Students at the University of Saskatchewan will see their tuition fees rise by an overall average of 4.5 per cent for the 2014-15 academic year and for the first time, tuition revenue will be allocated directly to the colleges and schools where they are enrolled for improvements to programs and services.

The U of S Board of Governors approved the new tuition rates March 6. While the average increase for all students is 4.5 per cent, undergraduates will see increases between zero and 5.5 per cent next year, depending on the program. Tuition for standard graduate programs will go up an average of four per cent, again depending on the program. Three professional graduate programs will see increases of 10-20 per cent. (Please see chart of typical tuition increases by program and related stories on Page 2.)

With the phase in of the university’s new Transparent Activity-Based Budget System (TABBS), tuition revenue will be used by the college or school to support students on a number of fronts, explained Brett Fairbairn, provost and vice-president academic. While the change to TABBS “won’t create more revenue for the university, it’s making transparent how tuition is tied to the activity in the colleges and schools and how it helps support that activity.”

In addition to financing program delivery, tuition dollars will go to financial aid for students, advising and career counselling, new faculty positions and new program options, he said. “It’s revenue that will enable colleges to do things that are good for students and good for communities. The fees that students pay are associated with the value and the quality of the experience they get.”

It’s revenue that will enable colleges to do things that are good for students and good for communities. The fees that students pay are associated with the value and the quality of the experience they get.

Brett Fairbairn

The university continues to set its tuition fees based on the principles of comparability, affordability and accessibility, and quality. Fairbairn continued, not on the need to balance the budget.

Tuition revenue is one input into the budgeting process, which involves considering all revenue sources, “projecting those into the future and planning our expenditures. We don’t plan the expenditures first and then go back and ask what we need from tuition fees.”

He added efforts to tighten expenditures through workforce planning, program prioritization, reducing utility costs and other initiatives rather than increasing revenue through tuition are key to the budget process but “may or may not register with students.”

Adhering to the tuition-setting principles means considering myriad factors, not all of which are strictly financial. On the comparability front, information is collected from the other 14 members of the U15, Canada’s largest research universities and the U of S comparator group. “And despite Statistics Canada’s rather odd way of calculating things, we know that program by program, our fees are below the median in the U15.”

In comparing quality of programs, Fairbairn said the first consideration is whether other programs are accredited, “the minimum bar.” Student outcomes are also factored in “but there’s also the quality...”

See Many, Page 2
Many factors go into setting tuition

USSU calls for long-term tuition strategy

In response to the March 10 announcement of 2014-15 tuition rates, the University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) is calling for a long-term strategy for tuition setting.

“If the University can project budget shortfalls as part of TransformUS, surely they can project tuition costs for students,” said Jordan Sherbino, the USSU vice-president of academic affairs in a media release. “It would be beneficial for students to know the cost of their education when they are thinking about attending the U of S.”

Sherbino added the USSU would also like to see tuition increases kept in line with the provincial Consumer Price Index (CPI), another step in ensuring students know what they will be paying when they enrol. The increases announced for the next academic year are more than double the CPI, he said.

“The USSU wants to avoid a situation where less wealthy students must base their career choices on what they can afford,” said Sherbino.

Typical tuition increase by program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Program</th>
<th>Tuition only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>2014-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Science</td>
<td>$5,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Bioresources</td>
<td>$5,424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>$6,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$5,430</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>$7,291</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
<td>$5,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>$11,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>$5,784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>$5,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>$8,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>$32,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>$14,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Medicine</td>
<td>$7,872</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Studies</td>
<td>$3,585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The introduction of a new budgeting system, and the flow of tuition revenue directly to the colleges and schools where students are enrolled means “we suddenly have our fate in our own hands,” said Peter Stoicheff, dean of the College of Arts and Science.

The Transparent, Activity-Based Budget System (TABBS) provides financial incentive to create new programs, combine existing programs in an interdiscipli- nary way or embark on other curricular innovations in order to attract students and their tuition, he said. “In my opinion, the TABBS model will be very good for students.”

Traditionally, the college received a “historically deter- mined amount of money that stayed relatively constant and wasn’t really tied to what we were doing,” he said. “If enrol- ments went up, we wouldn’t necessarily have seen that reflected” which is something that changes with the phase in of TABBS.

We should provide the college priorities of Aboriginal student success, curriculum renewal and increasing support for graduate students remain constant, the dean said tuition revenue would also allow for the strategic placement of faculty positions in areas of new or high demand in direct response to the academic interest of students.

“With the TABBS model, we can determine where we want to put faculty in the programs we want to grow. We can also plan regarding the results of Trans- formUS more effectively in the new funding model.”

Tuition-setting process and principles, “we’re also getting more comfortable with having the conversation” about multi-year tuition commitments.

Locking in a key revenue source for several years presents some risks, particularly when public funding is under pressure, he said, “but I can appreciate where it would be nice for students if we went the extra step and just projected tuition forward.”

General Academic Assembly (GAA)

The president’s state of the university address

The president’s state of the university address

President Ilene Busch-Yoshihac, chair of the GAA, invites you to attend the annual meeting of the GAA, where she will give her report on the state of the university. This event is open to all faculty, staff and students.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 NOON

CONVOCATION HALL

Members of the GAA include the president as chair, members of faculty, elected students, deans, executive directors of schools, vice-presidents, the university secretary and this regent.

For more information, visit

usask.ca/secretariat

NEXT DEADLINE

Thursday, March 20, 2014
Rover ready for competition

About 15 members of the University of Saskatchewan Space Design Team (USST) will be packing their bags and heading to Utah this May. The team is competing in the University Rover Challenge, organized by the Mars Society, in the Utah Desert Research Station near Hanksville, Utah.

They join 30 other teams from six countries across four continents, a record level of participation for the challenge, which is in its seventh year. The team officially registered in the competition in November, but has been working on their rover design since January.

“We’re on target,” said USST President Justin Gerein. “We’re working on completing the frame now.”

The USST must design their rover to successfully traverse challenging, Mars-like terrain, provide astronaut assistance, perform equipment maintenance and collect and analyze samples. The Utah event includes four sub-category challenges to test each of these capabilities. As USST Vice-President Operations Ryan Chester explained, in each of the challenges the team will be marked out of 100, and must deliver a presentation worth 100 points, for a total score out of 500.

USST members have been working—tucked away in the back of the Hardy Lab in the Engineering Building—to create both a computer and three-dimensional model as part of the overall development process. As well, they have completed much of the software and electrical system for the rover they will take to Utah. They are focused now on completing the mechanical systems, including the rover arm, chassis and suspension, and must be ready to create a video of the functioning rover by April 25. This must be submitted in advance as part of the competition requirements. The video helps ensure teams are in a position to compete successfully prior to making the trip to Utah.

With the competition in May fast approaching, the level of excitement among the team is rising. For Gerein and Chester, what they are most looking forward to is seeing the finished product.

“This is the first time building a complete system for the team in four years. The last one was the battery-powered climber the team took to the space elevator challenge in Japan,” Gerein explained.

“We’re also really excited to be getting back to a competition,” Chester added.

While the majority of the 30 USST students hail from the College of Engineering, team members come from many quarters of campus including the Edwards School of Business, computer science and biology. This mix generates a broad range of knowledge and perspectives across the team membership.

“We’re a pretty diverse group,” said Chester. This comes in handy given the range of requirements in design and function needed in this particular competition. Adding to that challenge is the strict requirement that the rover not exceed 50 kilograms in mass.

USST turns a page on its history

The USST turns a new page on its history this year. Formed in 2005, the USST is dedicated to developing new space technology by working on projects and participating in competitions related to the space industry. The group’s activities over the years have led to achievements that include third place among 12 teams at a Canadian satellite design challenge in 2012, and three consecutive first-place finishes, from 2005-07, at the space elevator games.

Kate Blau is the communications officer for the College of Engineering.
“I’ve known I wanted to be a neurological physical therapist since high school,” said Kristin Musselman, who joined the faculty of the U of S School of Physical Therapy in July 2013. When she was a teen, Musselman’s grandfather suffered a stroke. “The physical therapist came to our house to see him once he’d been discharged from rehab,” she said. “I was around and got to watch what was happening and how she was working with him. That got me interested.”

Musselman grew up near Ottawa and completed her undergraduate degree at Queen’s University. While her initial interest was stroke patients, she changed her focus to post-spinal-injury rehab when she pursued graduate studies at the University of Alberta. With a PhD in hand, she secured a postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Maryland.

Musselman specializes in people who have had incomplete spinal injuries, meaning their spinal cord has been damaged but not severed. “Prior to the 1990s, whether you had a complete spinal cord injury or an incomplete injury, typically they didn’t expect you to do a lot of walking.” That changed when it was discovered people could learn to take steps using treadmills with some of their weight supported.

“When you walk, you need two things,” Musselman said. “It’s not just being able to take steps and thrust your body forward. Just as important is the ability to maintain stability. If you can’t keep your balance, you’re not going to be able to walk.”

Balance is complex, involving sensation from the soles of the feet, muscle strength and proprioception—the sense of where the various parts of the body are in relation to each other. Musselman wants to find out if it is possible for patients to re-learn balance through therapy.

“I’ve always been interested in research.”

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 University of Saskatchewan is once again well represented on the short list for the 2014 Saskatchewan Book Awards. Dwayne Brenna from the Department of Drama had his book Stealing Home nominated in two categories for this year’s awards – for the University of Regina Book of the Year prize and for the City of Saskatoon and Public Library Saskatoon Book Award. PhD student Mari-Lou Rowley’s book of poetry entitled Unus Mundus also received a nomination for book of the year and the Saskatchewan book award as well as for the Saskatchewan Arts Board Poetry Award.

A third nominee for the Saskatchewan book award category is Mantis Dreams: The Journal of Dr. Dexter Ripley by PhD student Adam Pottle.

Making the list in multiple categories for non-fiction writing is Decolonizing Education: Nourishing the Learning Spirit by Marie Battiste, professor of educational foundations. Her book is nominated for the University of Regina Faculty of Education and Campion College Award for Publishing in Education, the Rasmussen, Rasmussen and Charowsky Aboriginal Peoples’ Writing Award and the First Nations University of Canada Aboriginal Peoples’ Publishing Award.

Also appearing on the shortlist for the publishing in education award is The Literary History of Saskatchewan: Volume I, Beginnings by English professor emeritus David Carpenter.

The Catholicisms of Constance: Varieties of Religion in Early Modern France 1305-1789 by Michael Hayden, professor emeritus in the Department of History, is shortlisted in the University of Saskatchewan College of Arts and Science and Library Non-Fiction Award category. Clearing The Plains: Disease, Politics of Starvation, and The Loss of Aboriginal Life by Jim Daschuk of the Saskatchewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit is shortlisted for four writing awards – for non-fiction, for first book, for the Drs. Morris and Jacqui Shumacher Regina Book Award and for the University of Regina Arts and Luther Award for Scholarly Writing. It is also shortlisted for the publishing in education award and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport Publishing Award.

The 2014 Saskatchewan Book Awards will be announced in Regina April 26.
Exploring the world of poison
No science background needed for new course

Kris Foster

A new entry-level course called Poisons and Pollutants aims to raise awareness and enrollment in the U of S Toxicology program.

“We’ve had an undergrad-uate program in toxicology for 12 years, the only one in western Canada,” said Mark Wickstrom, chair of the Toxicology Under-graduate Program. “But when students leave high school, toxicology isn’t exactly top of mind.”

“They may have seen toxicology on TV, like CSI, but that gives them only a narrow perspective on what toxicology is,” added Karsten Liber, director of the Toxicology Centre, explaining that toxicology is people poisoning people and people poisoning the environment, and is thus a very broad field with wide appeal.

“Toxicology addresses real world concerns, but prior to this course, students haven’t been exposed to this (subject) until third or fourth year,” said Liber. “When students discover this area of study, they often say ‘I wish I knew about this sooner.’”

To change that, Liber, Wickstrom and lead instructor Paul Jones, developed Poisons and Pollutants, a 208-level course that will be offered this coming fall. The course, explained Liber, only requires 18 university-level credit units in order to enroll and will give students a taste of toxicology earlier in their academic careers.

The curriculum has also been designed so that a science background is not required, said Liber, in the hopes that this will draw wider interest from students with diverse backgrounds.

“In the real world, we are surrounded by poisons: radiation, food poisoning, industrial chemicals and pesticides, drugs, air pollution,” said Wickstrom, an associate professor in the Toxicology Centre and the Depart-ment of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences who studies wildlife toxicology. “Toxicology is a broad-based, interdisciplinary science with many career paths, in large part because people are increasingly concerned about their health and the health of the environment.

The classes are intended to give students a historical overview of toxicology, with each class covering a different subject area. “Every class is a different stand-alone lecture,” explained Jones. “They are meant to tell the story of toxicology from the beginning, tracking its transformation, and highlighting major poisoning and pollution events.”

No small task, said Wickstrom, adding: “If prostitution is the oldest profession, then toxicology is the oldest science… It existed the moment someone asked: ‘Can I eat this mushroom or berry?’ Determining what was safe to eat was a trial and error experiment.”

With topics ranging from animal toxins and how to make a better poison, to recreational drugs and nuclear power safety, toxicology is the oldest science of all. “We exist to tell the story of toxicology and ask important questions like: ‘Is this safe to eat?’ Or ‘Is it safe to inhale?’” said Jones.

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“Protective Services Services on now Twitter”

Protective Services at the University of Saskatchewan now has an official Twitter account.

“We encourage students, staff, faculty and others to follow us,” said Brian Muchmore, director of Protective Services. “Our tweets will offer advice on how to prevent thefts on campus, and attempt to connect individ-uals who have missed or lost items with our Lost and Found Department.”

Muchmore said the Twitter account — @UaskPS — will also be used to keep members of the campus community updated on some of the resources Protective Services has to offer, including RAD (self-defense for women), Safewalk, Usafe and VTRA (Violence Threat Risk Assess-ment). Tweets will also provide updates on traffic conditions on campus and officer activity as well as emergency alerts.

The account can also be used to ask questions but it will not be monitored 24 hours a day so crime and emergencies should be reported to 306-966-5555, he added.

Around the Bowl

University architect and associate vice-president of facilities, Colin Tennent has been elected to the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada’s College of Fellows. The honour recognizes professional eminence and distinctive service to the profession of architecture, and is the highest award conferred by the institute.

Mark Roman has been appointed chief information officer and associate vice president of information and communication technology beginning March 1 and without a term.

Mark & Barb Wouters

21 MAPLE ROAD STRAWBERRY HILLS

WOW! Quality Priced 1953 sq ft fully developed walkout bungalow with in floor heat, situated only 10KM East of the city on an elevated, hilly, heavily wooded 10 acre parcel offering great views. Possibly one of the best lots close to the city. Sundeck and trex offer over sized windows which overlook the beautiful setting. Maple kitchen, oak hardwood flooring, 2 gas fireplaces & 24’ x 24’ workshop. Stunning home and landscaping. EXCLUSIVE $799,900

102 Swan Cr

Newly built, magnificent and immaculate 3+2 bedroom 1993 sq ft bungalow next to school and park in Latimer. Cathedral ceilings in living room, hardwood floors in dining room and hallways. Sundeck off eating nook with south & east exposure. Excellent basement development, heated garage, and corner lot with room for RV parking. Low maintenance exterior with concrete curbing in front. $624,900

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Lessons from the past
Cunfer seeks insight into low-energy farming

A comparison of Old and New World agricultural systems may have lessons to help guide modern agriculture in the face of climate change, according to U of S historian Geoff Cunfer.

“Our question is what strategies have farmers used over time and in different places to be able to sustain farming for centuries, and in what ways has that changed in the last 50 or 60 years?” he said.

Cunfer and colleague Fridolin Krausmann from the University of Klagenfurt compared centuries-old farming practices in Austria with those of Austrian immigrants who came to Kansas in the American Midwest in the late 1800s.

By raising both crops and livestock, Austrian farmers had achieved a state of equilibrium, Cunfer explained. Every year, farmers would spread manure from their livestock on the soil to replace nutrients used by the crops. The livestock would in turn provide meat, milk, and power to cultivate the land.

The system wasn’t perfect — farmers typically had to keep more livestock than necessary for other purposes because they needed the extra manure. Still, for the most part they fed themselves, paid a portion to the landlords and the church, and rented land to cultivate the land.

The system wasn’t as efficient as the American farmers, who had more livestock than necessary simply because there was plentiful land, were simply more productive with low labour inputs and synthetic fertilizer.

When the North American plains opened to settlement, some Austrians emigrated, drawn by the promise of building a new life on land they owned themselves. Cunfer and Krausmann looked at several families that settled in Kansas and plumed the records on both sides of the Atlantic to see how things developed.

At first, production was meager as the American immigrant farmers opened the virgin grassland to the plow. Here, land was plentiful, labour scarce. But as the new farms became established, they produced prodigious amounts of grain, enough for their own needs and for export.

Cunfer explained that it was when nitrogen was drastically increased that crop yields started declining more than 50 years. By the 1990s, crop yields started declining dramatically. Most important was the drop in nitrogen, a key soil nutrient.

“Farmers were facing a soil fertility crisis by the mid 20th century,” Cunfer said. Although nitrogen is the most abundant gas in the earth’s atmosphere, there are few ways to get it out of the air and into the soil other than applying manure or growing pulse crops like beans and peas.

The answer came with the invention in the early 20th century of the Haber-Bosch process that produces ammonia, a compound used in today’s fertilizers, from natural gas and nitrogen in the air. Combined with gas and diesel-powered farm equipment, farms on both sides of the Atlantic again increased their production.

“It was revolutionary,” Cunfer said. “For the first time farmers were no longer mandated by nature to constantly pull and recycle nitrogen from their own land. Now they could import it from outside. Wheat yields doubled and then doubled again.”

The transition to fossil fuel inputs has followed the same pattern around the world and it has allowed farmers to feed a larger world population than ever before. A side effect of this was that some marginal land went out of production and reverted back to nature.

“One thing that was surprising was that with this transition to high-input agriculture, there’s usually a reduction in crop land,” Cunfer said. “In the U.S. it’s something in the range of 15 per cent; in Austria it’s about 18-20 per cent.”

On the other side of the ecological balance sheet, concentrating large numbers of livestock in small areas have made manure, once an essential commodity, into a liability. Also, use of fossil fuels is contributing to climate change.

“I think what a lot of people are anticipating is that another transition will be necessary going in the other direction, as fossil fuels become more scarce, more expensive, and maybe limited because of the carbon concerns.”

Cunfer and his colleagues are looking at farm systems around the world for possible answers. Of particular interest is Cuba, where farmers have had to “go back to essentially what is an organic system” after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the late 1980s cut off supplies of fuel and synthetic fertilizer.

“The question is, are there strategies from the past that allow sustainable, productive farming with lower energy?”
Mapping human movement

COLLEEN MACPHerson

Ian Stavness, assistant professor of computer science, is setting up a Computational Synthesis Lab to image body movements. Above right is a head model image Stavness created.

There is no doubt the hip bone’s connected to the leg bone and so on, but figuring out how the human body actually functions mechanically, how its myriad moving parts move, is the challenge Ian Stavness has taken on.

Stavness, an assistant professor of computer science, is working with colleagues in medicine and kinesiology to build a facility at the U of S that will produce digital representations of human bodies including computer simulations and 3D visual displays. The goal is to develop biomedical applications to help with the detection, diagnosis and treatment of movement disorders.

“There are a lot of very advanced imaging techniques available now but in an MRI, for example, you have to be very still,” explained Stavness who earned a degree in electrical engineering from the U of S before completing advanced degrees in computer and bioengineering at UBC and Stanford. “An MRI gives you a nice 3D image but it doesn’t show the moving whole. We want to make those static pictures move.”

Using computers, cameras and sensors combined with extremely accurate measurements from conventional imaging techniques, Stavness is able to generate simulations or animations of the moving human body. “With these, we can make predictions about how movement is generated” and what causes movement problems.

Stavness’ particular area of interest is movement issues in the head and neck. “From an engineering perspective, this is a very complex area of the body with a lot of soft tissue and muscle. There are also some very compelling medical problems like swallowing disorders and speech deficits. With swallowing problems, we can do video fluoroscopy and CT scans but again, they’re static so we use simulations or animations to fill in the blanks.”

The facility under development in the Thorvaldson Building, called the Laboratory for Computational Synthesis of Humans and Objects or Computational Synthesis Lab for short, will include hardware and software that can be used to model body movement based on data collected about individual patients. Stavness has funding for the project from a number of sources including the province and the Canada Foundation for Innovation, and expects the facility will be operating within a year.

And thinking it all sounds like something straight out of a sci-fi movie is not far wrong. “We do take a lot of cutting-edge techniques from video games and movie special effects but for us, the bar is much higher. The people who make games and movies want them to look good; we have to make sure what we produce is sufficiently accurate that we can give them to a doctor.”

Interest in the area of movement science is growing, Stavness said, and the community of researchers is well connected. “All of the software we develop is completely open source and we share data and software internationally. We’re really trying to make progress on these goals without reinventing the wheel.”

OUT OF HIBERNATION

A bright sunny day and a few inches of fresh snow are almost irresistible to most youngsters, including those from the Campus Child Care Centre in the Education Building. This group discovered a kid-sized snow pile outside the University Services Building. As one of their care givers noted, after such a long, dark, cold winter, these little ones are happy to be out of hibernation.
Recreation space plan takes shape

Kris Foster

Plans to identify recreation spaces for future development throughout the College Quarter site are underway.

"The intent was to revisit the College Quarter master plan and try to add more detail on recreational opportunities at the site," said James Cook, manager of business opportunities in Corporate Administration. "We have talked to all key stakeholders—Huskies and kinesiology students, neighbouring communities, Campus Rec and the City of Saskatoon—to get that input."

Consultation with these groups, as well as with the entire campus community, included an open house "ideas fair" in late February; face-to-face meetings and an online survey that runs until March 24.

“‘We wanted to get as many ideas on what kind of recreational spaces and services would be useful in this development plan,’ Cook explained. ‘We have received a lot of interesting ideas like modern playground equipment for neighbourhood children, skating loops, outdoor fitness circuits with adult equipment stations, and informal green spaces that are available for yoga, quiet contemplation or Frisbee.’

In addition to all these suggestions, another key consideration for developing recreation spaces is the replacement of playing fields that ‘have been lost to development that has already happened. We are trying to find the right locations, number, and mix of grass and artificial fields.’

Consultants at Brook McIlroy, the architecture, urban design and landscape firm that developed the original College Quarter master plan, are building the recreation plan based on all feedback received and will suggest the right mix and placement of formal and informal recreational spaces as well as placement of pedestrian and bicycling pathways.

“This draft plan will be ready to present to our stakeholders hopefully in May for further feedback,” said Cook. "Once we have a plan established, we will set priorities for development of these rec spaces and determine funding sources. Those sources could include funding through other College Quarter development or possibly community fundraising initiatives.”

Temperatures to shift

2 up, 1 down

Colleen MacPherson

A slight adjustment in building temperatures at the University of Saskatchewan is expected to reap financial and environmental benefits, but not make people uncomfortable in their classes or offices.

It was announced Feb. 27, to coincide with International Polar Bear Day, that indoor temperatures across campus will be raised two degrees in the spring and summer, to a target of 24 degrees C, and lowered one degree to a target of 21 degrees C in the fall and winter.

"And like all good energy management programs, there’s an environmental benefit and an economic benefit too," said Kathryn Theede, energy and emissions officer in the Office of Sustainability.

Those benefits are expected to amount to about $200,000
Connecting with students right where they live

It’s Saturday morning and the aroma of fresh coffee combines with homemade scones at Graduate House. “I wouldn’t want to use the word ‘bribe’, but my wife is a trained pastry chef,” enthuses faculty-in-residence Martin Gaal. “I offer goodies and a classroom for people to come and work on their research. If they want me to read their stuff, I can give them some feedback.”

Gaal’s mandate as faculty in residence is to enhance the academic atmosphere of Graduate House. He and his wife, Deanna, along with their newborn daughter, live in the University of Saskatchewan’s newest residence building, which is part of the College Quarter development.

Gaal, who has a PhD in politics and international relations from University of Kent, is also a sessional lecturer in the Department of Political Studies. Originally from British Columbia, Gaal worked and studied in South Korea, China, Taiwan and Belgium before moving to Saskatoon three years ago.

When the opportunity came to live in residence, he jumped at the chance. “I’ve always been really involved in student initiatives,” he said.

The Gaals lived in a combined graduate and undergraduate building last year. When Graduate House opened this fall, they were among the first to move in. The needs of graduate students are significantly different than those of undergraduate students.

“Grad students can be very insular because they are so focused and there is a lot of pressure to get stuff done. Because of that, there is an unfortunate tendency to shut out the world and start hyper-focusing on what they are doing,” Gall said.

This can be counter productive, resulting in struggles academically and personally. It’s important to draw students out of their suites and encourage them to build into the Graduate House community, he said. Social gatherings have included potlucks, games nights and watching early morning Olympic hockey games. As the year progresses, Gaal is seeing students interacting more and more.

“Having the grad students all in one place gives them the space to meet people who are like minded. Even if you are studying something different, you are still in the same place in life,” Gaal said.

Gaal has built strong connections with the international students who call Grad House home. Because Saskatchewan students often return to their home towns on weekends, Gaal has the opportunity to be with students from around the world during their off hours.

But he isn’t just a social convener. During his Saturday morning “office hours” in the lounge, he often acts as a sounding board for students. He challenges them to take the “Aunt Bessie” test: explain their research to him in less than five minutes in a way that he can understand even if it’s not in his field of study. When students can do that, they are ready to defend their work, he said.

Gaal also organizes speakers to come to Graduate House. Anything “quirky” is how he describes the kinds of topics he offers the students – street art and robots are two examples – and he encourages others on campus to contact him with suggested talks.

Lana Haight is a Saskatoon freelance writer.

Savings expected in dollars, carbon emissions

From Page 7

annually in utility costs and a 2,000-tonne reduction in annual carbon emissions attributable to the U of S.

Theede said the new temperature initiative – referred to as two up, one down – builds on the university’s Climate Action Plan that was instituted in 2012 and all procedures related to the change are expected to be in place by May when the central heating plant switches buildings from heating to cooling. Most campus spaces are currently maintained at 22-23 degrees C year round, which is within the industry standard for thermal comfort, the point at which about 80 per cent of people are happy.

“We’re working toward getting everyone into this range,” added Heather Trueman, sustainability initiatives liaison.

One of the first steps in making the change is to ensure thermostats are properly calibrated to read temperature accurately, said Theede. But even with accurate thermostats, campus is an extraordinarily complex environment to heat and cool consistently given the varying ages of infrastructure and the sizes of rooms. A lecture theatre, for example, is cool when empty but can heat quickly when it is filled with 200 people.

“The change would be so much easier if we were dealing with only one building,” she said, “so we need to use the target temperatures as rules of thumb. There are parts of campus that are hard to heat and cool, and the facilities division deals with those on a case-by-case basis. We’re also faced with areas of special need like research, animal care and technology so there has to be some variation.”

Calculating the savings in both dollars and emissions is also a bit of an art, said Trueman. Because there are so many variables, the sustainability office relies on industry calculations to estimate savings, and even then, the expectations are conservative.

When last calculated in 2009-10, U of S carbon emissions were pegged at 165,000 tonnes per year with 58 per cent of that total attributed to electricity, 34 per cent to natural gas and the remainder to transportation, waste and agriculture. The savings estimate of 2,000 tonnes is a very small percentage of actuals, said Trueman, “but to be absolutely accurate we would have to be able to hold everything constant, including the weather. We have to rely on industry wisdom about what percentage we can save with each degree of temperature change.”

“We have to trust in the logic,” continued Theede. “If we reduce demand, our greenhouse gases will go down and we’ll save money.”
Vaccinology and Immunotherapeutics Seminar
March 21, 2013, 9:30 a.m., VIDO-Interpath lecture theatre, Richard Deacon, assistant professor, continues The role of interferon-gamma in protective immunity against influenza A virus replication; and Teresia Maina, PhD graduate student, presents The role of Mycoplasma bovis in modulating Bovine Alveolar Macrophage chemotaxis.

Spinsks Lecture
March 21, 3:45 p.m., Room 107 Physics, James Ling, UVic. Personality Prediction and Development Chart, University of Victoria. This talk is joint hosted by the Behavioral Neuroscience Program and Environmental Psychology.

Water Leaders of Tomorrow
Fridays at 12:30pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre
• March 21, 3-5 pm, Arts 140, Geoff Cunfer, Jesse Caldwell Lecture at 306-664-4124 or 23, also in Room 132 Archeology. The event marks the Jesse Caldwell Memorial Lecture.

Corporate Universities and the Bottom Line.
A panel discussion entitled Corporate Universities and the Bottom Line. A panel discussion entitled "Corporate Universities and the Bottom Line." Leading experts in the field will share their insights and perspectives on the impact of corporate universities on the future of higher education and the workforce.

New South Wales, Australia in 1789, is a

Division of Science Seminar
March 14, 12:30 pm, Room 159 Tualakhahn, James R. Bolton, author, professor and supervisor of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, undergraduate students and technicians.

Library Research and Reference
For more information, visit usask.ca/water

Library Research Workshop: Learning to Search for Information, Friday, March 22 at 2:30-4 pm, $0 students, staff, faculty; $75 others.

Biomarker Development Work -

February 2013 edition

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Council defeats motion of non confidence

Council defeated a motion Feb. 27 that expressed a lack of confidence in TransformUS as a means of making academic decisions. TransformUS is the university’s program prioritization process that is unfolding as part of efforts to deal with a projected budget deficit.

The motion was introduced by Len Findlay, professor in the Department of English, in an appeal for collegial action instead of “institutional alignment and financial expediency.” He said Council made two mistakes when it approved the board rather than strategic cuts. Decisions are inevitable, he said, and encouraged colleagues to engage in the process.

Several people shared their experiences at other institutions that implemented across-the-board rather than strategic cuts. The alternatives to TransformUS “are not pretty,” said David Hill, dean of pharmacy and nutrition.

Lisa Kalynchuk, a faculty member in the Department of Psychology and co-chair of the TransformUS committee that evaluated academic programs, reminded the meeting that the authority of Council to debate and if we can’t fix them, to get rid of them?”

In the long debate that followed, Council members supporting the motion criticized TransformUS and the Robert Dickeson model on which it was based, expressed concern about how academic programs were evaluated and noted the potential for the loss of faculty positions with any elimination of programs.

Lois Berry, acting dean of nursing, speaking against the motion said that while the process is not perfect, it has resulted in conversations “like no others” about academic programs. Decisions are inevitable, she said, and encouraged colleagues to engage in the process.

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Lisa Kalynchuk, a faculty member in the Department of Psychology and co-chair of the TransformUS committee that evaluated academic programs, reminded the meeting that the authority of Council to debate any and all proposed changes to programming has never been in question. But, she continued, the task force did identify programs “that are not working. Don’t we owe it to students to fix them, and if we can’t fix them, to get rid of them?”

The non-confidence motion was defeated by a large majority, as was an earlier motion calling for a recorded vote.

transformational potential of theatre and the civilizing power of the arts. Details and tickets available on the Dept. of Drama website.

Miscellany

Research Day
The 21st annual Live and Health Sciences Research Day takes place March 14 in D. Wing atrium, Health Sciences. Keynote speaker is John Gordon, professor in the Division of Respiratory, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, he will speak at 10:30 am in Room 115B.

Aboriginal Achievement Week
A number of activities, presentations, meals and celebrations will be held 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 Canadian Light Source is offering free public tours of the facility most Thursdays at 1:30 pm and at 7 pm on March 20 and April 17. Reservations are required. An online form is available on the CLS website under the education tab, or email outreach@lightsource.ca, or call 306-657-3644.

Saturday Pet Wellness Clinics
The WCVH Veterinary Medical Centre will hold Saturday Pet Wellness Clinics from 8:30 am-4:30 pm March 22, and April 5 and 19 for pet checkups or vaccinations. Call 306-966-7126 to book an appointment or for more details. The centre offers a 10 per cent discount for U of S students and staff.

University Library Dean’s Award for Excellence
Have you received exceptional service/work from a University Library employee or team?

Awards Information
The Awards Nominate an individual or team for the University Library Dean’s Award for Excellence today!

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The Criteria All library employees holding continuing appointments are eligible for nomination. All members of the University Library community (e.g. library employees, patrons, suppliers, etc.) are invited to submit nominations for the award. The nomination form may be submitted by an individual or group. More information on the award and appropriate nomination forms can be found at library.usask.ca or by contacting the Executive Assistant to the Dean at library.ea@usask.ca or 966-6094. Completed nomination forms must be marked confidential and submitted to the Library Executive Assistant no later than the last working day in March.

Deadline: Friday, March 28
Next OCN: Friday, March 28
Deadline: Thursday, March 20
Email ocn@usask.ca

library.usask.ca/info/initiatives/deansaward.php

Nominate an individual or team for the University Library Dean’s Award for Excellence today!

SHOW OF SUPPORT
A small crowd gathered March 6 in the Lesya Ukrainka garden outside the Murray Library to raise awareness about and show support for those involved in the political unrest in Ukraine. A number of people spoke while those in the group held flags, placards and candles.
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

Where the action is

From her office window on the second floor of the Arts Building, Andrea Wasylow-Ducasse overlooks one of the busiest spots on campus. But better than that, she’s got a window on her own family history.

Wasylow-Ducasse, executive director of planning and projects in the College of Arts and Science, looks down on the main entrance to her building, a busy place where students and others congregate around what she called “the concrete mushrooms.” And it was here, at the mushrooms, that her own parents would meet on dates when they were U of S students. “My family history is here.”

While most people would appreciate the views eastward through the trees toward the Geology Building, some might find it a bit of a noisy spot, but not Wasylow-Ducasse. “It’s great to hear the hustle and bustle of campus – the voices, the concerts in the Bowl, the rallies. There’s always laughing and yelling. This is where the action is.”