IN THE VALLEY
MAN WITH BROOM

IN THE CLUB
As University Club manager for the past 25 years, Donna Cram has gotten to know the U of S community over lunch, dinner and other special occasions like weddings and anniversaries. Fabulous food, great wine and all the relationships she has made over the years are the reasons Cram said she has one of the best jobs on campus. Read the full story on page 5.

Thanks to the agreement of most colleges and some judicious rejigging of the schedule, the University of Saskatchewan will be providing students with a fall break in term one of the 2014-15 academic year.

The idea of matching the February break with one in the fall was first proposed by the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union executive in the fall of 2013, explained Russell Isinger, registrar and director of student services in the Student and Enrollment Services Division (SESD). Discussions were held with associate deans of all colleges and with the University Students’ Council but the academic calendar for 2014-15 was approved by Council’s Academic Programs Committee late last year without a fall break.

Isinger pointed out however, there was strong support on all fronts to pursue the option.

In December, SESD conducted a survey to gauge student interest and found 67.85 per cent of the 6,469 students who responded felt a fall break would support their academic success. That motivated Isinger to "crunch the numbers" to see if a week off could be found without a reduction in teaching days between September and the final exam period.

In the end, it proved possible. The break is scheduled for Nov. 10-14, incorporating the Remembrance Day statutory holiday. The fall break day, Oct. 10, will be eliminated in favour of a full week break, and orientation for new students will be reduced to one day from two, making the first day of classes Sept. 3 instead of Sept. 4.

The additional two days will come from the final exam period. The final day of classes in the term will move to Dec. 5 from Dec. 3, and final exams will be compressed into a period from the day after the last day of classes to Dec. 23. Fifteen days for finals is "more than sufficient," said Isinger. Every effort will be made to not schedule exams on either the first or the last day of the defined period "but because we can’t reduce the number of teaching days in the term, there had to be a trade off with the exam schedule."

Scheduling exams on Sundays, an idea included in the discussions and the student survey, is not currently being considered.

Labour Day falls on Sept. 6 or 7, classes will start in the week prior in order to accommodate the fall break.

Russell Isinger

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And because we can’t reduce the number of teaching days in the term, there had to be a trade off with the exam schedule.
Bringing humanities to the OR

Walking into the office of the Department of Surgery, it’s hard to miss the paintings and sculptures, not to mention the enthusiasm of department head Dr. Ivar Mendez.

“This oil painting is called Brain Flower. It was done by one of my patients who had Parkinson’s disease,” said Mendez, gesturing to a four-foot by six-foot painting.

“He wanted to express what was going on in his brain. It is a picture of something that is beautiful and colourful, but at the same time, there are some disruptions. These parts are shrunk and there’s degeneration of cells.”

The artwork in the reception area and in Mendez’s own office is meant to remind those involved in surgery of the humanity hidden within the medical field. The Surgical Humanities Program, launched in the fall, aims to involve surgeons, residents and medical students in art, music, literature and philosophy.

“Having an understanding of philosophy, of expressions of the mind or poetry will sensitize you to see that a person is not only a liver or a lung but this individual is poetry, is music, is philosophy. There is this added dimension that this is not just my patient but a human being who has tremendous potential,” said Mendez.

Surgeons, residents, students, surgical nurses and others involved in surgery are being encouraged to re-connect with their creative selves as artists, writers and musicians. Many surgeons give up these interests soon after they begin their medical training because they don’t think they have time for them anymore, said Dr. Francis Christian, the director of the Surgical Humanities Program.

“It’s a fallacy that doctors can, however, find time for these essential pursuits, which make us better doctors and better human beings. Some of the greatest scientists and even surgeons have been great artists as well,” said Christian, who has published a novel as well as a collection of poems.

A central component of the program will be a quarterly journal available in print and online that will showcase the talents of surgical team members. The multi-media journal will publish written works as well as digital reproductions of paintings, photographs, sculptures and musical numbers.

Submissions for the inaugural issue are still being accepted.

The first event sponsored by the Surgical Humanities Program was a huge success, said Christian. Surgery grand rounds, typically a time when other surgeons, residents and medical students depart from tradition in January when Yann Martel, author of Life of Pi and winner of the Man Booker Prize, joined rounds and read from his book 101 Letters to a Prime Minister.

“it was probably one of the best attended grand rounds. He spoke to us about the importance of story telling and narrative as well as the creative process,” said Christians.

It’s the creative process involved in sculpting that Mendez said is invaluable to him as a surgeon.

“Doing bronze sculpture has given me the added skills of being able to see objects in three dimensions. When I look at the human brain and I have to remove a brain tumor in the middle of the three-dimensional structure, it allows me to conceptualize that tumor better. Not only that, the skills and the dexterity that I use in sculpture and removing a tumor complement each other,” said Mendez.

While medical humanities programs are common at other universities, the University of Saskatchewan is the first in Canada to offer such a program. For Mendez, who arrived at the U of S in 2010 with the vision of Canada to offer such a program.

In accordance with the board-approved Search and Review Procedures for Senior Administrators, a committee has been established to review Dr. Karen Chad, Vice-President Research. The review committee invites members of the university community to provide feedback on Dr. Chad’s performance.

Submissions can be made by letter or email. Respondents are encouraged to use the framework of accountabilities (expectations) and competencies (skills) from the position profile to provide feedback, although the review committee recognizes that not everyone can comment on each area. The profile is available by contacting julian.demkiw@usask.ca.

When making a submission by email, respondents must include their name and affiliation in the body of the email. Every email submission will be acknowledged by return email to confirm the authenticity of the author’s identity.

All submissions received through this process will be considered by the review committee in raw form. All identifying information will be removed to protect the confidentiality of the respondents when the feedback is shared with the incumbent.

Please make your confidential submission by noon on March 14, 2014, to Julian Demkiw, co-ordinator of the review committee, Office of the President (by email to julian.demkiw@usask.ca; in hard copy to 212 Peter MacKinnon Building, or by fax to 306-966-4530).

CLARIFICATION

The article about One Health initiatives that appeared in the Feb. 7 issue of On Campus News implied the University of Saskatchewan had secured a Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Infectious Disease Prediction and Control. In fact, the CRC oversight committee has just approved recruitment for the chair, and final confirmation must come from the CRC Secretariat in Ottawa.
Enrolment stable at winter census

Stable is the word the registrar uses to describe the total number of U of S students enrolled in the winter term, an increase of 16.1 per cent or 277 over last year’s February census. Russell Isinger, registrar and director of student services in the Student and Enrolment Services Division, said this is the highest term total ever. First-time Aboriginal students in direct entry programs rose 33.5 per cent, or 79 students, while the number of Aboriginal graduate students rose by 39 or 27.5 per cent. Isinger cautioned that the climbing numbers do not necessarily mean the university is attracting substantially more Aboriginal students but rather is “making it easier for Aboriginal students to self-declare.”

Total enrolment for the term is 20,306, down 42 students from the previous February but attracting substantially more international students. For international students, the retention rate climbed to 94.3 per cent from 93.6 per cent. For international students, the rate climbed to 94.2 per cent from 90.1, and for Aboriginal students, first-to-second-term retention was 93.5 per cent compared to 92.1 per cent in February 2013. Also of note is a 29 per cent increase in first-time Alberta students, the equivalent of 51 students, with the largest number of those coming from Calgary (see related story on Page 7). There was also a 16 per cent increase in students from Manitoba, and seven of those eight students came from Winnipeg.

A full report on the February census results will be presented to University Council in March and to University Senate in April.

IP3 extended by one year
Promise and Potential projects need more time

With so much left to accomplish and an unwelcome dominated by TransformUS, the prioritizing of academic and service programs, the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) has made the decision to extend the University of Saskatchewan’s current integrated plan by one year, to 2017.

Melis, assistant provost of institutional planning and assessment, said changing the time frame of the plan, called Promise and Potential, has been a point of discussion for some time, the options being wrapping it up early, leaving it as a four-year cycle or adding an additional year. “Where PCIP landed was they wanted the opportunity to give the third integrated plan (IP3) the best chance to be successful and to allow some connections between the plan and TransformUS,” she said.

The development of IP3 coincided with the arrival of Ilene Busch-Vishniac in the president’s office, said Melis, and with the identification of a projected $44.5 million deficit by 2016 if no changes were made. “We said at the beginning we would do a few of the projects identified in the plan so the new president could have some influence over the process and now, more time is needed to accomplish what we set out to do.”

There will be connections between the TransformUS implementation plan and the objectives of IP3, she said, “and from a planning perspective, we need time to figure out all of the implications. There are lot of moving parts and we need to catch our breath.”

Without the one-year extension, “we would now be turning our attention to the next plan and the multi-year budget framework,” Melis said, which would have been presented to Council and the Board of Governors for approval in the spring of 2016. That timeframe now stretches to early 2017.

Melis said moving toward 2015, PCIP and her planning office will finalize the planning expectations for colleges, schools and administrative units for the fourth plan. She added all future integrated plans will likely extend over five years rather than four.

“In the university environment, four years is a very small window to accomplish all of the initiatives we identify as important to the institution.”

Huskie support

For the fourth straight year, PotashCorp has made a $50,000 donation to the University of Saskatchewan Huskies.

Two sporting events were used to celebrate the donation—a basketball game Jan. 31 and a hockey game at Credit Union Centre Feb. 1. The funds will help supplement Huskie Athletics team budgets and will provide support for student athletes in the Huskies Sport Health Centre.

“Huskie Athletics is very grateful once again for this contribution from PotashCorp,” said athletic director Basil Hingston, in a media release. “The generosity shown over the years has been tremendous and truly appreciated.” Hugthon noted the rising costs associated with running 15 elite Canadian Interuniversity Sports (CIS) teams, adding donations help the Huskies recruit and retain the best student athletes.

“Our accomplishments in sport, in the classroom and in the community could not happen without PotashCorp’s support,” he said.

PotashCorp is a long-time supporter of sports at the University of Saskatchewan. In addition to its annual gift, the corporation contributed $5 million in 2005 to upgrade Griffiths Stadium in PotashCorp Park. The company also sponsored the 2006 Vanier Cup on the U of S campus and, for the second straight year, is the title sponsor of the CIS Men’s Hockey PotashCorp University Cup presented by Co-op.

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In an environment of resource pressure, calls for universities to prove their worth and a new generation of students with new expectations, post-secondary institutions need to change, but how?

For the U of S provost and vice-president academic, the answer lies in talking openly about how current flaws in structures and processes are signals that change is urgently needed, in raising the collective gaze to “keep in mind where we want to go,” and in exercising leadership at all levels of the organizations.

Can Universities Change?

In the text of Brett Fairbairn’s fifth academic address, delivered Feb. 24 in Convocation Hall, he began by noting that universities have changed over time, some examples being medieval student-run institutions, universities like Oxford built on the collegiate model, and the systems of universities of the more recent era. But the evolution was, in large part, “driven by state intervention,” he said. “Do we change only because the state changes?”

Another reason to consider change now, Fairbairn said, is as easy as changing our minds. “If we’re not sure of the direction, if we experience a disturbing process, we have no choice but to change our minds.”

The provost then offered an example of where universities might change—their organizational structure. A particular research interest for the provost, in particular increasing complexity in research and the need for universities to demonstrate the impact of knowledge. Added to that are growing constraints on public resources where “the trends are clear and the possibilities for increasing that support (government funding) are limited,” he said.

There is also pressure coming from the changing research landscape, said the provost, in particular increasing complexity in research and the need for universities to demonstrate the impact of knowledge. Added to that are growing constraints on public resources where “the trends are clear and the possibilities for increasing that support (government funding) are limited,” he said.

Another reason to pay attention to change, he said, in public attitudes that see universities as “out of touch, anachronistic, cumbersome and insufficiently oriented to the needs of students and the labour markets.”

Change for universities is in the cards, said Fairbairn, “and we would be advised to wait for others to rescue us from it.” He went on to describe one example of where universities might change—their structure. Organizational structure is a particular research interest for the provost, and he has concluded such structures are mental constructs that exist in our minds (so) to change our structures in fundamental ways as is as easy as changing our minds. “It’s also as hard as changing our minds,” an uncommon and disturbing process. Fairbairn said interdisciplinary research and teaching and the university’s current department model are examples of places in the institution where change may be necessary, and beneficial. He discussed some possible reshaping in both areas.

The goal will be to find solutions that produce good outcomes.

Brett Fairbairn
Wasan appointed dean

Pharmaceutical researcher and educator Kishor Wasan has been appointed dean of the U of S College of Pharmacy and Nutrition, and will take up his new position Aug. 1.

Currently a professor and associate dean of research and graduate studies in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Wasan is also director and co-founder of the UBC Neglected Global Diseases Initiative (NGDI). He completed his undergraduate pharmacy education at the University of Texas at Austin, and a PhD in cellular and molecular pharma-
cology at the University of Texas Medical Centre in Houston. Wasan has been a practicing pharmacist in both retail and hospital settings, and maintains a pharmacist license from the State of Texas.

“I am very excited to join the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition at the University of Saskatchewan and work collaboratively with the great faculty and staff to lead the college to be amongst the best pharmacy and nutrition schools in Canada,” said Wasan in a media release announcing his appointment. “I see a huge opportunity in a college that is energized and poised for change and a university, community and province committed to seeing the college succeed.”

Donna Cram, University Club part of campus fabric

Donna Cram has been a part of everyday moments on campus—like many others, but also of many once-in-a-lifetime moments like weddings. It’s all in a day’s work for Cram who is celebrating 25 years as manager of the University Club.

“It’s the relationships I’ve made over that time that are most special to me,” she said. “I’ve gotten to know so many people. I’ve planned weddings for club members, their kids and now their grandkids. I’ve planned anniversaries, and celebrations of life. That’s something special.”

It was a career path that almost didn’t happen, said Cram, who followed her husband to London when he was accepted to do his PhD at the London School of Economics.

“Before that, I was doing marketing at an insurance agency. When we were in London, that’s when I got interested in cooking to fill my time,” she explained. “I took a class called basic cookery from the chef at the Savoy Hotel. He took me and the class to the first food show I ever attended and I totally fell in love with it.”

From there, Cram enrolled in Le Cordon Bleu culinary school that was down the street from where she lived in London, and the rest, as they say, is history.

“When we came back to Saskatoon, I planned to open a bakery that would serve lunch but before that happened, I took this job and 25 years later, blink, here we are.”

Many special events have filled the past 25 years, said Cram, including about 750 weddings that have been held at the club. While she doesn’t have any tales of Bridezillas to share, she does have one near disaster that occurred during her watch.

“The chef at that time quickly scooped up the cake and assured the bride that she could fix it. It was fixed and redecorated and no one was the wiser. That was the worst thing that happened.”

Cram more readily remembers the good times, like the note-worthy dinners that have passed through the club over the years, including Sons of Anarchy star Kim Coates, CTV news anchor Lloyd Robertson, Buffy Sainte-Marie and “all of the premiers of Saskatchewan during the past 25 years.”

Another highlight for Cram, in addition to the weekly roast beef and Yorkshire pudding buffet that happens at the University Club place every Thursday, “which along with our homemade soups, is everyone’s favourite,” was her involvement in the re-opening of the Atrium cafeteria at Innovation Place in 1996 and the opening of Boffins Club in 2000.

“But I think what I am most proud of is that we endured. When I started 25 years ago, there were 29 faculty clubs in Canada, now there are only about nine.”

Built in 1912, what is now the University Club wasn’t originally a club at all, but rather the home of the university’s dean of agriculture who used the basement to house students just back from the First World War. Since the switch from residence to restaurant, a number of other changes have followed including replacing Faculty Club with University Club, furniture updates, renovations and perhaps most controversial of all, Cram said with a smile, “removing the billiards table to make more room for private dining. That one is still brought up by some of the older members.”

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25 years of food, friendships

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Please join us to meet the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors and learn more about their role at the U of S.

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ON CAMPUS NEWS » February 28, 2014

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Donna Cram
Sunlight sparkles among a sea of pink birds suspended on stilt legs, the scene stretching to the horizon.

“It’s become somewhat accustomed to it, but it’s really one of the most awe-inspiring sights in the world,” said Robin Renaut of the spectacle of more than a million lesser flamingos that once gathered at Lake Nakuru in Kenya.

Renaut, professor in the Department of Geology, has travelled to Africa’s Great Rift Valley frequently in the past 35 years to study the geology of the valley’s lake system, both as they appear today and in the deep past. What he is learning is informing modern wildlife management in Kenya. It may also shed light on the ancient environmental pressures that pushed genus Homo to take the first evolutionary steps that eventually led to Homo sapiens – modern humans.

Today’s humans in Kenya have more immediate concerns, foremost among them the highest water levels in the past 50 years.

“The ecology of several lakes has changed because of flooding,” Renaut explained. “Lake Nakuru is normally saline and alkaline, but with the heavy rains it has become fresh.”

This freshening has led to steep declines in the cyanobacteria (formerly named blue-green algae) on which the flamingos feed. The cyanobacteria, whose reddish-orange pigments give the birds their distinctive colour, grow best in saline waters rich in sodium carbonate and other minerals.

High waters have also inundated local farmers’ homes and fields, and heavy rains have carried much more silt into the lakes from over-grazed hillsides. These worrisome events prompted the Kenya Wildlife Service to gather together international experts at a symposium in late 2013. Renaut, with his extensive connections and experience in the area, was invited as keynote speaker. His research has revealed a cycle of high water that comes every 50 to 60 years. For example, records show high water in 1961 and a photo from the turn of the 20th century shows lake levels similar to today.

“It’s reasonable to assume the lakes will go back down, although it will take at least five or six years to get back to normal,” Renaut said.

Meanwhile, soggy conditions have disrupted research to literally dig into humankind’s deep past by drilling into lake sediments. The Great Rift Valley is home of the oldest fossils and artifacts ever found of hominins, precursors to modern humans. Renaut is a principal investigator and one of about 40 international researchers on the Hominin Sites and Paleolakes Drilling Project (HSPDP), led by Andrew Cohen from the University of Arizona.

One of the project’s aims is to further test the savannah hypothesis that postulates hominins were forced to adapt as the climate became drier and forests were replaced by broad

Our aim is to provide a detailed, high-resolution environmental context for human evolution for the areas where our early ancestors are known to have lived.

Robin Renaut
Ad campaign designed to get people talking, students enrolling

A series of snappy ads have popped up around Calgary encouraging high school students there to attend the U of S. “If only we had a nickel back for every Alberta student that chooses us” reads one of the posters installed in strategically selected bus shelters and CTrain stations around the city. Others include “No cowboy hats required,” “Join the stampede of students applying to the U of S,” and “Dinos are so 200 million years ago.” For Dan Seneker, manager of undergraduate recruitment in the Students and Enrollment Services Division (SESD), the ads “are completely different from anything we’ve done before. We could have done the same old standard university ads but our feeling was we should push the envelope a bit and get people talking about us.” He added his favourite of the ad series reads, “When you want to move away from home … but not to Edmonton.”

The U of S has typically done well recruiting in the Calgary market, said Seneker. “There’s lots of interest about us in that market, we have a lot of ties with high schools there and high school counselors and it’s a huge market in terms of our alumni base.” While student recruitment is the main goal of the ad campaign, Seneker said a secondary objective is “to attract the attention of our graduates who live in Calgary and get them working as our ambassadors.” Created by the marketing and communications group in Advancement and Community Engagement, the ad series was installed in 37 transit locations around the city. Seneker said the sites were selected based on proximity to the University of Calgary, various high schools and even malls, “places where young people gather.” They will remain in place for a month.

Each ad encourages potential students to explore a unique website set up for the campaign. “This allows us to track hits on the site and to follow how that translates into inquiries, applications and ultimately to how many of those students join us in the fall.”

New option for SIIT students

A new agreement between the Edwards School of Business and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies (SIIT) will lead to more Aboriginal students earning business degrees.

The partnership, signed Feb 4 and the first of its kind for the business school, means graduates of SIIT’s two-year business diploma program are now half way to completing a four-year U of S Bachelor of Commerce degree.

“We are committed to creating new opportunities for educational achievement of Aboriginal students,” said Edwards’ Dean Daphne Taras. “This agreement establishes a clean and clear route from SIIT to the Edwards School that will develop the next generation of Aboriginal business leaders. We know there is appetite for this route and we look forward to welcoming SIIT graduates into our program.” Starting this fall, the U of S will recognize a SIIT business diploma as two years towards a four-year bachelor of commerce degree. Prior to the agreement, SIIT business grads had to pursue a commerce degree at the University of Lethbridge if they wanted credit for their prior courses.

Taras said the university wants to eliminate as many barriers as possible for Aboriginal students to obtain a business degree.
Bound for the Brier

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

By day, Steve Laycock is a soft-spoken compensation specialist in the Human Resources Division at the U of S but after work, you’ll find him calling the shots—loudly—for this province’s very best men’s curling team.

Laycock beat defending provincial champion Brock Virtue Feb. 2 in Shaunavon to earn the right to represent Saskatchewan at the highest level of curling in Canada, the Tim Hortons Brier which will be held March 1-9 in Kamloops, B.C. For Laycock, it will be his fourth attempt at the national title, having curled on Saskatchewan’s Brier team in 2007, 2008 and again in 2011.

Shortly before heading to Kamloops, Laycock shared his thoughts on his history in the sport of curling, on what keeps him returning to the ice and on the perfect ending to the 2014 Brier.

On learning to curl

I started curling when I was in Grade 4 with my mom, dad and my brother in a family league in Saltcoats. I remember that I’d throw my two rocks and go back inside to play because it was cold out there on the ice. Then I’d come back out, throw my two rocks and go back inside. I was lead but I moved up to skip pretty quickly, which was good for my learning although my history of sweeping is pretty limited. My interest was really piqued when my older brother made it to the Canada Winter Games final.

Even before I went to high school, I was invited to practice with the Yorkton high school team but I was ineligible to play. In high school, I played football and baseball but curling was my passion.

On the appeal of the game

I think what I like most is the combination of skill, strategy and mental toughness that it takes. You can actually achieve victories by out thinking your opponent. You need to always remain calm but you also have to be strategic.

On putting together a team

What I look for in teammates is really work ethic. Talent only gets you so far; you need people who can reach their potential, not just have potential. On the team we have now, I actually raise the average age quite a bit and I’m only 31. The others are 22, 23 and 26 and we really have a bit of a family feel because two are bothers (Kirk and Dallan Muryes) and their dad’s our coach. (The fourth member of the team is Colton Flasch.)

You also need people who can balance their personal and professional lives. Curling is kind of tough—you’re able to win a bit of money and have some sponsorships but it’s not enough that any of us could consider quitting our full-time jobs.

Then, as a team, you have to have enough fun and success that people want to stick with it.

On curling at a world level

In 2003 we won the World Junior Curling Championship in Switzerland. It was a lot of pressure but actually, I found the provincials tougher. I’d spent my whole career up to that point trying to win provincials as a junior so when we actually made it to worlds, the expectation part wasn’t there and we just went out and performed. (Laycock also represented the U of S at the 2007 Winter Universiade in Italy)

On the Olympics

I’ve been in two Olympic trials, in 2009 and this past fall, and my name is out there but I’m really looking at the 2017 trials for the 2018 Olympics.

On the athletics of curling

I think people could potentially have said curlers weren’t athletes before curling was admitted into the Olympics. There is still an old guard out there, guys who are in their 50s, but an 11-game round robin takes physical endurance and you have to be in good shape.

On training to curl

We all have individual trainers and a team trainer. When I’m training I work on legs, cardio, core strength and balance but I also do yoga, which is really about preventing injury and maintaining flexibility. The breathing you learn in yoga is also helpful for handling pressure.

On curling and work

We do about 20 events a year and maybe three are in Saskatchewan so there’s a lot of flying and driving. I do some work on the road and make up for days away from the office at other times of the year. Almost all of my holidays go toward curling. I’ve taken some extra-long weekends in the summer but I haven’t had a chance to take an extended summer holiday since I started working at the university in 2007.

On the most memorable rock

It was the final stone of the world juniors against Sweden. It was just an in-turn take out and driving. I do some work on the road and make up for days away from the office at other times of the year. Almost all of my holidays go toward curling. I’ve taken some extra-long weekends in the summer but I haven’t had a chance to take an extended summer holiday since I started working at the university in 2007.

On coaches and sport psychologists

Our coach is great at helping with organizing schedules and team meetings. It’s important that we’re all on the same page about rock selection, ice conditions, our game plan. Our sport psychologist focuses on our on-ice communication and team dynamic. No one player can know everything going on out there so we really need to work as a collective and that’s where communication on the ice is so important.

Continued on page 9

RUTH CUTHAND

U of S ALUMNA & WINNER of the 2013 LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR’S AWARD

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artist reception: MARCH 8, 2 - 4 pm

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Mentoring, a learning partnership

LESLEY PORTER

In broad terms, mentoring is a mutual learning partnership, usually between a senior leader and a younger professional in the early stages of their career. However, Gabriella Mezo-Kricsfalusy prefers a more philosophical approach when defining and describing mentorship.

“A tree planted in the clearing of an old forest will fare far better than one planted in an open field,” she said. “Its roots are able to follow the pathway created by former trees, thus embedding itself more deeply.”

As the director of mentoring programs in the College of Medicine (and a biologist by trade, hence the tree analogy), Mezo-Kricsfalusy sees many young professionals, particularly those in the competitive field of medicine, who need an unbiased advisor when it comes to career and personal development.

“Mentoring relationships have the capacity to transform individuals, groups, organizations and communities,” she continued from page 8

“On the Brier

We’ve seen the draw and we’ll play a couple of teams that wouldn’t be labelled favourites early on in the week so I think we have the opportunity to get to a good start. That’s particularly good for the younger students with established physicians to give mentees a realistic perspective of the workplace. A total of 80 students applied, and each was paired with a mentor. The students are happy to have someone to bounce ideas off of and ask, ‘what will it be like when I graduate?’ The physicians involved are also reaping the rewards of medical mentorship, she added.

“Many have said, ‘Wow, I wish I had this when I was in med school.’”

Newer programs on the horizon will extend mentorship opportunities to international medical graduates transitioning into residency programs in Saskatchewan. Also, a faculty mentorship initiative was just launched to support junior faculty as they adapt to a new work environment and assist them with processes like grant writing.

Besides providing direct benefits to participants, Mezo-Kricsfalusy hopes the programs promote mentorship as a fulfilling, mutually beneficial relationship that inspires others to keep on giving.

“We’re really building a culture of mentorship in the college. Those who have experienced the value of a mentor relationship are eager to pass it on.”

—Lesley Porter is communications co-ordinator for the Council of Health Science Deans Office.

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ON CAMPUS NEWS  February 28, 2014
Aboriginal Achievement Across the Arts
All Universality Collective presents Aboriginal Achievement Across the Arts March 13, 1-3 pm, Room 102 Murray Library. Three Indigenous writers—an English, a Cree, and an Arab—will read from their work. Carole Kung Leet and Arabiya Aljunid will share their work with us. DJAM Photography will offer a sneak peak of photographs from the 2014 tray of the exhibition Before the Sound. Students from these three English classes have also been invited to contribute visual or live presentations. For more information contact susan.ginger@usask.ca

ICT Film Series
The ICT Film Series presents Buffalo Crying Hallroom March 19, 6:30-8 pm, in the Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building. April 2, 6:30-8 pm, Operation Big Rock and Thunder from Women to Women, respectively. May 7, 6:30-8 pm, Dancing Sky Theatre’s Gardy Pie will perform his monologue Idle. For more information visit http://it.usask.ca/events

USCAD Classes
• Adobe InDesign – Intro, March 18 and 20, 1-3 pm, student, staff, faculty; $85 others

Seminars/Lectures
Law Lecture
• March 13, 11:45 am to 12:45 pm, Room 399, Jubilee Auditorium. A lecture in Constitutional and International Law at the U of S presents John Garbar, the chair of the International Relations and Constitutional Freedoms, who will give a lecture on a Constitutional Right to Private Health Care

DeBrou Lecture
• March 4, 7-8 pm, Room 105, Forrest Moriarty Library. Electronic Research Chair in the History of Medicine, will present, “The power of the DeBrou Lecture in history entitled Facing Eugenics: Repression, Stabilisation, and the Politics of Choice. For more information contact katy.mcdonald@usask.ca

Drama Lecture
• March 21, 4:30-6:30 pm, Room 107, Phylicia, Ralph M. Parsons Founders Professor and Visiting Professor, Department of Dramatic Arts. Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, her new book on the subject, will present the of Spinks Lecture entitled Equilibrium for the DeBrou Lecture in History

Remote Presence
• March 12, 3-10 pm, Room 110 E Wing, Health Sciences, Yakang Yang, Chair and Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Santa Barbara, Calif., presents How can Remote Presence and New Technology help tackle the Challenging? This lecture is part of the Remote Presence in Forum presented by the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development, and the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development

Vaccinology and Immunotherapies Seminar
• March 12, 3-10 pm, VIDO-InterVac Lecture Theatre, Sothy Navarangisvath, Ravi, professor, and chair of the master of Advanced Vaccinology presents the of Spinks Lecture entitled Equilibrium for the DeBrou Lecture in History

Johnson-Shoyama Lectures
All events in the Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building. March 4, 1-3 pm, Chief Perry Bellegarde, Grand Chief of the Confederacy of the First Nations, presents Saskatchewan First Nations and the Province’s Relationship. March 5, noon-1:30 pm, Saved Mohsin, associate professor of economics, St. Thomas Moore College, presents Ols Reve- run and Macroeconomic Performance: Don-institutional Effects. March 25, 11-12 pm, Ken Ludwig, executive director, organizational effec- tiveness, Public Service Commission and Greg Urbanowski, special advisor to the director of the Advanced Education, presents The Power of the Spinks Lecture entitled Equilibrium for the DeBrou Lecture in History

Philosophy in the Community
• March 12, 7-9 pm, The Refinery in the basement of Emmanuel Anglican Church. St. John the Baptist, Church, Eric Dayton presents Life As Art

Meet the Board
The U of S Board of Governors will hold its annual meeting March 10-15 to mark Aboriginal Achievement Week at the U of S. Visit students.usask.ca/ current/aboriginal/week for details.

CLS Tours
The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre will host Board of Governors tours at 9 am on March 10 and April 5 and 9 pm on February 28 and March 11, 2014. For more information contact erin.mclennan@usask.ca or call 306-966-7162.

Saturday Pet Wellness Clinics
The WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre will host Saturday Pet Wellness Clinics at 9 am on March 8 and 22, and April 5 and 19 for pet checkups or veterinary services. Call 306-966-7200 to book an appointment or for more details. The current fee structure is for a pet visit discount of U of S students and staff.

Kenderdine Art Gallery
Shining Light on the Kenderdine Art Gallery is Rita McDonald’s, an exhibition that includes a visual array of materials and the sounds of various materials in a gallery space in the upstairs of the restaurant. The artist describes the installation as a 3D version of a Losonczi Tunes restaurant in which files have gone terribly awry. The exhibition, curated by Ines Verbeek, will continue until April 26.

College Art Galleries
The group exhibition Epstein, curated by the Kinetic Waterston Art Gallery and on view in the College Art Galleries, explores environmental conservation, destruction and the corrosiveness of architecture and decay in a technological perspective of a number of the artists. The show runs until May 7.

On Stage
Greystone Theatre will present Our Country’s Open, starring three actors. March 14, 7-9 pm, Drama Presents, Collaborative Leadership Lab, 2-3 pm, Library Meeting Room, Downtown Library, Room 202.

On Stage
March 28 – 11:00 am, 2 pm – Health and Wellness Library Meeting Room, Downtown Library, Room 202.

Centre for Continuing Education for Teaching Effectiveness
For more information visit corkies.usask.ca

Indigenous Voices Programs
• March, 9, 11, Shared Ground with Coast Salish and Charles Malaysia SayawSUM
• March, 10, 11, Whitening and Privilege with Shawnah McGowan

Winter Workshops
• March 5, 3-5 pm, Preparing and Prioritizing Your Research for the Conference Seminar Using the New U of S Template with Heather Ross and Kim West
• March 13-14, Introduction to 12 LEAD, Building Relationships in the Foundation to Community-Engaged Learning with Deborah Putnor, Curricular Studies, Education

Continuing Education for Nurses
For more information visit corkies.usask.ca

• Foot Care Modalities for the Elderly: registration required
• Understanding Self and Others Using ME/IT

Biomarker Development Workshop
Workshop
• April 10, 8 am-5 pm, Exeter Room, Marion Hall, a day-long Biomarker Development Workshop will be held to promote information about newly developed technologies in the field of biomarker development with a focus on nucleic biomarkers, nanopores and infectious diseases. This free workshop features speakers from across North America and includes graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, undergraduates and faculty. Registration deadline March 13. To register, email barker.rob@usask.ca or 306-966-7901.

Breast Cancer Rehabilitation Symposium
• May 9-10, Room 2B04, Library, Room 161

Learning Lab, 1st Floor, Murray Library, Room 161

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Respect, Reconciliation, Renewal

St. Thomas More College is holding a one-day conference March 8 entitled Respect, Reconciliation and Renewal: Exploring the Future of Indigenous-Christian Relations. The event, which takes place from 8:30 am-5 pm, will explore how to build relationships of respect and the role of the church and universities. Register at www.stmcollege.ca

Academic Research Day

The Dept. of Psychiatry is holding a Psychiatry Update: Addictions and Mental Health event March 28 in the Rependa Theatre, Saskatoon City Hospital. Among the presenters are Dr. Robert Milin, head, Division of Addictions and Mental Health at the University of Ottawa; Dr. Tony George with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Division of Brain and Therapeutics at the University of Toronto; and Detective Inspector Jerome Engele and with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health event March 28 in the Rependa Theatre, Saskatoon City Hospital. Among the presenters are Dr. Robert Milin, head, Division of Addictions and Mental Health at the University of Ottawa; Dr. Tony George with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Division of Brain and Therapeutics at the University of Toronto; and Detective Inspector Jerome Engele and

Zbeetnoff Drug Therapy Conference

The 11th Annual Peter and Anna Zbeetnoff Memorial Drug Therapy Decision-Making Conference takes place March 7-8 at the Saskatoon Inn. The conference will provide an evidence-based perspective on pharmacotherapeutic initiatives for the benefit of the patient as well as provide a forum for the discussion of a current social issue in medicine. For more information, visit usask.ca/zme

St. Andrew’s College

Winter Refresher

St. Andrew’s College annual Winter Refresher takes place Feb. 28-March 1. This continuing education event will feature Andrea Smith, a Native American anti-violence activist and scholar and associate professor in the Department of Media and Cultural Studies at the University of California, Riverside, who will present Confronting Racism with Solidarity: Untangling Colonial Webs and Creating New Contexts. More information and a Winter Refresher 2014 brochure are available on the college website at standrews.ca or by contacting the general office at 306.966.8970.

From Page 6

• Wealth of new data expected

The hypothesis has been around for at least 40 or 50 years, but nobody thinks it’s that simple anymore,” Renaut said.

One of the missing pieces of the puzzle is just what the climate was doing hundreds of millennia ago. To find out, the researchers are drilling cores deep into several lakes and ancient lake sediments in the Kenya and Ethiopia rifts. Since the sediments were laid down at the same location where early hominins lived, they should reveal what climate and environmental pressures they presented.

“We’re drilling the lake sediments very close to where the hominin fossils were found,” Renaut said, adding that each core will take about three years to analyze fully. “It’s a long-term project.”

Cores have also been drilled by another team from the Smithsonian Institution in the U.S., which provides more information as well as a crosscheck for the HSPDP team.

Some information is already known about the lakes, Renaut explained. Lake Magadi, for example, has sodium carbonate deposits 40 metres thick, indicating dry periods that lasted thousands of years. However, the geological record also shows the lake was sometimes fresh enough to sustain healthy fish populations.

“HSPDP will produce a wealth of new data to help test hypotheses about some of the factors that drove human evolution,” Renaut said. “Our aim is to provide a detailed, high-resolution environmental context for human evolution for the areas where our early ancestors are known to have lived.”

Up to 1.8 million lesser flamingos gathered at Kenya’s Lake Bogoria in August 2013. Many of the birds left Kenya’s Lake Nakuru when it became too fresh.

In Memoriam

Rose Brook, CUPE 1975, Sept. 19
Carolyn L. Carruthers, WCVM, Nov. 11
Johnny Rungo, Industry Liaison Office, Dec. 3
Barry G. Lucas, Education, Dec. 10
Dale P. Clark, FMD, Dec. 12
Susan Peters, Facilities Management Division, Dec. 14
Susan J. Fjeldstrom, WCVM, Dec. 21
Howard A. Klein, Education, Dec. 28
Peter A. Scott, Library, Dec. 30
Paul D. Ferguson, Arts and Science, Jan. 5
Dr. David R. Popkin, Medicine, Jan. 7

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Upcoming 2-day workshops 2014

• March 20 and 27
• June 17 and 24

To register, call the CCDE Registration Office at 306.966.5339. Online Registration is not available. For more information about these and other Employee Development courses visit ccde.usask.ca/employees.
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

New view of old sights

Fiona Haynes has only been in her office on the west side of E Wing of Health Sciences a few months, through fall and winter, “but it’s been glorious to see the transition of the seasons.”

The research facilitator in the College of Nursing looks out on some remarkable Saskatoon architecture—the original Royal University Hospital, the Little Stone School, stately St. Andrew’s College, the Memorial Gates and the Delta Bessbourough Hotel downtown—all framed by “the fabulous prairie sky.”

When she first moved in, she said it was interesting to watch people below her window discover that parking meters had yet to be installed in the loop behind the building. “People found out and parked there all day, for free. I think it was the best kept secret on campus for a while.”

As spring comes on, Haynes is adjusting to increasing sunlight in her office “but they’ve equipped us with special blinds that filter the light. The light is a bit more problematic as the days get longer but I do make a point of working facing the window when I’m reading or editing because I’ve got one of the most stunning views you could have and it would be criminal to waste it.”