Hotel development announced
College Quarter site of dual-brand project

Construction is expected to begin in the middle of 2014 on a 203-room hotel project in the University of Saskatchewan’s College Quarter.

University officials have signed an agreement for a long-term land lease with Saskatoon-based P.R. Hotels Ltd. for a dual-brand hotel development just east of the Stadium Parkade on College Drive. The complex will combine a Holiday Inn Express and a Staybridge Suites in one building to offer accommodation to user groups associated with the university—visiting lecturers and scientists, meeting attendees, parents, athletes—as well as to the general public.

Other potential users include federal facilities located on campus, Innovation Place tenants and Royal University Hospital.

“This is very exciting,” said Judy Yungwirth, director of corporate administration. “This allows the university to realize the first part of its vision for services in College Quarter and that’s made this project a lot of fun to work on.”

The 10-storey dual-wing building will occupy the northeast quadrant of College Quarter. The Holiday Inn Express wing will feature mid-to upper-scale rooms while the Staybridge Suites wing will offer lodging with kitchen facilities in each suite for long-stay guests although the suites can be rented by the night.

Under the terms of the agreement, P.R. Hotels Ltd. will take responsibility for all of the capital and operating costs of the project in return for the lease on the land. Yungwirth stressed no university resources will be used in the development “but we will benefit financially through the lease agreement and by filling the need for accommodation of this type on our campus.”

She declined to discuss the details of the land lease agreement citing confidentiality around business contracts.

The funds from the lease agreement will be reinvested in the next phase of the College Quarter northeast precinct, which includes plans for a new rink. “Those funds allow the university to leverage the value

See Hotel, Page 2

GO GREEN
Whether they’re cheering on the U of S Huskies or the Saskatchewan Roughriders, everyone in the College of Dentistry likes to show their team spirit and team colours. The college declares Casual Green and White Day on Fridays before big games and in October, gathered on the front step for a team photo.
Hotel will serve wide range of patrons

Yungwirth

Owned by Lawrence and Patricia Rychjohn, P.R. Hotels Limited owns and operates six other hotels including the Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites and the Holiday Inn Hotel in Saskatoon as well as other hotel properties in Kelowna and Arizona.

While there will be no restaurant in the hotel, its amenities will include breakfast facilities for each brand along with free internet, a swimming pool and waterslide, and fitness and business centres. Four meeting rooms, some on the top floor with panoramic views of campus and the city, will be available for rent by guests, members of the campus community and the public.

Yungwirth said P.R. Hotels Ltd. was chosen from a number of firms that submitted proposals to build a hotel based on the financial terms, and “the company’s good understanding of what the university was looking for and who will be staying there. They also really understood our vision for College Quarter, and the fact we consider the hotel key to setting the tone for developing the northeast precinct of College Quarter because it will attract both campus and community users, one of our goals for College Quarter.”

Completion of the hotel is expected by the spring of 2016.

Supporting Students

Gay and Ralph Young chat with Terrie Fitzpatrick, centre, manager of Student Counselling Services, on a recent visit to campus where they made a $135,000 donation in support of student mental health. Ralph Young is chancellor of the University of Alberta and an engineering graduate of the U of S whose family includes members affected by mental health issues. He said his recent involvement at the U of A was a reminder of what students face on campuses and spurred the Youngs to establish Grace’s Fund in Support of Student Mental Health at the U of S. Read more about the donors and their contribution at give.usask.ca

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**Regenerative Medicine:**

*New Approaches to Healthcare...from the lab bench to functioning human tissues*

If you missed Dr. Atala’s lecture on Regenerative Medicine, watch it online. Find out the latest in the world of organ transplants.

**Watch it online at ccde.usask.ca/whelen**
Challenge Perceptions, the 2013 report of U of S President Ilene Busch-Vishniac, takes some of the opinions people have about both Saskatchewan and the university and turns them on their heads.

“Despite the great things we’re doing at the U of S, people still have some false perceptions about the city, the province and the university itself,” said Busch-Vishniac about the report which is available in print or online. “We want to share some of the amazing stories about our people and the work they’ve done over the past year. This report is a fresh, fun new way to do that.”

In addition to addressing perceptions about the U of S and the province like “It’s so cold” and “Nothing exciting happens”, the report also contains simplified facts and figures about the university including a breakdown of revenue sources and details about the makeup of the student body.

“Challenge Perceptions really targets people who don’t know a lot about the U of S,” said Busch-Vishniac. “However, it’s also an important report for people who live in Saskatchewan and the university, and even our own faculty, staff and students. Sometimes we need to be reminded of the things that make us different, and the things that make us great. It is important to remember that we are already succeeding in so many ways and to celebrate what we’re doing well.”

The 2013 president’s report is the first of its kind at the U of S. The annual financial report is still being published, but the president’s report serves a different purpose, said Ivan Muzychka, associate vice-president of communications.

“The report is meant to engage a really wide range of readers, including business leaders, alumni and donors and other university administrators as well as government leaders in and outside of Saskatchewan,” he said. “We wanted to create a publication that stood out, one that really engaged with the reader and helped them understand the U of S and, to some extent, the province. Too many institutional annual reports are vanilla in their approach and heavy on information that a broader audience does not appreciate. We wanted our readers to see and understand things about the U of S differently. If they had a chuckle or a smile along the way, then we think that will help them understand what we are like as an institution.”

Muzychka said his office has received hundreds of emails in response to the report, most of them positive but some negative. “Many readers have noted and praised the creative and edgy style of the report. Some people don’t like it and that’s understandable given that it was a somewhat risky and innovative approach.”

A print version of Challenge Perceptions is available from the university and turns them on their heads.

The 2013 President’s Report challenges ideas about the U of S and Saskatchewan.
Initiatives funded

A total of $70,000 has been awarded to U of S faculty and students who are finding innovative ways of expanding community-engaged research, teaching and learning.

The funding, announced Oct. 23, was awarded in five categories of initiatives taking place across the province. According to Heather Magotiaux, vice-president of advancement and community engagement, the funds “support innovative activities that offer the potential to change and improve lives through community-university partnerships—an important objective for this university.”

Below are the recipients and their projects.

- **Community Engaged Scholarship Research Seed Funding** ($5,000 each)
  - Christy Morrisey, Connecting migratory birds with the community
  - Lalita Bharadwaj, Our nation, our water
  - Scott Butcher, High-intensity functional interval training in older adults
  - Janet McConnell, Exploring the effect of peer mentoring for children and youth with disabilities
  - Megan O’Connell, Development and evaluation of a telehealth facilitated support group for caregivers of individuals diagnosed with atypical dystonias

- **Support for Community Engaged Experiential Learning** ($3,000 each)
  - Ken Coates, Policy issues in a northern community—community-engaged learning in La Ronge
  - MJ Barrett, Transdisciplinary advancement of the partnership with Redberry Lake Biosphere Reserve
  - Hope Billinski, Engaging rural communities in advancing interprofessional education of health science students
  - Bill Waiser and Jim Miller, Okanagan experiential research/learning

- **K-12 School Outreach Initiatives**
  - Michelle Delorme, PLSNP K-12 school outreach initiatives project ($3,500)
  - Lana Elias, PotashCorp Kamiskineow science and mathematics outreach program ($1,500)
  - Jordan Woodworth, Develop and teach a new clinical program to senior veterinary students within the Veterinary Medical Centre (VMC) ($3,000)

- **Engagement Communications** ($6,000)
  - Maureen Reed, Design and deliver a video production to illustrate SENS’s experiential and community-engaged teaching and research

- **Engaged Scholar Mobilization Graduate Student Catalyst Award** ($3,000 each)
  - Lorna Butler and Maxine Watt, Linking learners with leaders for life where they live (L4)
  - Sandra Basendowski and Shauna Davies, iNurse, iTeach: using mobile applications in client education
  - Rachel Engler-Stringer and Scott Mantyla, Community food assessments
  - Robin Hansen and Penelope Sanz, Human rights impact assessments of mining investments: questions of methodology in Indigenous community participation

What makes a great university? First and foremost, a great university needs a faculty who are at the forefront of their professions, who are capable of developing new developments within their areas of research, and who can then bring the new knowledge to their students. In 1979, the University of Saskatchewan provided a case study in how a great university should perform.

The Learned Societies of Canada met in the Spring of 1979 at the University of Saskatchewan. To celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the university a special convocation was held during the meeting and four honorary degrees were awarded to outstanding scholars in the fields of ancient history, literature, the arts, and the social sciences. Professor A. K. Sen, a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, was nominated for his contributions to economics and in the general area of the social sciences. This was an inspired nomination. Professor Sen did receive his honorary degree, as presented by Professor Spafford, (now professor emeritus of political studies) who himself was well acquainted with choice theory, was on sabbatical in Great Britain. I gave Professor Spafford a phone call, and he graciously accepted the task of contacting Professor Sen and of personally delivering the letter.

Professor Spafford was successful. He reported back that he had had a most convivial time with Professor Sen and predicted that the visit would be a great success. In due time, Professor Sen did receive his honorary degree, as presented by Professor Jack Stabler, Head of the Department of Economics and Political Science. Professor Sen gave his address in Convocation Hall on “Scholarship in the Modern World: Fact, Fiction, and Description.” He also attended several lunches and dinners, including a reception by the host Department held at the Faculty Club and featuring the “Bluegrass Sound of Devil’s Dream.” In sum, Professor Sen was well feted, and just as Professor Spafford had predicted, he was a most gracious and convivial guest. In his letter to me after his visit, he thanked us for our “superb hospitality” and particularly for the “Faculty Club card with that magic number.”

Why was the nomination of Professor Sen inspired? Since our honorary degree in 1979, his first and always so listed, Professor Sen has received 47 honorary degrees from around the world. His degrees are from Bologna, Louvain, Athens, Calcutta, Queen’s, Zurich, Edinburgh, Oxford, Stockholm, Columbia, McGill, Delhi, Hong Kong, Dhaka, and many others. The following are only a few of the awards he has received since 1979: the highest honour awarded by the President of India, the Legion of Honour, the Eisenhower Medal, and the Nobel Prize in Economics.

The University of Saskatchewan acted just like a great university should in honoring Professor Sen. We did well.

J.M. Porter
Professor emeritus
Department of Political Studies
The questions I’m interested in are long term like, how are wild populations of prairie dogs, respond to climate change. Department of Biology, specializing in how mammals, specifically squirrels perform better and hopefully carry that with them.

“I want to get them interested and excited about biology,” he said. “That’s whom it’s a required subject or a personal interest.”

Jeff grew up in Calgary and developed a love of the outdoors in the Rocky Mountains. He completed his bachelor’s degree in ecology and zoology at the University of Calgary, then went to the University of Regina for his master’s degree in biology. He did his doctorate at the University of Alberta as well as three post-doctoral stints outside of Canada.

“I’m a western Canadian boy born and bred,” he said. “I’m a field ecologist, and the U of S has a strong ecology program – a diverse and very active program, which was exciting for me.”

Lane’s studies red squirrels in the Yukon that survive the long winters by hibernating. He is also about to begin a project studying prairie dogs in Grasslands National Park.

“I want to get them interested and excited about biology,” he said. “That’s something that should translate across those three groups. If you can engage them and get them excited about what they’re learning, they’re going to perform better and hopefully carry that with them.”

They excelled on the basketball court as Huskies and now, four former players are making their mark in the world of three-on-three ball.

“Trevor Nerdahl, Michael Lieffers, Michael Linklater and Trevor Nerdahl, all members of the Huskies basketball team that won the 2019 CIS championship, teamed up this summer to compete in the FIBA 3x3 World Tour.

“We played a tournament in Edmonton and qualified to play in Puerto Rico this past August,” explained Nerdahl, who is now the transfer credit articulation co-ordinator in the College of Arts and Science. In Puerto Rico, Team Saskatoon placed second, winning five of its six games with the only loss coming in the finals at the hands of a team from New York, and taking home a $5,000 prize. That earned them a place in the world championship Oct. 4-5 in Istanbul, Turkey, where they finished sixth overall.

“We’ve all played together for so long that we fit together well and have good chemistry,” Nerdahl said, adding that the style of play required of the FIBA 3x3 game matches their style well. “It is a half-court game that’s 10 minutes long and it is super fast. That suited us really well.”

At the world championships, Team Saskatoon faced competition from 11 other teams—the top two teams from regional qualifying tournaments held in Puerto Rico, Tokyo, Prague, Lausanne and Rio de Janeiro as well as two wildcard teams.

In preparation, Nerdahl and his teammates played three or four times a week and really worked on conditioning. “We are doing lots of running and sprints. The games are fast and are all played over a few hours, so conditioning is really important. The one game we lost (in Puerto Rico) was because we weren’t in good enough shape (by the end of the tournament).”

Three on three, Nerdahl continued, is a style of basketball that FIBA—the International Basketball Federation—has started aggressively promoting worldwide in the hope of having it added to the Olympics.

The tournament format was introduced later in Canada than in other countries Team Saskatoon faced in Turkey. “Some European teams we’ve seen look really tough, but they’ve been playing this style of ball every weekend for awhile now” said Nerdahl, adding that a chance to play in Turkey with friends is more than he could have imagined.

“It all happened so fast that I still can’t really believe it. After the Huskies, I thought most of my competitive basketball days were over. Being able to play at a high level with my best friends and getting to travel around the world and represent Canada and Saskatoon is pretty special.”

In 2013, the government of Saskatchewan invested a record $117 million in student supports. Post-secondary education. Investing in our future. www.ae.gov.sk.ca
The autumn convocation this year marked the graduation of the first students from the University of Saskatchewan’s fledgling Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in writing program.

“I’m incredibly proud of our inaugural graduating students in the MFA in writing,” says the program’s director, Jeanette Lynes. “They’ve lived through the bumps of a new program establishing itself. I think of them as the Trailblazing Four. They’ve set the tone for this fledgling program—it’s energized, engaged and diverse.”

The four grads are indeed a diverse lot. Cape Bretoner Adam Hawboldt is a working journalist who moved to Saskatoon to earn his MFA.

“I was told to get a creative writing degree—and to work on my writing—by the editorial team at the House of Anansi when they rejected my work,” he says. While thinking about his thesis, Hawboldt watched a Norwegian documentary about love addiction, and was struck by the illness’s perfect narrative arc. The result was Solju. The novel, set in Seoul, Korea, where he has spent time, is a tale told from the points of view of 30-year-old Katie and her parents Harold and Donna. Estrangement, addiction, death and the custody of a four-year-old nace and granddaughter are part of this story. Her mentor was Regina novelist and short story writer Sandra Birdsell.

Hawboldt is a working journalist who moved to Saskatoon to earn his MFA. “He understood what I wanted to do and helped me get there,” Hawboldt is at work on a new novel.

Lorelie Gerwing Sarauer, a writer and artist living in Saskatoon, is attracted to narrative, which she expresses through drawings and paintings as well as writing. She previously earned an MFA in Visual Arts from Concordia University. Her U of S thesis is a novel titled The Van Der Werden, a tale told from the points of view of 30-year-old Katie and her parents Harold and Donna. Estrangement, addiction, death and the custody of a four-year-old nace and granddaughter are part of this story. Her mentor was Regina novelist and short story writer Sandra Birdsell.

Sarauer plans to spend her time doing more visual art associated with narrative. “It’s a relief to be done, but I feel some disappointment too,” she says. “There’s so much more to learn.”

Andréa Ledding of Saskatoon came into the MFA program to further her poetry writing. For her poetry/prose collection titled Flint, a complex interweaving in English, Norse and Beothuk, the language of the now-extinct Aboriginal people of Newfoundland, her mentor was Eastend poet and fiction writer Seán Virgo. Virgo’s “wise and benevolent support, mostly virtual as we were in different parts of the province, was absolutely treasured and invaluable,” Ledding says. “What a wonderful person to have at your back! He and I were both busy and our time was at a premium, and we worked efficiently but productively together across that distance.”

Ledding, who was shortlisted for the Lieutenant Governor’s Award for Emerging Artist, is also a playwright. Her first play, Dominion, opened Toronto’s 2012 Wesaagechak Festival, and was the first work staged at the new Aki Studio Theatre, a core component of that city’s Native Earth Performing Arts organization.

The fourth graduate, Leanne Bellamy, is currently enrolled in education classes at the U of S, and teaches English 110 at Horizon College and Seminary in Saskatoon.

“I had two related reasons for earning my MFA in writing,” Bellamy explains. “To understand literary criticism, you should write literature. And number two, I always wanted to write.”

Bellamy originally thought her thesis would be a fantasy novel, instead, she wrote a collection of poems titled Everything is an Argument, examining community, spirit, nature and poetics through the lens of her deeply held Christian beliefs and under the mentorship of Saskatoon-based poet Barbara Klar.

“I love and like Barbara,” she says. “She’s nice. Grumpy. But so am I. And she was good at pointing out what was working, which gave me confidence, and what wasn’t and why.”

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Now that she’s completed her degree, Bellamy plans to carry on writing poetry and a novel but admits “I think of myself as a beginning writer.”

The MFA program is one of Canada’s newest creative writing programs, and was shepherded into being in 2011 by, among others, Professor Emeritus Robert Calder.

“We were adamant about consulting the writing community about what the degree should look like,” Calder says. “The consensus was that we should create a degree program that was ‘uniquely Saskatchewan.’ Part of that uniqueness was incorporating a mentorship component to solidify the bonds between the university and the province’s community of writers.

“One thing was certain,” says Calder, himself a Governor General’s Award-winning writer. “It should be an MFA, not an MA; that is, it should focus entirely on creative writing skills with no requirement to take literature courses. As well, we wanted students to have the opportunity to specialize in non-fiction as well as the usual poetry, fiction, and drama.”

According to the Peter Stoicheff, dean of the College of Arts and Science, current successes can also be measured by the quality of the inaugural applicants, as well as by the quality of the director, awards granted to students from outside the typical recognition field, and the international presence in the third cohort (students from England, Finland and Australia as well as Canada).

The yardstick for the future is considerably longer. Stoicheff says: “The writing community seeing [the MFA program] as a good and successful thing and wanting to be a part of it. Our writers going on to write and garner attention for their work. That will be success.”

A team of U of S researchers is developing a new window into a deadly disease that could ultimately help not only men, but also man’s best friend.

“We are looking at prostate cancer in dogs as a model for human disease,” said Murray Pettitt, a researcher with the Department of Animal and Poultry Science in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. “Dogs are the only other large mammals that have a significant incidence rate of spontaneous prostate cancer.”

The U of S Prostate Research Team is working at the Canadian Light Source (CLS) to make the process of diagnosing prostate cancer more accurate and less invasive. The nine-member team draws expertise from the Colleges of Medicine, Veterinary Medicine and Agriculture and Bioresources, as well as the Saskatchewan Cancer Centre and the Saskatoon Health Region.

Physicians have several tools at their disposal for diagnosing prostate cancer, including blood tests and imaging technologies, but to get a definitive diagnosis, doctors must collect a biopsy. The team hopes to push to new limits. “You don’t just go to the CLS and do research,” said Dr. Liz Snead, a small animal internal medicine specialist at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). “I honestly feel like McGyver every time we go there because you have to work it all out yourself. While the CLS is extremely supportive in getting you on the beamline and providing the basic set up for the type of imaging you want to do, these experiments by their nature are breaking new ground. That means you have to tailor the setup precisely to get your image.”

This means a lot of trial and error – from figuring out how to set up a prostate in a jar to image it to manufacturing a cradle to hold a dog in the beam for a non-invasive scan. Pettitt said the learning curve has been steep but a technique called phase contrast CT imaging provided the image quality they wanted. “It was Christmas that day, let me tell you,” Pettitt said. Snead agreed. “I think we’ve all been blown away at what we’re getting from the phase contrast imaging,” she said. “When we first saw the image, our eyes just went really wide. We were all like, ‘wow!’ – it was really impressive.”

The phase contrast images show so much detail the team compares it to viewing tissue on a microscope slide. “You can see individual glands and the ducts where the glands feed into the urethra,” said Dr. James Montgomery, a medical imaging specialist with the WCVM. “There’s still stuff we need to work out to go from looking at a prostate out of a body to looking at it in a live animal or person, but that’s where we’re headed.”

The ultimate goal, Pettitt said, is creating a detailed 3D image of a patient’s prostate right on a clinician’s computer screen, an image that could be manipulated on screen and peeled away layer by layer to examine the gland in detail.

The team has made important first steps, thanks to their unique collaboration and close access to the CLS. Funding support from Canada’s Motorcycle Ride for Dad, the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, and the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation plus three U of S colleges has also been essential. While much of the attention has focused on prostate cancer in humans, the research will also benefit dogs. Snead explained that dogs cannot tell their owners early if they’re feeling bad “down there.” Consequently, by the time the cancer is diagnosed, the veterinarian usually has one option: palliative care. An imaging tool could give vets a chance to catch it in time to treat it.

“Dogs are the only other large mammals that have a significant incidence rate of spontaneous prostate cancer.”

Dr. Liz Snead of the U of S Prostate Research Team.
students are sure to have a memorable, challenging and immensely rewarding experience, said Sheppard. In order to apply, students must be full-time and in their second year with no less than an 80 per cent average. The deadline to apply is Nov. 20.

This agreement came about when Dan Seneker, manager of undergraduate recruitment in Student and Enrolment Services Division, participated in a Canadian recruitment tour in England in October 2011.

There, Seneker met Anne Mullen, a senior tutor at St Anne’s College, who told him about the college’s interest in having a Canadian partner. “When the group of recruiters I was with visited St Anne’s, a college representative said to us that they would like to have a Canadian partner; they weren’t actively searching for one, but were open to the idea,” said Seneker. “I took that as an invitation and followed up—we were the only university on the tour to do so.”

According to Sheppard, top-tier universities like Oxford are inundated with partnership requests, so unless an institution has something unique to offer, they typically are not interested. The University of Saskatchewan’s selling point, said Sheppard, was the fact that it is a Canadian institution and has an extensive offering of Aboriginal programming and services, a unique feature of interest to Oxford.

St Anne’s College was founded in 1879. It admits candidates, regardless of background, who display the highest academic potential and imagination along with enthusiasm for their subject. The college is just north of Oxford city centre—five minutes by bicycle—and close to the University Parks and Science Areas.

“This is an exciting chance for St Anne’s to welcome students from a diverse range of internationally renowned universities,” said Alexander Binns, director of studies for visiting students at St Anne’s College. “The tutorial experience, for which Oxford is famous, will be the centrepiece of study for students from U of S during their time as visiting students.”

Binns said the hope is that one day, this will be a true exchange agreement and the University of Saskatchewan will accept students from St Anne’s College for one year as well.

McGill University has announced the number of new staff: • Jaclyn McLean has joined the library as collection services librarian. She is former deputy director of the John M. Cuelenaere Public Library in Prince Albert.

• Carla Polischuk, formerly with Advance- ment and Community Engagement, has been named assessment analyst.

• Shawn Ghaznavi, whose previous experience is in the health-care industry in Ontario and the United Arab Emirates, has taken on the position of financial analyst.

• David Francis has been appointed as instructional designer. His work experience includes being responsible for SAST’s online course development and delivery. The Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic has announced two appointments:

• Dr. Colum Smith as acting dean, College of Medicine, until June 2014.

• Dr. Garnet Packota to the position of acting associate dean, College of Dentistry, until June 30, 2014.
Former president’s career chronicled

MICHAEL ROBIN

Walter Palmer (W.P.) Thompson’s contributions to science, the University of Saskatchewan and the people of Canada might have slipped from the public eye if not for the efforts of Richard Rempel, for whom the story of the university’s third president is a personal affair.

“My father (Jake) was a pupil and then a younger colleague and he believed Dr. Thompson was the finest man he ever knew,” Rempel said. “And of all the qualities of greatness, Thompson’s total integrity is what stood out.”

Rempel, professor emeritus of history at McMaster University, has just published Research and Reform: W.P. Thompson at the University of Saskatchewan, a biography that chronicles Thompson’s career at the University of Saskatchewan from 1917 to 1959.

“The first step in working on the book was doing the research,” Rempel explained. “This meant I often sent them to the archives of the University of Saskatchewan. Thompson had many job offers while he was at the University of Saskatchewan, and he chose to retire from the U of S and chose to retire in Saskatchewan.”

Rempel also conducted extensive interviews with Thompson’s surviving family, uncovering along the way a trove of correspondence that proved invaluable both as source material and an addition to the archives. He explained that while Thompson had many job offers from universities like Stanford in the U.S., he remained devoted to the U of S and chose to retire in Saskatchewan.

Thompson is credited with establishing outreach with school principals to help rural students transition to university. Rempel said, and was chairman for women’s education, both for his graduate students and his staff. He had also little use for the IQ tests in vogue at the time.

“Dr. Thompson said, really, in terms of predictive accuracy, you’re much better off looking at the Grade 12 grades,” Rempel said. A passionate advocate for science and education throughout his 35-year career, Thompson retired in 1959 after serving 10 years as U of S president. Rempel’s biography, Research and Reform: W.P. Thompson at the University of Saskatchewan, is available at the University Bookstore.

Looking into blood

Pharmacology PhD student Yang Su peers through an advanced microscope in a lab at the College of Medicine, trying to understand how white blood cells migrate from the bloodstream to sites of injury or infection.

“When the tissue gets injured or infected, white blood cells or leukocytes will move out of the blood vessel and migrate towards the damaged tissue to clear the enemy or those dead cells,” she explained. “During this process, leukocytes need to first attach to the cells that constitute the inner layer of small blood vessels, and then squeeze through the gap between those cells.”

When the process works as it should, the infection is cleared and the injured tissue begins the process of healing. When it goes awry, such as in a stroke, heart attack, or a full-body infection, the white blood cells can attack the body’s own tissue, causing more damage.

Su, part of a research team led by Associate Professor of Pharmacology Lixin Liu, came from the Beijing Institute of Pharmacology, a PhD student in pharmacology.}

Financial Services Division | PSD

Email Notification for POs

PSD has developed an automated email procedure to notify employees when a purchase order (PO) has been created. Following submission of a purchase requisition to Purchasing Services, a PO will be completed. Once the PO is completed, those submitting purchase requisitions will receive an email with the PO number, supplier name, their purchase requisition number for reference and reminder information about receiving goods and services procedures.

What do Payroll and Payment Services do?

Payroll - Every month, these employees ensure that about 7,700 salaried and 1,500 hourly-paid employees are paid correctly and on time. This work includes withholding payments for income taxes, Canada Pension Plan, employment insurance and employee-elected charitable donations. (Access to charitable going through payroll deduction is available in FWS in the Employee area under My Employment. You can choose from a number of different charities and can choose to have your donations automatically reported to your selected charities.) Payroll employees also need to understand five major unions on campus. As well, they handle payroll requirements for some affiliated organizations, including the Canadian Light Source and the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union. They also make fee-for-service and honorarium payments, and pay individuals providing contracted services.

Payment Services - Most of the work of Payment Services involves paying suppliers for goods and services and reimbursing staff. To pay suppliers, Payment Services processes invoices linked to purchase orders. Invoices may be processed for goods and services purchased, for honorarium payments, and pay individuals providing contracted services.

Upcoming Training

Register at training.usask.ca.

UniFi Journal Voucher

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. November 19, 2013
RM 281, John Mitchell Building

UniFi FAST Finance Reporting

1:30 PM - 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, November 26, 2013
RM 281, John Mitchell Building

UniFi Journal Voucher

1:30 - 3:30 p.m. November 19, 2013
RM 281, John Mitchell Building

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Research shapes student’s plans

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Technology and is supported by the U of S-China Doctoral Scholar Partnership program. While she is happy to be studying and conducting research at the U of S, she admits it has been a challenge.

“In the first year of my PhD study, I took a course called Graduate Pharmacology. At that time my English wasn’t good enough, and this course requires two midterm exams, one final exam, one oral exam and one presentation. It was a huge challenge for me as I needed to do lots of lab work at the same time,” she said.

Her perseverance, supported by colleagues who had taken the course before. She was also helped along by her professors, who encouraged her to refine her presentation “sentence by sentence,” and devoted their own time to give students a full afternoon tutorial.

“After more than six months of hard work, I got a high score in this course,” Su said. “I really appreciated the help from the professors in our department. They are always kind and helpful if I ask them for help, even if they are not my supervisor.”

Now in the research phase of her PhD, Su is looking specifically at the process by which white blood cells are alerted that there is an infection or injury. Using a technique called intravital microscopy, she and her colleagues watch how the leukocytes move, helping them determine how the process works.

“We can see the movement of leukocytes, first moving out of the blood vessel and then towards the inflamed tissue. By analyzing the path and the movement pattern of leukocytes, we can infer the mechanisms behind this phenomenon,” she explained.

Understanding how leukocytes work could inform future studies aimed at finding ways to allow the cells to do their job of protecting the body while suppressing their destructive behavior.

While Su is focused on completing her doctorate, her love of research is shaping her plans for the future, perhaps as a research scientist at a university, for a commercial company or in a government lab. Like most people, she hopes to contribute something meaningful, but is modest in her expectations.

“I hoped to have impact on my world but not the world. I just hope that someday my family and the people I care about can be proud of my work, and if I can earn the respect from others who work in the same field, that would be the best.”

Seed barn relocated

It took several days of preparation but less than 60 minutes of actual moving time to relocate the university’s historic seed barn from south of College Drive to its new location on East Road.

The 80-plus ton building was moved in the wee hours of the morning of Oct. 30 to make room for future development in the northeast precinct of College Quarter. Ron Cruikshank, director of planning and development with the Facilities Management Division, said the structure will eventually rest on a grade-level foundation in its new location and will be used for cold storage of grounds maintenance equipment.

The move itself was done at a cost of $35,000. Cruikshank said the budget for the entire project is $180,000, which includes the move and clean up of the former barn site. The condition of the barn, which was built in 1915, will now be assessed and plans are in the works to restore its exterior.

And it turns out the seed barn is one of the most well-travelled buildings on campus. Cruikshank said research on the structure revealed it was originally located on the southeast side of the intersection of College and Campus Drives, near the Saskatoon Field House.

Archival photographs show it sitting on a concrete foundation there but at some point, it was moved onto a wood foundation on the southwest side of the intersection.

The barn was built by the federal government and became the property of the university in the 1950s, he said.

The seed barn in its new location on East Road. Inset photo is of the middle-of-the-night move as the building is turned off Preston Ave. and onto East Road.
Room with a View

This year’s back-page feature explores the view of campus from various office windows, and the people who enjoy them. Do you have an interesting view? Let us know at ocn@usask.ca

Room with a View

Window on the world

Donald Bear truly has a window on the world.

The clerical assistant in the Advancement and Community Engagement (ACE) outreach office at Station 20 West sees the morning sun illuminate the domes of St. George’s Cathedral, watches children gather to catch the school bus in the morning and get dropped back off in the afternoon, and is witness to how the university builds connections, all from his second-storey window.

"I see (university) students head out onto the street to do community surveys," said Bear, "and I see people carrying their groceries home from the Good Food Junction on the main floor. It’s rewarding to see the impacts collaboration is having on individual people.”

Station 20 West is a community enterprise centre set up to serve the residents of Saskatoon’s inner city neighbourhoods with food and food security programming, health services, and business and housing development. The university office focuses on community-based research, teaching and learning.

Bear said the window brings sounds as well as sights into this office. He hears the CHEP van delivering fresh food for the good food box program, a reminder of his not-so-long-ago days as a student volunteering with CHEP to deliver food boxes. "It’s a positive memory for me of the little ways one small act can have towards making a difference.”

He also hears neighbourhood kids playing. "It’s nice to open the window and hear that. I don’t think many people on campus get to hear children playing.”