After 16 months of data collection, analysis and consultation, the U of S has a report detailing how best to reach its enrolment targets and according to the project leader, “the hard work is just beginning.”

David Hannah, associate vice-president of student affairs, presented highlights of the Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM) report to University Council Nov. 21, including its 10 recommendations for achieving a 7.2 per cent increase over 2010/11 figures in the number of students attending the U of S by 2015/16. That increase represents 1,548 students, 609 of them undergraduates and 939 graduate students.

In addition to pure number increases, Hannah said, “we’re looking at what type of students they are, where they’re from, who these people are.” A number of specific student groups—international, Aboriginal and others—garner particular attention to ensure the diversity of the student population.

Hannah said the need to rethink enrolment management stems from a number of current realities including declining numbers of high school graduates in Saskatchewan. “Gone are the days when we could open the gate, students would pour in and then we’d close the gate when we were full,” he said. Saskatchewan students remain a high priority but competition from other institutions at home and across the country requires expanding recognition that enrolment is more than recruitment and retention; it now includes factors like how the U of S positions itself relative to other universities, financial-aid policies, program offerings and delivery methods, and even timetabling practices.

Other drivers for enrolment management are the specific enrolment goals set for each U of S college, and a broad and diverse set of recruitment, enrolment and retention activities, he said.

“We want to make those processes more consistent, more timely and more responsive across campus.”

Because the “big push” is increasing grad student enrolment, Hannah said number one on the SEM report’s list of top 10 priorities calls for improved administrative processes for those students, processes that are “better than our U15 peers.” The report recommends streamlining and coordinating everything from admissions procedures and scholarship administration to communications and grade conversion practices.

Strategic allocation of graduate-level scholarship funding is critical to success, said Hannah, but changes can only be made after the university reviews the current situation.

“There’s a pretty close relationship between funding and meeting our graduate enrolment targets (but) we have to find out if we’re getting the best bang for our buck out of the funding we have now before any significant new investment is made. We have to know what the right mix is in terms of number, size and types of scholarships and stipends and how we measure up against the competition.”

Hannah added that a review of existing student financial aid resources, policies and practices is currently underway, fulfilling one of the innovation in academic programs and services commitments in the university’s third integrated plan.

The SEM report also calls for a customer relationship management system to co-ordinate communications with students, track student interactions with
Sustainability certificate part of the green wave

LESLEY PORTER

What does sustainability mean to you? Undergraduate students at the U of S will soon have the opportunity to explore this in a new program launching next September.

The School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS) has developed the Undergraduate Certificate of Proficiency in Sustainability, the first program of its kind in the province and one of only a handful across the country. The certificate is designed for students in three- and four-year degree programs looking to specialize in the multifaceted area of sustainability.

“There is a significant population that has been looking for this type of program,” said Colin Laroque, currently a geography and environment professor at Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, who will be returning to his home province in January, to an academic appointment in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and to teach in the program. “Now (students) have an option in Saskatchewan, and specifically at the U of S.”

This is the first undergraduate program from SENS, which also offers three interdisciplinary graduate programs. Comprised of 21 credit units, the sustainability certificate includes SENS introductory and capstone classes and a first-year Native Studies class.

While graduate programs focusing on sustainability are commonplace at Canadian universities, undergraduate-level programs are still fairly limited, particularly in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, said Laroque. The “green wave,” as he described it, started in 2004, and by 2008, most universities had such programs on offer. The exception was the Prairie provinces, but that did not stop the demand.

Many strategies need little or no new funding

Joining Laroque in teaching the program is Philip Loring who made the trek south earlier this year from the University of Alaska in Fairbanks. An anthropologist with an interest in food systems and indigenous cultures, he hopes to equip students with the ability to think critically about sustainability issues, both locally and globally.

“I think about sustainability not as an environmental matter but a cultural and behavioural matter,” said Loring, who has an academic appointment in SENS. “Sustainability is about place and environment, sure, but for humans, it is about learning to become native to that place.”

Lesley Porter is the communications specialist in the School of Environment and Sustainability.
Connecting with alumni
Review identifies need to offer value, communicate

The relationship and connections between the U of S and its alumni underwent a comprehensive review recently.

The final report on alumni engagement at the university did not reveal any surprises, said Heather Magotiaux, vice-president of Advancement and Community Engagement.

“We knew we had some work to do, that’s why we undertook this review,” she explained. “We found that our alumni outscored most other universities in terms of the percentage who would recommend the U of S to potential students as well as the number who said the university was still relevant to their lives.”

That’s the good news, Magotiaux continued. “But we also found that fewer than half said they felt connected to the university today. We wanted to know what initiatives we should look at to build on the good will of our alumni.”

So a consultant—Marie Earl, who has held senior alumni relations positions at Stanford University and the University of British Columbia—was hired to investigate the situation, interview alumni and create an action plan.

“Marie prepared one of the most comprehensive reports I have ever received,” Magotiaux said, adding that the review highlighted five strategic priorities.

“One priority is to improve our knowledge of our alumni so that we can offer through activities more value to them,” she said. “Second, we need to build alumni engagement through communication, like the Green & White magazine, that is lively and sophisticated. That’s what our alumni want.”

Magotiaux said the first two priorities send a clear message that alumni relations need to be more focused on what alumni want.

The third priority is about changing the internal culture of the U of S—and talking about the benefits engaged alumni provide to the university community. “Often people think alumni engagement means giving money. We are grateful for financial support, but there are a host of other ways alumni can be involved. They can be mentors to students, participate in outreach and engagement events, provide experiential learning opportunities and donate to the university.”

The fourth priority stresses the importance of creating connections between alumni and students. Magotiaux said there is an opportunity for building a sense of community between students and alumni, for example in alumni mentorship of students.

The fifth priority is better engaging alumni of influence with the university in order to engage the broader alumni community. This is an area that will require a cultural shift for the university, Magotiaux explained. “We tend not to boast. The reality is that we need to stop thinking of it (sharing successes) as bragging; it’s sharing and telling. We need to build a culture where we share these successes for each other.”

The same culture needs to exist in the alumni community too, she continued. “Who has more of a stake in the reputation of the university than alumni?”

Students are students for only a short time, she said, but once they graduate they are alumni for life. “It should be a bragging point for them. They earned the right to call themselves U of S alumni. We need to remind them, and us, of that.”

The report also set criteria for assessing the effectiveness of all alumni activities. “The criteria will look at how we allocate resources, engage alumni and strengthen connections. What’s the call to action, what do we want them (alumni) to do? Have we to apply this lens to everything and determine how it is contributing and if it is the best way.”

“The review outlined a three-phase strategy over the course of the next five years. The first phase, Magotiaux said, will take place over the next 18 months to two years, during which time the Alumni Relations team will build capacity, examine how resources are spent and implement specific tactics related to further engaging alumni volunteers who are already connected with the university.

Another immediate action item Magotiaux mentioned is changing how alumni are referred to on campus. “We talk about faculty, staff and students as members of the campus community, and we need to include alumni as part of the internal community too.”

Alumni relations, she said, should be a campus-wide priority as it is a clear indicator of success. “I can’t think of a successful university that does not have a strongly connected alumni base … We should never lose sight of the value of our alumni.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES
Card collection

University of Saskatchewan, University Archives & Special Collections, N. Semenoff fonds MG 480.

This issue’s image is from the Nik Semenoff Papers in the University Archives. It is an example of several Christmas cards that can be found in that collection. Semenoff was a well-known researcher, artist, teacher and inventor. He started working at the U of S with the Extension Division as an artist and media specialist in 1967, moving to the Department of Art and Art History in 1987. The card pictured here is from the time he worked as a graphic designer for the Saskatoon broadcaster CFQC in the early 1960s.
While they may not shout out “Is there a theoretical physicist in the house!” scientists from across Canada and around the world often end up at Yansun Yao’s office at the Canadian Light Source seeking his help. “Theoreticians provide answers to the experiments,” said Yao, resident theorist at the synchrotron. “The experiments give them data and they say ‘can you help us interpret this data?’ This is more the service aspect of what I do.”

Yao’s own research centres on computational materials discovery, particularly with regard to the behavior of materials under high temperature and high pressure. He cites a familiar example: ordinary graphite is transformed by intense heat and pressure into diamond, and it stays diamond when the extreme conditions are removed. The idea is to use theory to predict properties and behavior of materials.

“For my PhD research, I was really inspired by the work of John Tse,” Yao said. “He’s a great theoretician, and he showed me that theory’s very useful and can lead the experiments. I realized working with John that you can actually do predictions.”

Yao grew up in Beijing and studied at the Beijing Institute of Technology, with John Tse, Research Chair (U of S Canada) and his wife, Hongbin Zhang, moved to Ottawa where Yao worked for the National Research Council before returning to Saskatoon. Yao is now an assistant professor in the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics, while Zhang works in the Department of Economics.

NEW TO US highlights the work of new faculty members at the University of Saskatchewan. If you are new to campus, or know someone who is, please email ocn@usask.ca.
The music man
Corcoran a life-long banjo devotee

By Michael Robins

“This is where the magic happens,” said Michael Corcoran as he ushered a visitor into an instrument-filled room at his home near the U of S campus. He picks up a banjo – a beautiful work of exotic woods and glittering brass – and with a smile picks out the first few notes of “O Canada.”

“Oh, I guess we’d better do this right,” he said, as he slips on his finger picks and launches into a quick toe-tapping bluegrass riff.

By day, Corcoran is a professor in the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology in the College of Medicine, where he has worked for years to understand neural plasticity, or how the brain and nervous system adapt to experience. After work, much of his time is devoted to his avocation – the banjo – and rare is the day that he doesn’t pick up the instrument. He even dreams of music, and he picks out the first few notes of “Manfred Mann’s Fox on the Run,” which is likely more well known as a rock version.

“I mean, bluegrass is just hillbilly music—it’s country music in a certain context, a certain style, but you should be able to poach good material from wherever you can find it.”

Corcoran’s own love affair with the banjo began in high school in the early 1960s. Listening to the Kingston Trio, he discovered the banjo’s distinctive sound to several bluegrass bands. He has also played and taught at the Northern Lights Bluegrass and Old Tyme Music Festival at Ness Creek, and occasionally hosts the once-monthly bluegrass program on CFCR community radio.

While the banjo may be most closely associated with bluegrass, the instrument has a long history in popular music, from The Eagles and the Doobie Brothers to Big Wreck and Nellie Furtado. There’s been a tremendously productive communicati

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I probably spent about four hours a day when I was in my second year of high school, when I should have been studying geometry and Latin and French, but no, I was studying the five-string banjo – the gospel according to Earl Scruggs.

Fortunately Corcoran did not totally neglect academics, doing well enough to be accepted into medical school. By that time, he was teaching others how to play the banjo to supplement his student income. But he still had not nailed down his career.

That changed with a third-year university psychology course on motivation and emotion. “The heavens parted once again, and I said, ‘this is what I really want to do with my life.’” Corcoran said. “He (the professor) was talking about the hypothalamus and receptive fields and plastic synapses and all the stuff that just really spoke to me.”

Corcoran completed his undergraduate degree in psychology at Northwestern University in Chicago before moving to Montreal to finish his master’s and doctorate at McGill. From there, he went to the University of Victoria where he eventually became head of the Department of Psychology.

He continued to teach banjo at the Victoria Folklore Centre, and helped found the bluegrass band the Clover Point Drifters, which is still recording. Between work and gigs, he also juggled the demands of a young family.

“It was a very busy time, but the banjo has always remained part of my life,” he said. “In those days, it wouldn’t surprise me that I would spend an hour or two hours a day just noodling by myself when I could. And I still do that. It might be 20 minutes or half an hour, but I try to play it every day.”

After more than 40 years in academia—including a stint as U of S vice-president research—Corcoran has wrapped up his research career to devote more time to academic pursuits. He graduated his last student two years ago, and is concentrating on a book—a history of behavioral neuroscience in Canada, beginning with the man who founded the field, McGill scientist Donald Hebb.

“That’s going to be my kind of capstone of my career project, that book. I just hope I can live up to it.”

At home, he and his wife Jan are already enjoying a growing focus—three grandchildren.

“That’s been a wonderful development in our lives, to have these grandkids, it’s just terrific—and to have all three daughters here in town (but) nary a banjo player among them—yet. It’s a little early, but I’m hoping eventually, one of them...”
Provinces across Canada are unifying professional accounting designations and the Department of Accounting at the U of S Edwards School of Business is ready for the change.

“This is a tremendous accomplishment for the profession of accounting and has been in the works for a really long time,” said Noreen Mahoney, associate dean of students and degree programs in the Edwards School of Business.

In the past, accountants could work towards one of three professional designations: a Chartered Accountant (CA), a Certified General Accountant (CGA), or a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). Saskatchewan legislation will see those designations merged into one: the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA).

“Why does accounting need three separate designations? Each designation has its own governing body. The profession was really fractured and each designation competed with the others. In the marketplace, no one was sure who to hire, a CA, CGA or CMA,” explained Mahoney, who is a CA. “Last year, the Quebec government merged all three and other provinces are doing the same. In Saskatchewan, legislation has gone through second reading and we are hopeful it will pass very soon.”

The new CPA designation will require new certification programs and the Edwards school, with its Master of Professional Accounting (MPAcc) program, is prepared for the new process. MPAcc, explained Mahoney, is the only program of its kind in Western Canada that is ready to provide the necessary training and preparation for the CPA designation.

“In addition to being a graduate program, MPAcc also has been providing CPA preparation. So we had some adjustments to make in preparation for the unified designation and in May, the first group of students will go through the program to be the first CPAs.”

For that reason, explained Kaili Xu, acting director of graduate programs in Edwards, MPAcc attracts students from across Western Canada. “About a third come from BC, a few from Manitoba, and the rest pretty equally from Saskatchewan and Alberta,” said Xu, adding that the program takes place over two summers. “We receive about 250 applications for admission each year, but only accept 90 students each summer so we have a maximum of 180 students enrolled each year.”

Now in its 15th year, MPAcc has a reputation for preparing its students for the certification process, said Nathalie Johnstone, assistant professor of accounting and MPAcc instructor. “The U of S is known for its exceptional accounting education. We have made a large investment in accounting faculty and have one of the largest faculty complements in Western Canada.”

“We gave out the first undergraduate accounting degree in Canada; we’ve been at this for awhile,” Mahoney added. “The CPA designation will send a strong signal to the marketplace that we are business professionals with strong technical and problem-solving skills. We are really proud to offer the program that prepares students for this designation.”

Once legislation passes in Saskatchewan, CPA will be an officially recognized designation that meets or exceeds the standards as set by the International Accounting Standards Board.

“Frankly, we’re really excited about the future,” said Mahoney. “We won’t have to spend so much time or money explaining the difference between the designations, and we will be a unified voice focused on protecting the public interests.”

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Bradley and two colleagues – Gap Soo Chang in the Raman laboratory in the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre.

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Unexpected research result could alter tooth repair practises

KIRK SIBBALD

A physics student and dentistry professor might not have found what they were looking for, but what they did uncover could kick start changes in how teeth are repaired.

In late August, fourth-year physics student Nicole Nagy has been working alongside Assem Hedayat, an assistant professor of dental materials. The two started working together after Professor Julia Boughner from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology put out a call for researchers interested in working with a promising physics student.

Hedayat was looking to examine whether the materials used in dental fillings are able to travel through tubules—microscopic channels located in a tooth's dentin—and reach the pulp. Such research could shed light on whether or not these tubules serve as portals that allow dental materials to enter the body. However, because these tubules have a diameter of only about two microns, Hedayat was hoping to enlist the help of a physicist to assist with a 3D imaging process.

When Nagy was approached by Hedayat about the opportunity, she was immediately intrigued.

“There were a lot of physics applications and techniques that were going to be used in the project so I thought it would be a great experience,” explained Nagy.

To begin, Hedayat began contacting advanced-imaging facilities across North America and got a quick reply from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California. A scientist in charge of the lab's beamline told Hedayat if he sent samples they could be tested quickly.

Members of Hedayat's research team prepared and applied fillings to previously untouched teeth from the College of Dentistry's tooth bank, and the samples were sent to the Berkeley synchrotron. While the images that Hedayat got back weren't refined enough to view the dentinal tubules, they did show something unexpected.

“When Nicole started analyzing the images, we were surprised to see some other objects under the fillings, which were shiny particles,” explained Hedayat. “And that's where the whole project took a different turn.”

Hedayat said those gleaming fragments, easy to see in the images, could only have come from the drill bits used to apply fillings to the teeth. The next step is to analyze the fragments themselves and determine their composition. Generally, dentistry drill bits are composed of tungsten carbide, although sometimes cobalt is added to bind the carbide particles together.

Tungsten carbide is not biocompatible, said Hedayat, but tungsten-carbide-cobalt is biohazardous. “You have to remember that if we're finding one or two fragments in these teeth, how many more splash around in someone's mouth and end up being swallowed?”

Hedayat's research team plans to analyze the fragments' composition further to determine whether or not these particles pose a potential health hazard, which is possible that research into alternative dental tools could be accelerated.

“This project is a really unique combination of sciences we're working together. We're all seeing things from different points of view and then to talk to people and hear how they're interpreting things, it's really interesting,” said Nagy.

Kirk Sibbald is the communications officer in the College of Arts and Science.
Project expands oral health care for children

A project that brings together expertise from the Colleges of Nursing and Dentistry to help northern Aboriginal nursing students to support oral health care for children is the recipient of the $10,000 Provost’s Project Grant for Innovative Practice in Collaborative Teaching and Learning for 2013. Building on the College of Nursing’s successful Caring for Kids Where They Live program, the new initiative entitled Northern Innovative Teaching and Learning Practice in Pediatric Nursing Education will use remote presence technology to allow nursing students in La Ronge and Île-à-la-Crosse to share information about oral health, provide primary prevention and early-care services, and do referrals to dental-health providers.

Because nurses are more often located in northern and Aboriginal communities than dentists, the teaching method has the potential to positively affect both students learning and community well-being.

The project was developed by Jill Bally, Shelley Spurr, Lorna Butler, Mary Ellen Andrews and Heather Exner-Pivot from Nursing and Dentistry to help.

Consulting skills part of class

From Page 6 instrumental in putting the interdisciplinary team that led the project together. “The idea behind the project is to introduce students to experimental tools so they can creatively explore the science and technology behind the research that instruments found in the SSSC labs are used to conduct,” Rangacharyulu said. “This is how we do the research and this must be the way we teach our students.”

The resulting course, Physics 404, is an innovative blend of the strengths of the structured, rigorous approach used by upper year “cook book” labs and the more open-ended approach used in an undergraduate thesis. According to Bradley, “the upper-year labs have a high level of complexity but the script is already written,” meaning that the outcomes are set so students are not pushed to be creative.

Physics 404 is taught in two phases, a training phase using state-of-the-art equipment available in the department and SSSC, and a consulting problem phase that lets students apply what they learned in the first phase. In between the two phases, an experienced professional consultant outlines the ups and downs of consulting, how to set up a consulting company and how to approach a consulting contract.

The experience of taking Physics 404 has been positive, according to student reviews. “We knew it was successful when we evaluated the course,” Bradley said. “Students really liked it and many of our past students have found success as graduate students or working in industry.”

One former student of the class said “overall, I believe that through an unorthodox curriculum and the provision of high-quality resources, Physics 404 has been able to deliver an unmatched, if not truly unique hands-on learning experience at the University of Saskatchewan. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to take this course and walk away with a set of knowledge that would otherwise be difficult to obtain elsewhere without the innovative structure demonstrated by Physics 404.”

Winona Partridge is an instructional design assistant in the Gwenna Moss Centre

Award-winning women

Karen Chad, vice-president of research at the U of S, and Nancy Hopkins, past chair of the university’s Board of Governors, have both been named to the 2013 Canada’s Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards. Chad in the public sector leader category and Hopkins in the Accenture corporate director category.

Chad is recognized for her ability to attract top talent and research funding to the U of S. As a kinesiology research, she has held numerous grants and has mentored many graduate students and post-doctoral fellows.

Hopkins served as a member of the U of S Board of Governors from 2005-2013, and was chair of the board in the last three years of that term. She currently practices business law at McDougall Gauley LLP in Saskatoon.

And Shashi Behl, a U of S graduate and founder of Twisted Goods, has won the 2013 Retailer of the Year Award from the Canadian Gift Association.
A glimpse into classrooms
Open Courseware makes materials public

Even wondered how many courses at the University of Saskatchewan deal in some way with Spanish history, or calculus, or sustainability? Now, thanks to an innovative website that congregates course details, finding out is just a mouse click away. (The answer to the sustain

ability question is 21 courses offered in eight different colleges and schools.)

Set up as a gateway to the more than 4,000 courses on offer, the Open Courseware website makes it easy for anyone to get a glimpse into what will be taught by making public all course descriptions, syllabi and even course content on one site. “The idea is to be more transparent about what we do in our class

rooms by providing an organized view that is easy to navigate,” said Jim Greer, director of the University Learning Centre (ULC), one of the partner units

developed along with in the Open Courseware project.

Developed along with Student and Enrolment Services Division and Information and Communications Technology, Open Courseware has been on

many people’s wish list for some time, said Stephanie Frost, the ULC co-ordinator of online support. The vision was to provide one place for all course syllabi and materials while still allowing professors and instructors the ability to “put a wall through it to separate things that are only for students from things that are public. Greer said those materials are the intellectual property of the university. “I haven’t seen any sites at other universities quite as developed as ours, and we did it without a big expense by adapting the system we were already using.”

Both Frost and Greer agree that Open Courseware, with its easy-to-use browse and search functions, will be a boon for students—both current and prospective—as they consider what courses they might want to take.

“I’m excited about Open Courseware because it creates ‘stumble upon’ opportunities for students.”

Stephanie Frost

“I’m excited about Open Courseware because it creates ‘stumble upon’ opportunities for students.”

Stephanie Frost

“Open Courseware was well underway when University Council earlier this year amended the academic course policy, confirming that course syllabi are public documents. Open Courseware has been in what Greer described as “quiet release mode” for some time but with the policy amendment, the default setting for all syllabi was changed to make them public.

In addition to course descriptions, syllabi and other content, the Open Courseware developers co-ordinated with the University Library to include subject and course-specific materials, said Frost. This allows users of the site to link from a particular course to relevant library resources.

“The ability to search through all of our courses is a very valuable resource,” he said. “It’s good to see the U of S leading the country in this innovative approach to openness.”

Financial Services Division | FSD

Online Travel and Expense Update

Training and access for the new travel and expense management system have been delivered in many areas of campus since June 2013. Before the December 2013 university closure, we expect to have completed this process for all administrative units on campus, the three schools and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. From January to April 2014, training and access will be provided to all other colleges.

The university selected UNIGLOBE as its preferred travel provider, following a request for proposal process last year. The process to implement an online travel and expense tool with Concur Technologies Inc., aligned with UNIGLOBE’s travel management services, began early in 2013. The new automated tools will provide employees with greater visibility of the current status of their travel and expense claims, past claims history and available vendors. Employees will also benefit from quicker reimbursements with all approved travel being processed daily.

All employees can use UNIGLOBE for travel arrangements now, whether using the new online tool or the previous paper-based procedures. By booking with UNIGLOBE, you will benefit from a preferred travel agency fee of $29 compared to an average $50-70 charge for booking through other travel providers. Our current travel guidelines and policies will continue to apply with the new online system, maintaining current travel options while making access to preferred suppliers and associated cost savings easier.

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Then let us work together.

- LILLA WATSON
Coming Events

Seminars/Lectures

Archeology Lecture

Jan. 17, 3:30-5 pm, Room 113 Archaeology Building, the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society will feature Glenn Stuart, Dept. of Archaeology and Anthropology, presenting from the Desert to the Plains: A Paleoenvironmental Research Program

Role Philosophy Model Speaker Lecture

Jan. 17, 3:30-5 pm, Room 12 Edward School of Business, Ann Ward, Campus College, University of Regina, presents Autonomy and Moral Virtue in Aristotle’s Ethics

Philosophy in the Community

Jan. 17, 5-9 pm, The Refinery, 609 Dufferin Ave., William Bosch presents The Ethics of Biotechnological Human Enhancement

Veterinary Microbiology Seminars

Next lectures take place from 12:10-1:30 pm, Rooms 2105 WCCM

• Dec. 6, Ryan Bridge, MSc graduate student in veterinary microbiology, presents Investigation of the cytotoxic vs. protective effects of cellular autophagy pathways in human monocytes.

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Getting Events

Miscellany

• Managing Difficult Conversations, Jan. 30
• Introduction to Group Facilitation, Feb. 6-7
• Essentials of Management Consulting, Feb. 8-9
• International Certification for Mentoring, Level I, Feb. 13-15
• Business Writing & Grammar Workshop, Feb. 20-22

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• For information or reservations call 306-966-7777.
• Until Dec. 20, holiday lunch buffets and feature entrée
• Dec. 18, Sunday brunch and children’s party featuring Santa as a special guest
• Dec. 19, champagne and sparkling wine tasting

University Club Events

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Efforts to green up the College Quarter with energy and resource-saving measures have already cut the natural gas bill in half in Phase 1 of the undergraduate residences, according to James Cook, manager of business operations with University of Saskatchewan Corporate Administration.

“I actually didn’t believe it when they gave me the rough numbers,” he said. “I said, ‘What? It can’t be that good.’”

Cook’s office is in charge of implementing the College Quarter master plan, which has 23 design standards to be followed. These include sustainability initiatives related to storm water handling, street lighting and landscaping. Other examples include a car share program and indoor, secure bicycle storage.

One measure involved $86,000 worth of solar thermal collectors on the roof of the Aspen Hall residence. This was a bit of an experiment sparked from a tip from Saskatoon Light and Power that they had achieved savings in one of their buildings, said Cook. Grants were available from the National Research Council and Saskatchewan Research Council to cover all but $18,000 of the panels’ cost.

The collectors’ heat input is used for domestic hot water and for heating each unit in the residence, but it was not until the second group of residences came online that the effect of the solar heat was known. The grant program was not available for the second phase of residence development. Cook explained, so no collectors were installed. This created a perfect experiment to measure the effect of the panels.

“We’ve basically already paid for the system (in savings). If you don’t have the grant, it’s probably a four- to five-year payback period.”

With the success of the solar thermal panels at Aspen Hall, Cook said additional panels might be considered for the other undergraduate residences, Graduate House and even as retrofits for the older McEown residences just to the south.

“There’s a really big saving that we’ve been able to capture, which ultimately benefits the students because these costs are all passed on in the rents we have to charge.”

ON CAMPUS NEWS ▶ December 6, 2013

Solar panels prove their worth

MICHAEL ROBIN

“All for a good cause”

Michael Szafron, a faculty member in the School of Public Health (SPH), got a bit of a trim from student Karrie Hammond-Collins, right, and fellow faculty member Marwa Farag during the school’s annual Snowball gala Nov. 22 but it was all for a good cause.

Szafron challenged the school students to raise $500 in exchange for shaving his head. Claiming it was easy to ‘get back’ at their professor after struggling with p-values in his first-year biostatistics class, the students raised $1,377 and donated it all to The Lighthouse Supported Living in Saskatoon.

ON CAMPUS NEWS ▶ December 6, 2013

CAMPUS INCIDENTS

Report all information about incidents to Protective Services at 306-966-5555

Nov. 19-25

Criminal Offences:

• A male was arrested for breach of conditions, as he was driving while suspended.

• Officers investigated an incident of theft of gasoline from a vehicle. No suspects.

• A male was arrested for being intoxicated in a public place.

Summary Offence Tickets:

• 8 traffic offences

• 4 alcohol offences

Other Calls:

• 1 medical assistance

• 1 fire-related incident

Nov. 26-Dec. 2

Criminal Offences:

• A male was assaulted by another male on campus. Alcohol was believed to be a factor.

• Two males were questioned regarding drug use. With the assistance of the Saskatoon Police Service, one male was arrested under The Controlled Drug and Substances Act.

• Officers investigated the theft of personal items from an unlocked locker at the PAC.

Summary Offence Tickets:

• 7 traffic offences

• Officers responded to 6 medical calls with the assistance of MD Ambulance.

As the holiday season approaches, the frequency of events involving alcohol increases. Everyone is reminded to drink responsibly, and find safe rides home.

ON CAMPUS NEWS ▶ December 6, 2013

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• North 40 location in the Agriculture Building

• The Tuck Shop in the Arts and Science

• The Huskie Store in the Centre Mall

• or shop online at usask.ca/bookstore

U of S Bookstore gift cards make amazing stocking stuffers! Purchase at any of the store locations listed above or for more information call 306-966-4468.
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

Kim Heidinger gets to watch many flying things from her vantage point on the fifth floor of the Agriculture Building. A lot of geese pass by her window in spring and fall. Crows and magpies sometimes alight on the window ledge. “And we like to watch the planes at the airport,” said the operations assistant in the Department of Soil Science. “We wonder where they’re going and sometimes, we wish we were on one.”

This is Heidinger’s third set of office windows over her career at the U of S, and it has the best view by far, she said. It also has the best natural light; the flourishing plants scattered around the office are a testament to that fact.

Heidinger said she enjoys seeing the changing colours of the season, but what she enjoyed even more were the changing colours she saw as she watched the construction of the Canadian Light Source building some 10 years ago. Pointing to the building on the north edge of campus, Heidinger speculated “they must have put 15 different layers on the outside of that building because it changed colour with every different material they used. Those walls must be two feet thick.”