Arts Building Room 241  
University of Saskatchewan campus  

The Edith Rowles Simpson Lecture Series was established in 1971 to honour Dr. Simpson for her outstanding service to the families of Saskatchewan through her work at the College of Home Economics and the University of Saskatchewan.

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This lecture is free and open to the public.
Scientists using X-rays at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) synchrotron have reconstructed the scenario of heart arrhythmia in action, an important step toward preventing the deadly condition and saving lives.

A CLS release said a 3D model was created using images from the CLS that revealed for the first time how gene mutations affect the pathway in heart muscle cells that control its rhythm. Arrhythmias are the heart beating too fast, too slow or inconsistently, causing the heart muscle to contract abnormally, which can lead to fainting or even death. The research, done by Filip Van Petegem, molecular biologist from the University of British Columbia, was published in the journal Nature Communications and presented at the recent 2013 annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

According to the published article, the heart runs on calcium and every heartbeat is preceded by calcium ions rushing into heart muscle cells. Then, a special protein opens the pathway for calcium to be released from compartments within those cells, and in turn, initiates the heart muscle contraction. Mutations to this protein have been linked to arrhythmia and sudden cardiac deaths in otherwise healthy people.

“We analyzed several disease mutant forms of a specific calcium channel that has been linked to cardiac arrhythmias,” said Van Petegem. “Thanks to the 3D reconstruction of these new mutant structures, it allows us to look at the detailed effects of each genetic disease mutation.” Van Petegem said that many heart diseases cause much larger structural changes than he originally anticipated, and that could finally anticipated, and that could directly explain their effect on heart muscle cells. Then, a special protein opens the pathway for calcium to be released from compartments within those cells, and in turn, initiates the heart muscle contraction. Mutations to this protein have been linked to arrhythmia and sudden cardiac deaths in otherwise healthy people.

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The Arts

Much Ado About Nothing

The Newman Players present Much Ado About Nothing. Shakespeare’s famous rom-com featuring a battle of the sexes, wild rumors, mistaken identities, dramatic twists, plot twists and happy endings on March 14, 15 and 16 and March 17 at 2pm in The O’Donnell Theatre, 576. Tikts $5 with student ID or visit www.picnictrust.ca or at the door. For more information call 966-8946.

Glee Club Concert

March 27-28 The Glee Club presents its spring show March 24 at 2 pm in the O’Donnell Theatre, 576. Tikts $5 and will be available at the door. For more information call 966-8946.

Status Quo Screening

There will be aStatus Quo screening and discussion of Status Quo: The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada on March 27 at 7:30 in the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery, 576. The documentary focuses on key concerns like violence against women, abortion, women’s rights and universal citizenship and how much progress has been made on these issues.

Traces

The new body of work by Donna Borak that uses images, interviews and artifacts collected from seniors home residents and neighborhood interviews. March 4 at the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery. The show continues until a closing reception March 15 from 7-9 pm.

A Sense of Place

On view on the first floor of the Murray Library until April 6. Saskatchewan’s Sense of Place which includes a wide variety of materials from the province’s early history, including immigration brochures, postcards, newspapers, local history books and event posters as well as some of the most famous Saskatchewan-themed literature.

Elkzer Ensemble Concert

The Elkzer Ensemble presents France March 14, 7:30 -9:30 pm in Conness Hall featuring works by Widor, Mouzrias and Chausson. Tickets are available at elzkersonline.com

Kenderdine Exhibition

Exhibition

Colin and Karen Kenderdine have provided the University of Saskatchewan with a major gift to mark the 50th anniversary of Kenderdine Farm. This gift, valued at more than $10 million, will be used to create a new educational facility for the College of Agriculture and to support a program of agricultural research.

Kenderdine Farm

Kenderdine’s vision was to create a model country farm based on the athletic spirit and the ideals of the co-operative movement. The farm was established in 1963, and the Kenderdine family worked diligently to maintain and grow it. The Kenderdine family was deeply committed to the agricultural education and research programs at the university.

World Water Day

The Global Water Institute for Water Security in partnership with the Canadian Water Resources Research Group presents World Water Day Water Day poster and poster event March 22 starting at 8:30 pm in Phibbs 175. The theme of the event is Water Issues at Home and Abroad.
March 1, 2013

World Water Day Lecture
- March 22, 4 pm, Convocation Hall, Howard Wheeler, director of the Global Institute for Water Security, presents Water Security in Western Canada Progress and Prospects, highlights of the institute’s first two years and plans for future research on a global scale.

Microbiology and Immunology
- March 3, 4-5 pm, Room 61 Health Science East, Galen H. Gall, presents An overview of enteric viruses: reassessing paradigms of the past.

Veterinary Microbiology Seminars
- 12:30-10 pm, Room 2065 WCV, Dr. W. C. Andrew Thompson, school of veterinary medicine, presents Mechanism of Adjuvancy of Polyphosphazenes.

Seminars
- March 1, 1-2 pm, Room 146 Kirk Hall, Howard R. Wonnacott, professor, presents Global environmental change in the Canadian Arctic.

March 25, 1:30-3 pm, Stephen Blank, environmental science, presents Immigration Policy: Provinces and States in Comparative Perspective.

March 22, 10:30 am-4:30 pm, for information or to register, go to usask.ca/acfas-sk

Breaking the Silence 2013
- The 16th annual Breaking the Silence Conference takes place March 22-24 and includes a presentation March 22 at 7 pm in the Broadway Theatre by Jon Cornish, Calgary Stampeders running back, entitled This is My Story. The conference continues March 23 at the Edwards School of Business with plenary sessions and workshops and concludes March 24 with a 10:30 am worship gathering at St. Andrews College Chapel. For program details, visit usask.ca/education/breaking-the-silence

Social Justice Conference
- St. Thomas More College presents Turning to the World, Social Justice and the Common Good since Vatican II (March 8-9). For a complete program and registration information, visit stmcollege.ca

ACFAS Colloquium
- The ACFAS will host The Innovation in the Heart of the Prairies at the U of S March 1 from 8:30-8:30 pm and March 2 from 8:30 am-4:30 pm. For information or to register, go to usask.ca/acfas-sk

Reformations on Reflection
- The College of Law is hosting a one-day conference entitled Revisions on Reform to hear perspectives from business, lab, our, government and the academy on proposed changes to Saskatchewan’s labour laws. The conference takes place March 2 in Room 105 of the College of Law. To register, visit law.usask.ca/reflections.php

Leadership Conference 2013
- Leadership Conference 2013: Leveraging Your Leadership Edge takes place May 8 and 9 at TCU Place in Saskatoon. Keynote speakers include Ken Blanchard, Jeremy Gutsche and Rick Mercer. For more information, go to www.leadershipconference.usask.ca

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University Library Dean’s Award for Excellence

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

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

The Criteria. All library employees holding continuing appointments are eligible for nomination.
- March 12, 12:00 pm, WCVM 2115, Dr. Jules Minke, head of Research Projects Biologics with Global Responsibility, Meriel, Lyons, France, presents the John Gunther Rutherford Memorial lecture entitled The use of the canarypox virus (AV-120) as technology platform for veterinary vaccines.
- March 19, 12:10 pm, WCVM 2104, Dr. Suzanne Millman, associate professor of animal welfare at Iowa State University, presents the DLT Smith Short-Term Visiting lecturer entitled Addressing painful procedures in livestock production – interface between science, policy and practice.

Philosophy in the Community
- March 17, 7 pm, The Refinery, 609 Dufferin Ave., the free lecture and discussion series features Brian Zamulinski presenting Moral Theory and Judicial Decision – interface between science, policy and practice.

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More stories, photos and comments online

nominate an individual or team for the university library’s award for excellence today!
Sneak peek

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

Science of glass

The work Rick Elvin does in the Department of Chemistry is part technical, part artistic and absolutely unique.

The scientific glassblower, the only such craftsman in the province, uses the heat from a mixture of burning natural gas and oxygen (or hydrogen and oxygen for the real intense heat needed for quartz glass) to bend, stretch, shape and join glass into an array of vessels and contraptions, just what professors and students need to keep research moving forward.

Trained on the job from a young age, Elvin joined the U of S in 1986. He works alone in his shop in the Thorvaldson Building crafting glassware not only for the university but for outside agencies like the Saskatchewan Research Council as well. The key to what he does, he said, is hand-eye co-ordination “because everything’s done free hand.”

His most complicated project was an oil diffusion pump that took almost four weeks for him to make, and a piece of his glassware has even been into space, part of a NASA experiment.

While we all know that nothing lasts forever, Elvin understands better than anyone what can happen in an instant of inattention. “I’ve had stuff go out of here and come back broken 10 minutes later. You know it’s going to happen. It’s inevitable—it’s glass.”

Take a video tour of Rick Elvin’s glassblowing shop, and watch him create a glass balloon in the March 7 e-newletter On Campus Now.