An academic review of the university’s School of Public Health will soon get underway, fulfilling one of three commitments made to the unit in July by Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic Ernie Barber.

Just days into his term, Barber met with faculty members and a student leader in the school “and I made some commitments.” The first was to begin a search for a new executive director to replace Robert Buckingham who was removed from the position in May.

“The second commitment I made was to do an academic review that would take place concurrently with the beginning of the search and it would be informative when we’re making an offer to someone to serve as executive director,” said Barber.

The third, he said, was an assurance he would look at all complaints made by students, staff and faculty about various aspects of the school’s operation and personnel to be sure each was investigated appropriately. Even after the investigations are complete, Barber acknowledged work will still need to be done to resolve underlying and lingering issues.

And he was adamant the academic review was not triggered by the May events involving the school’s leadership and subsequent revelations about the number of formal complaints. In fact, when the three graduate schools—public health, public policy and environment and sustainability—were established, each charter document included provisions for academic reviews.

“We’re starting with public health,” said Barber, “because it was the unit that leapt out of the starting block the fastest and because we’re searching for an executive director. I think it’s fair for that person to come in with the university reaffirming its commitment to a particular governance, a particular vision.”

The provost announced the review to the school Sept. 29 and expects a site visit by external experts to take place before mid December. Given recent events in the unit, Barber said he needed to be very clear the academic review is not an investigation of the school.

“These are reviews of units (that) help us understand all the barriers and drivers of success and puts it in the context of our desire to meet international standards. It is not an investigation of complaints nor an investigation of leadership. We’re not asking them (external reviewers) to come in and do a workplace assessment.”

And, he added, it was just coincidental that the review announcement coincided with the university fulfilling a freedom of information request for documentation on the various complaints lodged about the school. Those documents,
Investigations concluded but issues may linger

From Page 1

released Oct. 5, were redacted to protect the identity and privacy of both complainants and respondents.

The provost described the number of complaints from School of Public Health students, staff and faculty as “abnormal for an academic unit of its size,” and while declining to give details, said they fell into two categories: complaints about academic programs, the way academic policies are or are not being applied, academic processes and academic program administration, and complaints about behaviours.

“What I can say is it is evident to me that all of the complaints, verbal, informal or formal, have been investigated using our processes and policies and complaints about behaviours.

“Even with the end of all but one investigation, "it would naïve of all of us to believe that there are not still lingering issues in the school. When you've had a lot of internal conflict, it takes time to grow back into a place where everybody feels good in the workplace and we will continue to work with everyone in the school to find resolution."

Barber admitted that saying an investigation is concluded may not mean it is resolved in the eyes of a complainant or respondent. “That's the nature of inter-personal complaints. When I say an investigation is concluded, it means you have come to a place where you can conclude whether or not a policy has been violated.”

Even with the end of all but one investigation, "it would naïve of all of us to believe that there are not still lingering issues in the school. When you've had a lot of internal conflict, it takes time to grow back into a place where everybody feels good in the workplace and we will continue to work with everyone in the school to find resolution.

"I will tell you if we were to see that same volume of new complaints now, I will consider that to be a failure of my leadership and a failure of the leadership of Nazeem Muhajarine, the interim executive director. It is our responsibility to make sure that there is a safe, productive learning and work environment."

Reflecting on the turmoil within the school, Barber suggested one contributing factor may have been its effort “to do an awful lot in a hurry,” developing and delivering grad programs at the same time arguably without the necessary resources. Barber said the result might have been feelings of dissatisfaction: it would not be unusual to hit dead ends and have to back up, “and the people in the programs would be negatively affected by the backing up.”

Barber said interdisciplinary and inter-college research and education “is incredibly difficult to do well. When we try to do something as important to our mission as these graduate schools, we tend to underestimate how much individual and collective effort it takes to do these things well.” Success comes, he said, by committing all resources—money, time, people and attention—to what is important.

With the academic review of the School of Public Health beginning, plans will be made for similar reviews of the other schools within the next two years. Each has had its own particular challenges, he said. For the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, it has been functioning as a joint school with the University of Regina. For the School of Environment and Sustainability, it has been finding its niche within an area rich in research and scholarship.

Notwithstanding the review results, “I personally still feel the university made the right decision to invest in these schools,” Barber said. There is a continued commitment to developing expertise and leadership in these fields; “we have the will because we know we have to be successful in interdisciplinary, inter college programming.”

When you've had a lot of internal conflict, it takes time to grow back into a place where everybody feels good in the workplace and we will continue to work with everyone in the school to find resolution.

Ernie Barber

No.   Issue Date Deadline Date
7   Nov. 21, 2014   Nov. 13, 2014
8   Dec. 5, 2014   Nov. 27, 2014

Harvest Time

Fall is a busy time in University of Saskatchewan fields. Just north of Circle Drive near the Beef Research and Teaching Unit, some 42 acres of corn was harvested in late September, all of it destined to become silage for the dairy herd. The corn variety—Pioneer Hybrid Seeds 7235R—was carefully selected for its short time to maturity and its nutri-tional value as livestock feed. It also produced well this year—about 700 tonnes, or half the herd’s requirement for the winter.
Student services benefit from beverage sales

**COLLEEN MACPHERSON**

Various services for students continue to be the beneficiaries of revenue generated by the university’s cold beverage contract but more drink choices on campus and the growing use of personal water bottles are resulting in fewer dollars to hand out each year.

Earlier this year, the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP) approved the allocation of $150,000 in revenue from the current exclusive cold beverage agreement with PepsiCo Beverages Canada and from money remaining from the previous contract with Coca-Cola. All of the funds will support students, said Gwen Toole, director of Purchasing Services, “but the totals have fallen far short of the projections.”

“Beverage-drinking trends have changed,” said Jim Traves, director of finance and trusts with Advancement and Community Engagement who, with Toole, oversees the contract. “People are making healthier choices by drinking water rather than soft drinks and supporting sustainability by using refillable containers.”

In fact, PCIP approved $50,000 in contract revenue specifically for the purchase and installation of water bottle filling stations around campus in 2013. The 2014 revenue allocation is divided a number of ways: $25,000 to disability services for students; $55,000 to scholarships; $30,000 to Huskie Athletics; $34,000 to the U of S Students’ Union; and $6,000 to the Graduate Students Association. Huskie events account for a large share of revenue, and that results in a large allocation.

Toole said the revenue allocations come with no strings attached. “We are trying not to direct how the various groups use the funds but the intent is that it will be used to assist students.”

Exclusive beverage agreements have been contentious issues at universities in the past and the current PepsiCo contract involved more than two years of consultation before a request for proposals was even issued, said Toole. That contract expires in 2016, she said, but there is a provision for a five-year extension.

In reality though, the beverage agreement is no longer exclusive. Retail outlets on campus not controlled by the university sell a wide variety of beverages outside the PepsiCo brand. Traves said as a result, “the next beverage agreement will be similar to a preferred supplier contract like we have for cylinder glasses or paper. The question is, how do we get the best value for the university?”

“Beverage agreements just are not that special anymore,” said Toole who will work with Traves to monitor the transition from an exclusive to a preferred suppliers contract with a revenue stream.

Taking stock of the land
Assessing future needs for teaching, research

**COLLEEN MACPHERSON**

Judith Yungwirth could use a crystal ball; it would come in handy for her current project.

Yungwirth, director of Corporate Administration, is helping determine the university’s future needs for land for both research and teaching. The U of S owns about 5,000 acres outside of Saskatoon that is currently being used by various units and colleges for research and teaching. In addition, it leases another 3,000 acres across the province, in the far North and as far away as Sable Island in Nova Scotia for research.

“What we’re trying to find out is if we own what we need and if we need what we own,” she said.

The need to look at future land use, which is being directed by a large steering committee with representatives from across the university and from civic and provincial governments, is driven by researchers themselves, said Yungwirth. Some say more land is needed for their work and the university may ultimately have to purchase more “but we want to approach this strategically. We also want to raise awareness about the resources that are already available to us. And to study our long-term needs, we have to start with a land use inventory.”

An external consultant is doing that inventory of how university lands are currently used. An expert in land-use planning, the consultant will also meet with researchers and others to determine their long-term needs. The end product will be a report and map of university land use. The report, said Yungwirth, will detail researchers’ ambitions and requirements for the future.

The project is described by Yungwirth as an extension of Vision 2035: University Land Use Planning, a document approved in 2009 to guide land development within the boundaries of the city. Similar principles will apply to land outside the city, “we value land to support teaching and research but also recognize its economic value.”

The report and inventory will be invaluable for decision-making, she said, particularly “when people are calling us to sell us their land, and that happens a lot, or when people in colleges want to buy additional land. It will help us decide if we always need to buy land or if it would be better to lease” depending on the research project.

And by understanding future needs, Yungwirth said the university will be better able to find land that is just right for the research—in the right location, with the right characteristics like access, infrastructure and soil type, and at the right price. Finding a perfect fit can take years; “it’s why we have to plan ahead.”

FROM THE ARCHIVES

**Criticism and controversy**

In this issue we see two female students sharing a copy of the University of Saskatchewan Engineering Student Society newspaper The Red Eye. The paper was not without its share of criticism and controversy; it often featured racist and sexist material and strove to be outrageous and provocative. A complaint was lodged with the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission alleging “that by publishing and distributing on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan on October 3, 1979, and on January 27, 1981, the newspaper The Red Eye which newspapers contained articles, notices, symbols and other representations which ridiculed, belittled and affronted the dignity of all women resident in Saskatchewan.” The board agreed but was later overruled in the Court of Queen’s Bench.
As a specialist in exploring novel solutions to public health problems, particularly food security, she said her living arrangements were more an accident of circumstance after spending years backpacking around Europe.

“It may seem peculiar, but we didn’t really consider ourselves homeless until I was working with a professor at the University of Victoria (UVic) whose special area was homelessness,” she explained. “I thought, oh, technically, that was us. But of course it was a lifestyle choice, and in Victoria, you can do that.”

When life in the van and a job as a part-time nanny lost their allure, Martin cast about for a new direction, settling her sights on a nursing degree at UVic. After her undergraduate studies, she completed a master’s degree at the University of Manitoba where she conducted research on breast cancer. Continued interest in nursing research took her back to UVic, where she was drawn to public health and a PhD looking at how food safety regulations affect food security initiatives.

Martin said she is intrigued by public health research priorities at the U of S, such as One Health, as well as by the work of colleagues, specific projects like Station 20 West and the international work of nursing professor Pammla Petrucka in Tanzania. She joined the College of Nursing as an assistant professor in July 2014.

“I’m really interested in health equity,” Martin said, everything from guaranteed minimum income levels and reliable transit service to making sure neighbourhoods have grocery stores within reasonable walking distance.

“We’re looking at differences in the ability of people to achieve health that can be modified. We can increase social assistance to reduce poverty—and that’s the key thing. We can make sure there’s access to food, we can ensure it is quality food. There are things that affect people’s health that are unjust and changeable.”

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.
Rooftop research
Parkade garden shows food-growing potential

MICHAEL ROBIN

“You can never have too many tomatoes,” said Grant Wood, aghast that anyone would suggest otherwise. “You cut them up, put them in zip-lock bags, and freeze them. Then you pull them out as you need them, add some chickpeas and make curry.”

It seems there will be much curry made this year, due to the healthy tomato harvest from a research garden on the top of the Stadium Parkade. The garden is a joint effort between Wood, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Sciences, and Diane Knight, professor in the Department of Soil Sciences, and is aimed at exploring low-cost urban food production.

“Low cost” is apparent in every part of the garden. Some containers are blue plastic drums, bought for $5 each from a local food ingredient manufacturer. These are cut in half and filled with a soilless mixture. Other containers are 20-litre pails obtained free from Culinary Services. Most expensive are purpose-built square plastic containers bought from a local store. The whole setup sits on pallets donated by the Facilities Management Division.

Knight explained the containers have a few embellishments, like bits of tubing and drainage holes for a “self watering” system. The half barrels, with their higher soil volumes, do not dry out as quickly and hence no not need the tubes, but drainage holes are still required. “We were trying to make a cheap homemade version out of easily accessible materials, pails and whatnot,” she said. “We did everything as cheaply as we could. We wanted to demonstrate that anybody could do it.”

The difference in cost is striking: $60 per container for the purpose-built square containers, versus $2.50 each for the half-barrels, and free for the pails.

Judging by plant performance, the homemade system wins hands down. Lush, fruit-laden plants in the barrels and pails contrast with much smaller plants and a few fruit in the more expensive plastic boxes.

Grants Wood, right, and Diane Knight examine the tomato crop atop the Stadium Parkade.

“Everything as cheaply as we could. We wanted to demonstrate that anybody could do it.” Diane Knight

This is good news for the researchers, whose ultimate aim is to transfer what they learn into local food production wherever there are willing hands, plentiful sun and a source of water. This could be on apartment balconies, back or front yards, vacant lots or even “brownfield” sites where the local soil is, or is suspected of being, contaminated. Since the system sits on pallets, whole gardens can be relocated if needed, and vacant land can be made not only productive, but made into gathering places to build community as people work together on their gardens.

“We take food for granted,” Wood said, confessing a personal passion for food production and the empowerment it brings. “My international travels, my work in local food security and my friendships with international students really drive this point home. There are many, many social, cultural, community and personal benefits from urban food production.”

Judging by the demand for his course, Urban Food Production, it’s a message that resonates with students. Wood developed the course to help students understand “why we should be growing more food locally, and then … how to grow food.” Enrollment has quadrupled from 20 to 80, drawing students from four colleges.

Wood and Knight are working with community groups like CHEP Good Food Inc. and with a green roof specialist on the pallet-container garden system. Inspired by Sole Food Farms in Vancouver, where inner city people grow fresh produce for their own use and for sale, Wood’s students have written a proposal to help the idea take root in Saskatoon.

“So fingers crossed. We’re going to city council before next spring to get permission to use two lots on 20th Street,” Wood said.

Back at the office, there is a bag of fresh tomatoes on the chair, together with a recipe. There are never too many tomatoes, it seems.

Bridging the cultural divide

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

A unique program designed to expand understanding between Aboriginal and international students at the U of S was the topic of a presentation at the North American Higher Education conference in Arizona in early October.

Davida Bentham, a student assistant in the International Student and Study Abroad Centre, and Janelle Pewapsconias who works part-time in the Aboriginal Student Centre, travelled to the University of Arizona to share what they have learned about Building Bridges, the cultural understanding program they started last year.

“Our aim is to inspire other colleges and universities to look into our model,” said Pewapsconias of the presentation. “We also hope to highlight some of our special successes.”

Building Bridges creates opportunities through workshops and social events for students to come together to share their stories and perspectives, and to begin conversations, explained Bentham. “What we’ve done is created a respectful space to share those stories.”

The program, said Pewapsconias, brings together people “who would never have met in other social situations. They got to hear other perspectives, issues and values, and to share their own. I think the students were a bit more proud of who they are and were happy to share what they know about their own culture.”

This year’s Building Bridges program started with a Sept. 28 bus tour of the city for new-to-Saskatoon international and Aboriginal students. The tour highlighted support services and included a visit to the Prairie Prism Festival and the Saskatoon Forestry Farm and Zoo. Throughout the academic year, Bentham and Pewapsconias will be organizing workshops with guest speakers and student-led sharing circles open to everyone and offered free of charge.

Bentham said about 380 students participated in various Building Bridges events last year.

Pewapsconias said she believes everyone involved in Building Bridges gains a better understanding of “the complexities of identities within the Aboriginal culture” and feels more welcome at the U of S for having a chance to share personal experiences.

“Our smaller goal,” added Bentham, “is to contribute to some form of reconciliation” by helping students overcome what she termed “the cultural iceberg.” When you’re thinking about multiculturalism, often all you see is peoples’ dance, people’s culture, peoples’ food. By sharing historical facts and issues, you come to realize Canada has a bit of a messy history.”
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Bacteria find raises alarms about antibiotic resistance

By MICHAEL ROBIN

When Joe Rubin went shopping for squid in Saskatoon, he found something sinister lurking in the calamari—bacteria that were resistant to “last line of defense” antibiotics.

Rubin, who specializes in antimicrobial resistance research at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, explained he and his team were looking for any bacteria that might be resistant to a class of antibiotics known as carbapenems. They are used for diseases like urinary tract infections and in hospital patients afflicted with pneumonia.

“We weren’t looking for an E. coli or Salmonella,” Rubin said. “We were looking for anything that would grow in the presence of this drug (carbapenems).”

What they found was “extremely disturbing,” a strain of bacteria that thrived in culture despite the antibiotic. While the species of bacteria is ubiquitous in soil and water and poses little threat to anyone with a healthy immune system, there is no guarantee it will pass on its antibiotic-resistance traits to other organisms, said Rubin.

“Their ability to evolve and adapt is just absolutely astounding,” he said.

Rubin is currently doing follow-up work to find out if the antibiotic-resistance traits they found are an anomaly or common in foods. His efforts have attracted the attention of scientists at the Public Health Agency of Canada who are working with Rubin to study this issue across the country.

“They are very interested in finding out where these problems are,” he said. “We’re going to be expanding out—looking at a number of different sites across Canada to see just how widespread these organisms are and if this is something really anomalous, or something that’s indicative of a bigger problem.”

Rubin hopes the work sparks a change in policy. Currently, if a disease-causing organism such as Salmonella is found in a food, it is removed from store shelves. Antibiotic resistance in harmless bacteria would not trigger the alarm.

“Internationally, we need to start targeting carbapenem resistance, looking for the genes and resistance phenotypes, rather than just looking for specific organisms,” he said.

While he cautioned against sensationalizing the issue, Rubin emphasized that it must be taken seriously. He pointed to the possibility of a post-antibiotic age, at least for certain types of bacteria. So far, scientists have come up with alternatives for treating drug-resistant species like Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) but when it comes species like E. coli, “we’re pretty much at an innovation standstill. There’s really nothing new in the pipeline.”

Fortunately, the carbapenem-resistant bacteria discovered in the Saskatoon squid are more of a wake-up call than a threat, in that it was still susceptible to other antibiotics. In the meantime, Rubin counsels good food hygiene as the first line of defense at home. This includes measures like using a different knife and cutting board for raw meats than for ready-to-eat foods, cooking thoroughly and disinfecting surfaces regularly.

“Meal hygiene would certainly be the number one thing any member of the public could do,” he said. “That holds true whether it’s for this type of resistant organism that we’ve identified or any of the gastrointestinal pathogens.”

Edith Rowles Simpson Lecture Series
Mandatory Folic Acid Fortification: Miracle or Bad Public Policy?

PLEASE JOIN US for the Simpson Lecture
Thurs, Oct 16, 2014 at 7:00 PM
The Leslie and Irene Dubé Theatre
Everyone welcome with reception to follow

Dr. Tim Green, University of British Columbia
Professor of Human Nutrition Dr. Tim Green will talk about mandatory folic acid fortification in Canada – 15 years later. Has this been a miracle or bad public policy? He will also present information on the relationship of folic acid to Vitamin B12 and the influence these nutrients have on human health.

usask.ca/pharmacy-nutrition
Researchers at the University of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA) are making progress in determining how molecular-specific proteins may be linked to certain types of cancer.

The disease is kind of misunderstood,” said Deborah Anderson, associate member of biochemistry in the U of S College of Medicine and senior research scientist with the SCA. “People typically call cancer one thing. Cancer is hundreds of diseases lumped into one label, and there’s no single causative agent.”

Rather, she said, there are a number of issues at the molecular level that could give rise to it. Additionally, the sheer number of cancer types and variations means there is no one-size-fits-all treatment option for patients. This has prompted a research shift that identifies the cellular irregularities that may be causing the cancer, said Anderson. From there, customized therapies or treatment plans may be causing the cancer, said Anderson. From there, customized therapies or treatment plans may be “every kind of analysis we can possibly imagine.” Algorithms can then sift through the vast amount of data and identify potential patterns or linkages between what’s common, making the process even more efficient.

The goal with all this, said Anderson, is patient care. “In my lifetime, there will be more of the research that we’re doing, translating into patient screening, patient identification, and molecular diagnostics to tailor our treatments more specifically to the patient.”

Funding for the project was provided by a $100,000 Bridge Grant from the Canadian Institute for Health Research.

Lesley Porter is communications co-ordinator in the Office of Health Sciences Deans.
Questioning the questions

MICHAEL ROBIN

Does a question asked of a North American mean the same thing to someone from Germany, France or Scandinavia?

Psychology professor Karen Lawson is part of an international team working to answer this question, a step that will help guide all research fields that use data derived from questionnaires.

“There are well-developed ‘rules’ for constructing questions and response options (in questionnaires) that help us, but these were based mostly on American data,” she said, “No one really knows how well they apply in other countries. That is the focus of the current study.”

Lawson and her colleagues are using a single set of well-tested questions from single-country surveys. These are presented to respondents from multiple countries to identify country specific differences.

“The construction of the questions on the questionnaire is key,” Lawson said. “If the questions are vague, or ambiguous, or people are not sure how to respond to the questions, then the data—and the eventual conclusions—will be compromised.”

Questionnaires are a mainstay of social science research, she said, whether it is trying to predict which way political winds are blowing, finding out what products people prefer, or determining attitudes on contentious issues of the day.

The research team, led by Jon Krosnick of the Political Psychology Research Group at Stanford University in California, includes researchers from Germany, Sweden, Iceland, France, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Lawson and her U of S colleagues are making use of the Survey and Group Analysis Lab (SGAL) at the Social Sciences Research Laboratories for their part of the research project.

The SGAL not only has state-of-the-art survey technology and technical expertise, but can pull together survey researchers, Lawson said. “Their focus is on supporting survey research, and so it was a natural fit.”

“Questionnaires allow you to gain data from a large number of people in a relatively short time period, at a relatively low cost,” she continued. "They are best suited to areas of inquiry that involve people reporting on their own attitudes, or opinions, or behaviours."

She said the international data collection phase of the research should be complete by the end of the year. "That will be followed by analysis to look for trends in responses and how they vary among countries. Results of the project are expected in 2015."

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PLACE: CANADIAN LIGHT SOURCE
44 INNOVATION BOULEVARD, U OF S CAMPUS

This free event is hosted by U of S CIHR-THRUST (Training in Health Research Using Synchrotron Techniques), which is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

source.ca

Around the Bowl

Alyssa Wiebe has joined the University of Saskatchewan in the role of college relations officer in the College of Education. In this joint position between the college and Advancement and Community Engagement, Wiebe will work to increase alumni and donor affinity. Wiebe moved to Saskatoon from Athol Murray College of Notre Dame where she was an alumni, marketing and communications assistant.

On Oct. 6, Maurice Moloney joined the Global Institute for Food Security as executive director and CEO. He comes to the U of S with more than 25 years in plant research and most recently was with Australia’s Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. There he led a team working on science-based solutions to challenges such as increasing sustainable agricultural production.

The following appointments have been announced by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic:

- Dr. Adel Mohamed
  as head of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology for a three-year term effective July 1 this year to June 30, 2017.
- Dr. Tom Smith-Windor
  as associate dean, rural and northern programs in the College of Medicine, extended for one year, Sept. 30, 2015.
- Adam Baxter-Jones
  appointed to the position of interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016.
Seminars/Lectures

D.T.M. Smith Lecture
• Oct. 15, 12-1 pm, 114 UCN, Hon. Tom Lake of Kamsack, B.C., minister of health for British Columbia and a former minister of health in the province of Saskatchewan, will present a seminar on the topic of mandatory folk acid fortification in Canada.

Dean Lecture
• Oct. 15, 4 pm, Room 1150 Health Sciences, Dr. Don Stone presents The Symposium on the topic of mandatory folk acid fortification in Canada.

History Lectures Series
• Oct. 16, 6:45 pm and 7:15 pm, Convocation Hall, the History Lecture Series continues with C.J. Furey, head of the University of Alberta's history department and one of the country's most distinguished historians.

Law Guest Speaker Series
• Oct. 17, 3-4 pm, Room 125 Biology, Dr. William Smith presents a lecture on the importance of the court's first female professor and her work.

Sport

Football
• Oct. 30, 7:30 pm, Broadway Theatre, SJO and the Modern Jazz Quartet featuring guest artist Head of Edmonton and guest conductors Darrin Oehlerking and Jeremy Gagnon. For more information, visit licence.sk.ca.

Men’s Soccer
• Nov. 17, 6:30 pm, Broadway Theatre, SJO with Montreal Guests featuring Mike Rod on guitar, Steve Dahler vocals, Chad Lindsay on piano, and Adrian Welaid on bass. There will be a reception in the gym before the show. For more information, visit licence.sk.ca.

ICC Film Series
The Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity film series continues Oct. 25 with a screening of the last episode of The Great Gatsby at 7 pm in the Broadway Theatre. North卡尔在德的历史系和西部历史系可能会在一部讨论后继续放映电影。
Growth a challenge to province’s water resources

MEAGAN HINTHER

It’s out of sight and for most, out of mind. Yet the water flowing unseen beneath the ground’s surface across Saskatchewan is a vital natural resource for the province’s future.

Many farmers rely on groundwater for both domestic and on-farm water supplies. Mining, and oil and gas industries draw from it to sustain their operations, and use it to dispose of contaminated water deep underground. Groundwater is an important water source for more than 150,000 rural Saskatchewan residents who drink it every day.

But with Saskatchewan’s unprecedented growth and plans for new mines and energy projects, pressures for use of groundwater for water supplies and waste disposal are increasing.

“Growth is top on the Saskatchewan agenda, and groundwater is important across all sectors—agriculture, oil and gas, mining, and the growth of towns and cities,” said Howard Wheater, director of the Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS) at the University of Saskatchewan and a Canada Excellence Research Chair.

Howard Wheater, director of the Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS) at the University of Saskatchewan and a Canada Excellence Research Chair.

“Research is needed into a wide range of issues including groundwater quality in private wells (an estimated 81,000 in the province), risks posed by injection of mining wastes into deep geological formations, and more mapping of the province’s groundwater resources,” Peach said.

While there are major challenges to measure the extent of groundwater resources and their quality, the natural “recharge process” of rainwater seeping into the ground and how to ensure that it is used sustainably, Wheater continued. It’s underscored by the fact that 100 per cent of rural wells in Canada are contaminated by nitrates and bacteria at levels that exceed drinking-water quality standards, according to the Statistics Canada data.

“As Saskatchewan is large and the underground systems complex, we are unsure of how sustainable our groundwater withdrawals are, how much water is available, and how deep waste disposals may be affecting the entire system.”

Working with the provincial government, GIWS has taken a lead role to address the knowledge gaps identified in the report. An informal committee of hydrogeology and groundwater professionals is working to define priorities and on Oct. 1, the institute hosted a workshop with stakeholders from the petroleum, mining, agricultural and municipal sectors to develop a business plan around groundwater science in Saskatchewan.

“Our focus at the institute is on developing a partnership with government and industry to co-ordinate new groundwater research in the province, review the information that is being gathered, and make the results accessible,” said Wheater. “This will help regulatory and management bodies make informed decisions on new licenses and where it is best for development to happen.”

Meaghan Hinthner is a communications specialist with GIWS.

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Michael P.J. Kennedy has been a sessional lecturer for the Department of English since 1991. Much of his research for his ground-breaking hockey literature class and his ongoing scholarly exploration of the sport has taken place in the University Library, University Archives and Special Collections.

Indeed, a substantial amount of unique material contained in his book Dogs on Ice: A History of Hockey at University of Saskatchewan was found in hard copies of The Sheaf, Greystone and various other publications. Other archival material, including photographs of former men and women’s Huskie hockey personnel and Rutherford Rink, were also an integral part of this endeavour.

Kennedy has made use of the university’s archival resources for subsequent publications including historical articles for University Cup (2013 and 2014) and an article for the centennial of the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. And he recently donated his Hugh Garner collection to the University Library, University Archives and Special Collections, a sign of the value he places in the unit.