New in the chair
Greg Smith on his role, priorities for board

On Campus News writer Kris Foster sat down with Greg Smith on October 16, the day of his election as chair of the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors, to talk about his views on his role, risk and the path forward.

On Campus News (OCN): What convinced you to let your name stand to be chair of the board?

Greg Smith (GS): When I took on the position of vice-chair I wasn’t seeing the position as a precursor to the chair position. I would have been quite content to have Susan (Milburn) continue her term and to serve as vice-chair under her. Unfortunately timing did not allow for that to happen. So, there was a natural progression, from vice-chair to chair.

A number of board members are relatively new to the board and given that a certain number of the 11 members are not eligible to serve (as chair), the pool of candidates becomes somewhat limited. I was pleased to take on the role of chair with the support of my fellow board members. I don’t see the chair as a having an agenda or being in a position of particular influence; the role is defined by our terms of reference.

OCN: How do you see the role of chair?

GS: The term I would use is the Latin phrase *primus inter pares*; first among equals. The chair does not drive a particular agenda; I need to facilitate our agenda. I need to perform in particular areas of responsibility that are assigned to the chair in our governance model and I will look to my fellow board members to support that work.

One of the significant responsibilities is the chair of the board also chairs the presidential search committee. Given our current circumstance we are actively searching for our next president.

OCN: What are some of the priorities for the board in the year ahead?

GS: Our most important role in the coming year is to appoint the president.

The other significant responsibility is to monitor the connection between strategy and mission. For us to perform at a high level we need to be cognizant of the risks that face the institution and be vigilant as to how the risks are being managed and how we are evaluating risk. We need to ask difficult questions of management and probe and test their assumptions about alignment with strategy in the operations of the university.

OCN: What are some of the risks that are top of mind?

GS: The risk register moves; it is a document that is dynamic and changes. We worry about deferred maintenance, the capital requirements and there are always funding risks. Not all risks are financial and certainly the risks we are concerned about impact whether or not we can be successful in achieving our strategy and delivering on our mission.

OCN: How does the board deal with risk?

GS: For those risks we believe have the potential for significant impact, we look at our mitigation strategies and evaluate our options. We can insure against certain risks, we can accept certain risks and put controls in place to monitor those risks or we can eliminate risks; these all come at a cost and of course we do not have unlimited resources so we must make choices.
Finding his inner engineer

KRIS FOSTER

Rob Grosse has a hot and steamy story.

After a nine-day course at the Western Development Museum (WDM) this summer, Grosse, who provides unit support in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), is certified to operate antique steam equipment. It’s an unusual hobby but he comes by it quite honestly.

“My dad was a steam engineer; he built and engineered steam engines as a hobby and then fit those into quarter-size cars. I was his test pilot,” said Grosse with a laugh. “He built one car with reverse steering. Dad explained the steering to me before I tested it, but as soon as I started, I promptly ran the car into an oak tree.”

Among his father’s inventions, Grosse continued, was a steam bike that received local, provincial and national attention as the first of its kind in Canada. While Grosse never got the chance to pilot the bike— it is on permanent display at the WDM—he does count it among his most valued childhood memories.

“As a kid I remember falling asleep to sound of a lathe and milling machine running in dad’s shop. Dad machined everything from scratch. Add to that memory the subtle odor of pipe tobacco; I still love that smell to this day.”

Growing up, Grosse was surrounded by “steam engineers who were always tinkering and building. It was a culture of steam professionals and engineers. I was even a junior member of the Saskatoon Model Engineering Society into the ’90s.”

OCN: The board was involved in a tough time this past spring. Was there a point where you thought “I really don’t want to do this anymore?”

GS: Oh no, not at all. (laughing). I don’t think that ever happened to me and I don’t think it happened to any of my board colleagues, not that they shared with me at least.

We ask tough questions and we must make difficult decisions. I think it is easier to make those decisions when you are fully invested in the wellbeing of the institution. Every board member has a strong affinity for the U of S and cares deeply about the institution; I know this to be the case for myself and I’ve heard that sentiment articulated by each and everyone of the board members. When you have that orientation, I think it is a little bit easier to make the required decisions.

OCN: How have the events of the past spring affected the university?

GS: The U of S has been here for more than 100 years. We have been through some difficulties and we continue to do that now. It is important work.

We are still interested in our teaching and discovery missions. We were teaching students and conducting research before the spring and we continue to do that now. It is important work.

OCN: What are some of the issues you’re looking forward to dealing with?

GS: It’s not an issue but I am really looking forward to the presidential search and identifying the next president of the University of Saskatchewan. We are currently in the midst of populating a search committee whose 12 members should be identified by end of the month. We are anxious to get underway and will take the time necessary and exert the effort required to identify the very best possible candidate and secure that individual to be the next president.

OCN: What are the selling points for the U of S in attracting a new president?

GS: There are so many good things happening at the University of Saskatchewan that I believe we will be attractive to an individual who will be interested in helping the university deliver on its potential. That prospect excites me the most.

The campus is an exciting place to be; it’s vibrant. You come here and there are young people learning, research being undertaken, people engaged in discovery, developing great partnerships.

OCN: Any other key agenda items?

GS: A secondary issue I look forward to is having the College of Medicine realigned and working under full accreditation. There is tremendous potential and service in that college; it is such a significant part of our university and I look forward to them realizing their potential under the leadership of Dr. Preston Smith.

OCN: Those are big issues.

GS: (laughing) Well, these are some of the issues that face us and others will present themselves. That is the nature of what we do as a board. We have a fiduciary responsibility for the resources that are entrusted to the university by our funders. This is a weighty responsibility, but I think … we still have to be nimble to react to what comes before us. I believe we have tremendous capacity in that regard.

We have a great set of skills around the board table. We work well together and we know that as issues present themselves we will have to respond and make decisions. A couple of issues are well formed and known to us, but there will be others that arise in the coming months and years, there always are, and we will be prepared to address them.

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New building, expansion part of long-term child-care strategy

The announcement Oct. 14 that a stand-alone child-care centre on the U of S campus would soon go to tender is just part of a multi-pronged approach to addressing a child-care waiting list that currently contains about 700 names.

Patti McDougall, vice-president of teaching and learning, said while the 90-spot centre, to be built south of the Williams Building and west of Souris Hall in College Quarter, is significant, it is just one part of a long-term strategy. Others include eventually expanding the current U of S Students’ Union (USSU) child-care centre in the Williams Building by 23 spots to create a total of 89, and looking off campus to provide additional spaces.

“A survey we did in the fall of 2013 showed that there are people who want child care closer to their home,” said McDougall. “We’d like to look at another part of the city and a partnership with a service provider,” adding the university would not take on operation of a child-care facility either on or off campus.

The U of S Board of Governors gave approval for the preliminary exploration and design of the College Quarter building in March last year and also asked for a longer-term strategy to be developed by the spring of 2014, she explained. Along with this month’s approval for the building project to proceed, the board okayed exploring the other options like expanding current facilities.

McDougall said data indicate about eight per cent of the U of S student population are parents, and about half have children requiring child care, “but I think that number is a conservative estimate.” Once the building is operational, McDougall said the “desired allocation” of spots would be 25 per cent for employees, 26 per cent for graduate students, 33 per cent for undergraduates and 16 per cent for Aboriginal students. These percentages will be spread across all three campus child-care centres, she added.

“I do believe that for some students, getting one of these spots makes the difference between coming to university or not coming, between staying or not staying.”

When the original building plans were proposed, both the USSU and the Graduate Students’ Association agreed to a student levy to fund the project “but we recently decided we don’t want to levy a fee on 100 per cent of students when we know only eight per cent are parenting. I agree very strongly with that decision.”

No cost estimate for the College Quarter building is being released to maintain the integrity of the tender process, said McDougall, but funding is in place, including about $1.4 million received in 2012 from the Ministry of Education, which oversees child care in the province. The contract for that money requires the university to take steps to spend it by 2015 “so advancing to tender on this project in very short order will keep us completely in compliance.”

The construction start and completion dates will be determined once the tender is awarded.

She added the addition of spots will move the University of Saskatchewan to about the middle of the pack among universities based on spaces as a percentage of campus population.

“This is the right move, a positive move for us.”

McDougall also pointed out she came into the project when it was well advanced, in April of this year when she assumed responsibility for the Student and Enrollment Services Division.

“I picked up the ball on the five yard line and ran it into the end zone but many people, including Dave Hannah (former associate vice-president of student services), worked very hard on this. The fact we can all come together and make this happen is very positive for the entire university.”
Halim hopes to contribute to the discussion with his research into Islamic legal and intellectual issues, and in particular the source of legal authority in Islamic law. It is an important question, since both the Quran and the Hadith—the body of reports of teachings, deeds and sayings of the prophet Mohammed—can be interpreted quite differently on legal matters.

“A very specific example would be if a bride wants to get married without a guardian,” Halim said. “Is this legitimate or not? It is a debate within the Muslim legal community. One school of law allows a bride to get married without a legal guardian, but another school of law would disallow that; it’s impossible.”

The growing Muslim population in the city and on campus attracted Halim to Saskatoon and the U of S in particular. He explained he saw an opportunity to provide a critical, scholarly perspective on Islam for the benefit of both Muslim and non-Muslim students.

“Saskatoon, and the University of Saskatchewan within it, is actually an ideal community to develop programs to explore Islam and to teach Islamic studies.”

Halim grew up in a small village in the Indonesian part of the island of Borneo. He completed his undergraduate and master’s degrees at Indonesia’s Gadjah Mada University before coming to Canada in 2006 for a PhD in Islamic studies at McGill University, followed by a four-month postdoctoral appointment at Harvard Law School in Massachusetts in 2013.

This fall’s perennial paper storm of grant applications is shaping up to be one of the last, thanks to a major initiative in Research Services.

The UnivRS project is an online suite of tools for faculty researchers and support staff to manage research funds. The project team hopes to put a significant dent in the amount of time faculty spend on obtaining and administering grants and other research dollars.

“It is convenient, accessible and secure,” said Research Services Director Sean Savage. “Faculty, when they log on, will see everything that’s related to their research.”

UnivRS was launched by Office of the Vice-President Research and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in 2013 and since then, staff have retired the original system and are populating UnivRS with data, getting familiar with processes, retaining paper-based processes, and fixing any initial bugs. “The faculty didn’t notice any difference while we’re working on this,” Blum said. “That’s been our goal throughout this process.”

The next step is beta testing by faculty. Sarah Savage, who is lead on the project along with ICT’s Markus Blumrich, explained faculty from three colleges have agreed to put UnivRS through its paces in December. Faculty will also be asked for input through an online survey and that feedback will be incorporated into UnivRS 1.5, to be released to select faculty in January 2015.

All faculty will have access to the system by the end of June 2015, said Blum.

One of the first things researchers will notice is a drastic reduction in signatures required for approvals, Blum said. Last signatures have been replaced with electronic approvals, with the exception of contracts and a minority of grants that require traditional signatures.

Financial Services Division is also tied into UnivRS, so paperwork once necessary to authorize a fund is now electronic.

“Before, Research Services would have to print off the documentation, send it via interoffice mail to Financial Reporting, and then wait to hear back,” Savage said. “Now, it happens in seconds, and they’re notified by email.”

Blum stressed that UnivRS is a five-year project, and additional functionality will be added with each release. The system will also be improved based on feedback from users.

When College of Arts and Science Dean Peter Stoicheff got the idea to put a musical instrument in the main entry of the Arts Building for all to play, he didn’t realize it would turn out to be quite so grand—Heintzman baby grand, that is.

“I’ve seen this done elsewhere,” said Stoicheff, referring to pianos in public places, “but I imagined some old beater of an upright.” Instead, his queries resulted in a new home for an old piano with an interesting history.

Troy Linsley, director of administration and operations for the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts in the college, said the piano was badly vandalized in the Department of Music some years ago. “The guts of the piano were torn out and it was left in horrible shape” but thanks to the work of piano technician Roger Jolly, the instrument was rebuilt using parts from other pianos Jolly was working on.

The rebuilt Heintzman spent many years in the Green Room as a warm-up instrument for performers using Convocation Hall but went into storage when a more suitable practice piano was found. “When Peter originally inquired about a piano for the Arts Building, I had thought an upright might work but as luck would have it, there was not an extra upright so this grand piano had a new home.”

Stoicheff said no signs were installed with the piano, “we just put it there on the assumption people might want to express themselves.” And it worked. The dean said he lingered in the area after the piano was put in place and only had to wait about an hour to hear it played.

He added the piano is not just for music students. “Yes, I’ve heard chopsticks.”

UnivRS set to reduce blizzard of paperwork

Michael Robin

Fachrizal Halim

Nearly a quarter of the world’s population is Muslim, a group as varied and rich in its thought opinion and law as any on Earth, said Fachrizal Halim, who joined the Department of Religion and Culture in July.

“There are different schools of thought, schools of law within Muslim communities, and not all of them have similar opinions on the same thing or the same legal issues,” he explained.

Halim hopes to contribute to the discussion with his research into Islamic legal and intellectual issues, and in particular the source of legal authority in Islamic law. It is an important question, since both the Quran and the Hadith—the body of reports of teachings, deeds and sayings of the prophet Mohammed—can be interpreted quite differently on legal matters.

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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.
Trading a badge for books
Retired police officer pursues career in law

SARAH TREFIAK

It is probably one of the best excuses a student could give for missing class—“I was across the street to Royal University Hospital to visit my newborn granddaughter.” It is also not an excuse that many professors would find believable, but they did when they heard it from Bruce Gordon.

At 51, Bruce Gordon is one of the oldest law students enrolled at the College of Law. He is married, has two adult children and a new granddaughter. After retiring from the Saskatoon Police Service in 2012, Gordon moved to Vancouver to take a job with BC Justice. He had no sooner settled on the coast than he received the news he was accepted into the College of Law. And although he wasn’t necessarily looking for a change, he was glad to be given the opportunity. “Law school was always in the back of my mind and I finally found myself in a position where I could pursue it.”

Now entering his second year, Gordon admits that the transition from sergeant detective to law student hasn’t been without its challenges. “My biggest challenge has been relearning how to learn. During the first term I sat in class trying to not only understand the material, but also figure out how to set up the materials and study the materials.”

He especially, and surprisingly, found himself struggling in his criminal law class. “Understanding some of the concepts and theories behind the law was difficult for me because my career had focused on the practical application of it. It was like starting over again and looking at the law differently.”

On the other hand, Gordon feels like his life experience gives him an advantage in classes like wills and trusts. “I’ve signed contracts, I’ve had mortgages and I’ve dealt with all sorts of various legal issues, so some of my practical understanding was more relatable in those classes.”

As for fitting in with his new set of peers, many of who are half his age, Gordon found everyone very welcoming. “I wasn’t sure how I would be received by students and professors, but I was surprised by how readily I was accepted—there was no negative feedback towards my policing career.”

Gordon hasn’t shied away from becoming involved either. Last year he served as faculty representative for the Law Students Association (LSA), placed third in the Dentons Negotiation Competition and participated in the LSA hockey tournament.

Adjunct Professor Norman Zlotkin attested to Gordon’s enthusiasm to be involved in the law school experience: “Bruce is a strong and positive leader of the student body, and widely respected by his classmates,” said Zlotkin, also noting that Gordon was instrumental in bringing Ernie Walker, one of Canada’s leading forensic anthropologists, to the college as a guest speaker last year.

Associate Professor Glen Luther said Gordon is a valuable addition to any class where his experience can assist his classmates to understand the realities of the law in action. “I have found that experienced police officers like Bruce Gordon will often have relevant input into how the law applies to any given situation. I have been impressed how Bruce has interacted with his classmates (who are often a generation younger) and how the law applies to any given situation. I have been impressed how Bruce has interacted with his classmates (who are often a generation younger) and how supportive he has been of them.”

While it may be a treat for other students to have Gordon’s input in the classroom, it is he who considers himself to be lucky. “I’m not just saying this because it sounds good, but I am truly grateful for the opportunity to study here. Every day is a great day here and I believe that is how it should be.”

Gordon promises that he will carry his gratitude with him throughout the rest of his career. He is still not certain where that career will lead, but he hopes it will include helping people in the lower socio-economic class.

“Through my police work I dealt with cases involving child sexual abuse and missing or murdered women and I would like to continue to work in supporting those causes—whether it’s solving cases, or bringing about a change where there is more emphasis put on solving those cases.”

His advice for people who may be considering enrolling as a mature student: “Don’t be intimidated by returning to school. Throughout the last year and a half, I’ve met a lot of people who said ‘I could never do that’. My advice is ‘Yes, you can.’ Specifically at the College of Law—I really want to emphasize my absolute happiness with the support of the college staff and faculty. They not only want me to succeed, they want every student to succeed.”

Sarah Trefiak is communications and alumni officer in the College of Law.

LANA HAIGHT

It’s a sunny fall afternoon and Bob Badger is looking for willow branches and stones. The University of Saskatchewan’s cultural co-ordinator is gathering the items he needs to build a temporary sweat lodge on campus, determined to make the ceremony accessible to students as they begin their school year. But Badger sees himself as a builder of bridges. “I’ve been connecting the university to First Nations organizations and, vice versa, I’ve been bringing the First Nations community to the university,” he said in an interview.

“I also dance powwow and I travel all over the place and I take the university eagle staff with me. So the university eagle staff is out there, being an ambassador for the university.”

Badger, hired three years ago, is the university’s first cultural co-ordinator. It isn’t just a job for Badger, it’s more about embracing his heritage and sharing that with students as well as faculty and staff.

“The way I learned my culture was not in a classroom.

Badger’s work more than a job
See Badger, Page 6
Getting in on the ground level

If you have been following Huskie soccer this year, you know our teams are doing well, and while the players and the coaches deserve much of the credit, they have been getting some help at ground level.

The university’s Grounds Department has been working hard over the past few years to improve the quality of the turf on the soccer pitch, and Bryce Chapman, men’s head coach and soccer program director, said it is now one of the best playing fields in Western Canada.

“A lot of other teams coming in comment on the condition of our field,” said Chapman.

More than looking great, the university’s dense, wear-resistant turf contributes to player safety by ensuring good footing and cushioning falls.

At a time when weather is persuading many Western universities to move to artificial turf, Chapman said the U of S teams are fortunate to still be playing on a grass field, it stands up longer, plays nicer and is easier on the body.

According to Chapman,Gift Marufu, manager of the Grounds Department, and his team “have done an unbelievable job. We are ten weeks into the season, and the field is still in unbelievable shape.”

Marufu credits a new treatment protocol for the improved turf condition on the soccer pitch and elsewhere on campus. He said the university is persuading many Western teams are fortunate to still be moving away from commercial compost.

Three years ago, grounds crews manually filled all the divots, aerated, leveled the ground by spreading the university’s own high-quality compost over the entire field, and then over seeded to create a thick carpet of grass. The results are impressive, said Marufu.

“The compost acts like a sponge that fuses the grass together and reduces wear and tear,” he explains. “This also results in less compaction, good aeration and an improved ability to hold on to moisture and nutrients.”

The Grounds Department collects more than 90 per cent of the fallen leaves and grass clippings on campus and turns them into compost. Every year, more than 1,000 cubic metres of high-quality compost are produced for use on campus, which would cost about $40,000 to purchase, he said. The treatment protocol also saves about $60,000 per year in commercial fertilizer.

Marufu said the other essential ingredient is the university’s own high-quality compost.

Chapman is very appreciative of the effort put into improving the soccer pitch: “It’s great to have someone like Marufu who has the knowledge and passion to make something like this happen.”

Val Szydlowski is manager of customer service and communications in the Facilities Management Division.

Badger connects students to culture

The way I learned my culture, language and traditions of my people was I lived it, I was immersed in it and I was raised in it,” said Badger, a member of the Keeseekoose First Nation who attended the University of Regina as a mature student, graduating with a degree in traditional fine arts.

He recounts his childhood filled with weeklong adventures in the woods with his great-grandparents, hunting, fishing, gathering berries. And always in his native language Saulteaux. He learned English when he began to attend school.

Badger is saddened that so many First Nations university students aren’t raised in a culture-rich environment.

He aims to make up for that by helping them connect with their elders and languages, their ceremonies and symbols. The timing is right.

“Right now, we are in this time of revival almost. Our First Nations people are gravitating back to a holistic, traditional, cultural way of knowing and being who they are because it’s been taken away from them for so long.”

Providing a positive and safe environment for First Nations students to make connections and socialize is important for Badger who helps organize social gatherings like round dances and powwows.

He’s busy off-campus, too, working with schools and community organizations that support First Nations people in Saskatchewan and throughout the province.

“I want to make the transition smoother for students coming from their communities to the university,” said Badger, who attended the University of Regina as a mature student, graduating with a degree in traditional fine arts.

And as he strives to make the university campus more culturally vibrant for First Nations students, he is hoping to educate the rest of the university community.

“We have something to offer. We have this land-based knowledge and traditional knowledge. I want others to know who we are by providing staff and faculty and students (with) the opportunity to learn about First Nations culture.”

As he continues to work at building bridges, Badger hopes the result will be mutual understanding and respect among people on campus and throughout the province.

Lana Haight is a Saskatoon freelance writer.
CHIEF DARCY BEAR  
HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS

Darcy Bear, chief of Whitescap Dakota First Nation and board chairman of Whitescap Development Corporation (WDC), has dedicated half of his life to the betterment of his community. Currently in his eighth term as chief, he has been the impetus behind extensive economic development within the community, and the driving force for improved quality of life for Whitescap residents and the people of Saskatchewan. As a respected business leader, Chief Bear has been innovative in his approach to business development and Whitescap now serves as a national example of positive community development and heightened self determination.

DR. CARL ZYLAK  
HONORARY DOCTOR OF Science

Carl Zylak earned his BA and MD degrees from the University of Saskatchewan. Following 10 years practicing radiology in Winnipeg, he accepted the position of professor and chairman, Department of Radiology at McMaster University, in Hamilton, Ontario. He was the founding director of the Ontario Breast Screening Program, which he worked in Ohio, Michigan and Arizona. He has over 200 published articles, book chapters, scientific presentations and lectures to his credit. He and his wife, Edith Ann, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year and have four children and ten grandchildren.

RICHARD LONG  
Master Teacher Award

Over his 37-year career, Richard Long, professor of human resources in Edwards School of Business, has not only been a stellar teacher, but a campus leader in creating the university’s Learning Charter—a unique document that makes explicit the university’s commitment to teaching and learning. His approach emphasizes the word “learning” in contrast to teaching, to highlight the role of student engagement in the partnership between instructor and student. The instructor has the responsibility to create an environment where learning comes naturally, by integrating the students’ own experiences with a theoretical framework.

GRAHAM STRICKERT  
AWARD FOR DISTINCTION IN OUTREACH AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Graham Strickert, a research fellow at the Global Institute for Water Security, has developed crucial relationships that allow for the examination and understanding of how local communities view and use water. By engaging in respectful and honest dialogue with First Nations communities and leaders, he and other U of S researchers have managed to capture ecological knowledge of the river, its ecosystem and the downstream effects of water management that he is able to translate so that different stakeholders— with varied backgrounds, cultures and perspectives—are able to understand that information.

KALOWATIE DEONANDAN  
J.W. George Ivory Award for Internationalization

Kalowatie Deonandan, chair of graduate studies in the Department of Political Studies, is a passionate advocate for the internationalization of teaching and research. She has served in several leadership roles that advanced internationalization not only on the campus, but in the wider academic community in Canada. She was head of the U of S International Studies and was the Vice-President, and then President, of the Canadian Association of Latin American and Caribbean Studies. For over 10 years she has served as Coordinator of the University’s Semester Abroad in Guatemala.

MICHELE DERKSEN  
President’s Service Award

Often it is the tasks people take on outside of their formal job description that really make a difference; such is the case with Michele Derksen, this fall’s winner of the President’s Service Award. For most of 17 years at the U of S she has worked in the Student and Enrolment Services Division, occupying positions that directly or indirectly affected the lives and success of thousands of students and hundreds of colleagues. No matter the position, Derksen is known as the person ready and willing to go the extra mile.

NANCY VAN STYVENDALE  
Award for Distinction in Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship

Nancy Van Styvendale, assistant professor in the Department of English, specializes in Aboriginal literature, is engaged in the community, providing educational opportunities to students and those without access to traditional university-level education. She helped develop an interdisciplinary course in community involvement and within a community-service learning model. She brings teaching, research and scholarship to people in Saskatchewan, whether through work with STR8 UP, a gang prevention initiative, or the Saskatchewan Correctional Centre, where she offers writing classes for inmates.

JOHN HOWLAND  
New Researcher Award

John Howard joined the U of S Department of Psychology in 2008 and, in 2011, moved to the Department of Physiology. His research looks at the physiological mechanisms underlying behavior, looking to answer questions related to how stress alters cognitive functions, such as learning and memory. He also examines how environmental risk factors like inflammation during fetal development may contribute to psychiatric illnesses later in life. Howland’s work in these areas has received significant funding from federal agencies, and he has also been published in some of the world’s most prestigious journals.
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- A 6 computer station lab to support social network analysis
- A 20 seat telephone survey lab (expandable to 43 seats) to support telephone and mixed-mode (telephone and online) studies
- Focus group and interview rooms equipped with audio and video capture technology
A new third-party service has been organized to give University of Saskatchewan employees and students a discreet way to report alleged policy breaches, wrongdoing and ethical issues.

ConfidenceLine, a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week phone or online service, is part of the university’s anti-fraud program that includes new fraud-deterrence and safe-disclosure policies, explained Beth Williamson, university secretary. The confidential service is tied to a whistleblower hotline, “will allow people to feel free to communicate any good faith concerns they have.”

Such reporting services are considered best practice in both the public and private sector, she said. ConfidenceLine complements a number of existing channels people can use to draw attention to professional, financial or other irregularities or wrongdoing, said Williamson. Those include internal audit, human resources, discrimination and harassment prevention, as well as the office, depending on the nature of the alleged breach.

“But ConfidenceLine is for people who may feel they’re unable to report through those channels,” she said. “And that reluctance may be because of a fear of reprisals or because they have reported something elsewhere that has not been addressed.”

“We chose a third-party provider so people wouldn’t feel that their concerns are being filtered through this university office,” she continued. “I don’t want to suggest we would do that.” ConfidenceLine provides complete confidentiality and anonymity if people so choose.

The provider offers translation services into a number of languages; online reports can be made in either English or French.

Once a concern is raised, ConfidenceLine personnel will share the details with one of the university’s safe disclosure officers—Al Novakovsky from Audit Services or Greg Thorimbert from Financial Reporting— who will follow up and refer the matter to the appropriate internal office or authority, Williamson said. Each investigation will be consistent with existing policies but “the more information you can provide (in making a report), the more thorough the investigation.”

The university is committed to timely responses to all disclosures, she said, to recommendations for corrective action or measures where wrongdoing is determined, and to reporting the outcomes of investigations using established protocols.

Williamson said there is no way yet to judge the success of ConfidenceLine. “I hope there are not a lot of breaches reported but I also hope people feel the system is one they can trust if they ever have to.”

Reports can be made to ConfidenceLine by calling 1-844-966-3250 or going to usask.confidenceline.net.

Renewal projects in the works

The University of Saskatchewan recently received $625,000 from the provincial government’s Strategic Preventative Maintenance and Renewal Fund to help with two projects: rehabilitation of the Devil’s Dip Sanitary Sewage Lift Station, and the rehabilitation of the Theatre of the Devil’s Dip Sanitary Sewage Lift Station.

Bryn Bilokreli, director of capital planning in the Office of the Vice-President, Finance and Resources, said the university’s own capital renewal funding “allowed us to leverage additional funding from the provincial government. This partnership with the province will allow us to proceed with two critical capital renewal projects.”

Biologist 106, with a seating capacity of 250, is vital for scheduling large sections of classes in the sciences, biology in particular. The lecture theatre is over 50 years old and is in need of a complete overhaul to meet current teaching requirements, he said.

Seating will be replaced by theatre seats with larger writing surfaces to accommodate mobile devices. Multimedia and computer technology enhancements will create a modern lecture theatre. Wheelchair accessibility will also be improved and an assistive listening/infrared hearing system will be installed.

Subject to final approval from the university Board of Governors, work on the Biology 106 project will proceed during the summer of 2015. The total cost of the project is expected to be about $1.1 million with the University of Saskatchewan government contributing $665,000 and $400,000 coming from the Saskatchewan government.

The Devil’s Dip Sanitary Sewage Lift Station was built in 1966 and it still serves the Edwards School of Business, the Education, Thorvaldson and Biology Buildings, as well as the Heating Plant. If the lift station were shut down due to a malfunction, all those buildings would need to be closed until an emergency system could be set up, said Bilokreli.

Design for upgrading the lift station will be done over the winter with construction to take place during the spring and summer of 2015, he said. The total cost is estimated at $450,000 with the university and provincial government contributing equally.

Service offers confidential reporting of alleged policy breaches, wrongdoing

A new third-party service has been organized to give University of Saskatchewan employees and students a discreet way to report alleged policy breaches, wrongdoing and ethical issues.

ConfidenceLine, a 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week phone or online service, is part of the university’s anti-fraud program that includes new fraud-deterrence and safe-disclosure policies, explained Beth Williamson, university secretary. The confidential service is tied to a whistleblower hotline, “will allow people to feel free to communicate any good faith concerns they have.”

Such reporting services are considered best practice in both the public and private sector, she said. ConfidenceLine complements a number of existing channels people can use to draw attention to professional, financial or other irregularities or wrongdoing, said Williamson. Those include internal audit, human resources, discrimination and harassment prevention, as well as the office, depending on the nature of the alleged breach.

“But ConfidenceLine is for people who may feel they’re unable to report through those channels,” she said. “And that reluctance may be because of a fear of reprisals or because they have reported something elsewhere that has not been addressed.”

“We chose a third-party provider so people wouldn’t feel that their concerns are being filtered through this university office,” she continued. “I don’t want to suggest we would do that.” ConfidenceLine provides complete confidentiality and anonymity if people so choose.

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Conferences

Sharing Economy

The University of Saskatchewan and the Office of Co-op present The Sharing Economy Unconference Nov. 6 from 1-3:45 pm in the main lobby of the Administration Building at Station West 20.

6 November 2014

Accessible AT Conference

DNR Licensing Services is offering the MSU of S Accessible AT Conference that focuses on the use of assistive technology in daily life across the disability and age spectrum. Sessions will take place from 1-4 pm Oct. 24 and from 9-noon Oct 25. This conference is free and open to the public. Following the conference, there will be an information fair in the North Union, Upper Place Real, from noon-4 pm. Registration for this conference portion is required.

Health Innovation Conference

A group of College of medicine students is holding a health innovation and public policy entitled The Health and the Economy: From the University of Saskatchewan. Among the keynote speakers are Dr. Chris Simpson, president of the Canadian Medical Association and Karina Yulis, president of the Canadian Nurses Association. The event is free and open to the public. For more information see at plaintextnotations2014

Seminars/Lectures

D.S. Smith Lecture

• Oct. 24, 12:30 pm, Room 3022 WCMC, Hon. Dr. Terry Lake of Kamloops, B.C., former minister of health for British Columbia and a graduate of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, presents the D.S. Smith Lecture entitled The Importance of Scientific Evidence as the Basis for Public Policy Decisions.

Dean Lecture

• Oct. 30, 4 pm, Room E110 Health Sciences, the Dept. of Microbiology and Immunology presents Dr. Preston Smith, dean of the College of Medicine, who will give a lecture entitled An Eye for an Eye: Biblical Justice Revisited. The event is free and open to the public. For more information see at plaintextnotations2014

Courses/Workshops

Continuing Professional Learning

For more information call 306-966-7787 or email cppl@usask.ca

• Nov. 1-2, Advanced Cardiac Life Support Provider and Renowned Course
• Nov. 21-22, Practical Management of Common Medical Problems

International Workshop

Scientists and researchers from three continents will gather at the Canadian Light Source for the Physics Building Nov. 7-10 for the international workshop of Laser Scattering, Gamma Ray of Electron Storage Rings. Details can be found at http://physias.usask.ca/~phys/sdpynes/LCSR2014.html

Library Researcher Reference Series

The University Library is offering two workshop series this term. All sessions are free and no registration is required. For more information, go to libraries.usask.ca/library/researcherSeries

Library Researcher Series

• Oct. 30 - Getting the Most Out of Google
• Nov. 5 - Finding Your Scholarly Identity Online
• Nov. 12 - Murray Library Colloquium: Managing References Series
• Nov. 19 - Indigenous History Resources
• Nov. 26 - Murray Library Colloquium: Managing References Series

Managing References Series

• Oct. 28 - RefWorks, 1-2 pm, Murray Library, Room 161
• Nov. 4 - Mendeley, 1-2 pm, Murray Library Colloquium, Room 165
• Nov. 18 - Zotero, 12-1, Murray Library Colloquium, Room 165
• Nov. 25 - RefWorks, 1-2 pm, Murray Library, Room 161

Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

For more information, visit www.cde.usask.ca or call 306-966-5539

Nature and Ecology

Call 306-966-5339 to register

• Southern Africa: 21-Day Northern Tanzania, New Zealand and South Africa Oct. 1-28, 2015 includes South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Victoria Falls. Tour costs available, few spots left. For more information go to cde.usask.ca/ dreadfuladventures

• Glass Fusion II: Nov. 1-2

• Southern Africa: 21-Day Northern Tanzania, New Zealand and South Africa Oct. 1-28, 2015 includes South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Victoria Falls. Tour costs available, few spots left. For more information go to cde.usask.ca/ dreadfuladventures

Kenderride Art Gallery

Continuing until Oct. 5 is Between History and Revolution, an exhibition of work by a number of artists whose work touches the lines between familiar and fictive, allowing alternative readings to emerge. The show, curated by Leah Taylor, includes work by Silke Schneider, Myron Clark, Chris Coon, Paul Fournier, Angela Grossman, Mary Longman, Jahn-Saloum Tony Scherman and Dougal Walker.

College Art Galleries

Unidos Johnson ARW/imb (Do You Remember?) continues until Oct. 5. The exhibition examines ideas of identity, identity and cultural practice through Johnson’s citation of non-functional forms from M/Ema lenskitchen.

Amati Concerts

The 5 of Amati Quartet will perform a program of Mendelssohn, Mendelssohn and Smetana Nov. 15 at both 7 and 10 pm in Knox United Church. Tickets are available at the Rima Arts Centre, and subscriptions are available at amatiquartet.usask.ca

Huskies @ Home

NHL
• Oct. 24 vs. Calgary
• Nov. 16 at Regina
• Nov. 23 at Lethbridge
• Nov. 29 vs. UBC
• Jan. 23 vs. 24 vs. Manitoba
• Feb. 14 vs. Regina

MEN’S HOCKEY
• Nov. 7 and 8 vs. U of M
• Nov. 15 vs. Regina
• Jan. 3 and 4 vs. Lethbridge
• Jan. 10 and 11 vs. Columbia
• Jan. 22 and 20 vs. Alberta

VOLLEYBALL
• Nov. 7 and 8 vs. Calgary
• Nov. 10 and 9 vs. UBC
• Jan. 9 and 10 vs. Brandon
• Jan. 23 and 24 vs. Manitoba
• Feb. 7 and 8 vs. U of M

BASKETBALL
• Nov. 14 and 15 vs. Winnipeg
• Nov. 22 and 23 vs. Victoria
• Jan. 16 and 17 vs. Regina
• Jan. 30 and 31 vs. TWU
• Feb. 10 and 14 vs. Calgary

Miscellany

Study Abroad Fair

The College of Arts and Science will hold a study abroad fair Oct. 24 from 11 am-3 pm at the top of the ramp on the second floor of the Arts building. The event will highlight study abroad options for students.

Newman Book Launch

Relaunched the Duty to Consult Aboriginal Peoples by College of Law Professor Dwight Newman will be launched Oct. 27 at 7 pm at McNally Robinson bookstores.

Kids at Work

The annual Take Our Kids to Work Day will be held Oct. 24, 2014. Executive teams from various divisions are again putting on a mini trade show for all interested staff and their kids. The trade show will be held in the University Student Services Building from 9-noon and will include displays by the Faculty Management Division, Protective Services, Security, classrooms and more.

Pathology and Lab Medicine Research Day

The Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Depart- ment Research Day takes place Oct. 10 from 9 am-2 pm in the SaskTheatre, Royal University Hospital. Guest speaker will be Dr. Ola B. Moody, cytopathologist at Houston Methodist Hospital who will present the traditional Gynecological Pathology Morphology, Molecular and Challenges. There will also be presentations by great post-doctoral fellows and residents.

Business Plan Competition

The Leo Awards’ Lion’s Executive Business Plan Competition gives entrepreneurs the chance to launch a for-profit business idea with the winner receiving $550,000 plus office space to get the venture off the ground. The deadline for online applications is Nov. 28 with the top 10 teams to be announced Oct. Informa- tion on the online application form are available at research.usask.ca/ilo

CSB E-Campaign on new Canada/Payroll Savings bonds, changes, and renewals are now available online as part of the Canada Savings Bonds (CSB) E-Campaign, which continues until Nov. 1. As in previous years, the university is offering automatic payroll deductions to all monthly paid employees through this program. Complete details are posted on FIDO’s website.

White Coat Ceremony

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition will hold its 104th annual white coat ceremony Oct. 26 at 2 pm in R1010 Wilson Health Sciences. The event will feature an address by Dean MacNeill, professor of medicine and the artistic director of the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra OSO.K, followed by the group in two upcoming concerts. Tickets are available at the Broadway Theatre.

• Nov. 26-28, Digital and Social Media Analytics Program: Metrics, Measurement and Analytics

• Nov. 21-22, Practical Management of Ultrasound Imaging Therapy

• Oct. 21, 1-4 pm, Graduate Student Conference, the One Health Imaging Research Group presents the symposium Imaging Therapy Research Unit, part of Models of Disease. Featured speaker is Johnathan Wall, doctor of medicine and professor of molecular imaging laboratory, University of Tennessee. RSVP to 306-966-1417.

Awards

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education

For more information call 306-966-8776, email ecw@usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca

• Oct. 31 - 10.11, Process Metrics, Management and Controls
• Nov. 6, Women of Influence Breakfast
• Nov. 7, Managing Difficult Conversations
• Nov. 21, Emotional Intelligence: Another Side of Smart
• Nov. 28, Digital and Social Media Program Metrics, Measurement and Analytics

Susan York

• Dec. 5, What the Non-Financial Manager Needs to Know About Financial and Strategic Accounting
• Dec. 10, 11, Business Writing and Grammar Workshop

Milex Exhibit

There will be a special viewing of a World Scourly Observed: The Photography of Christopher Mantell exhibit at the University's Library Centre at Milex. The exhibition continues until the end of the year and features prints of various sizes, copies of publications featuring Milex’s photographs, memorabilia, awards, family photographs, one of Milex’s cameras, and exhibition cards and posters.

Gordon Snelgrove Gallery

Closing Oct. 24 with a reception from 7 to 9 pm is Many Feathers Flock Together: Gwich’in and Fictive: An exhibition of work by Pamela Olenberger. Set to open Oct. 27 is an exhibition of work by Mike Stark that will continue until a closing reception Nov. 7 from 7 to 9 pm.

Jazz Concerts

Dean MacNeill, professor of music and the artistic director of the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra OSO.K, will lead the group in two upcoming concerts. Tickets are available at the Broadway Theatre.

• Nov. 26, Broadway Theatre, SJO and the Modern Jazz Guitar featuring guitarist Jim Head of Edmonton and guest conductors Deryn Oehlerking and Jennifer McAlister.
• Nov. 27, Broadway Theatre, SJO with Montreal Guests featuring guitarist Mike Rod on saxophone, Dali Saik on drums, Adrian Lindsay on piano, Adrian Vidal on bass and Dace ‘Scouter’ Lang on drums.

Arctic Expedition

The annual Baker-Carey Center is hosting an exhibit from the Canadian Museum of Nature entitled In the Arctic: The Show. The exhibit continues until Dec. 5. The exhibition examines ideas of ancestry, identity and cultural practice through Johnson’s citation of non-functional forms from M/Ema lenskitchen.

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Cory Scurr, a second-year PhD student in history at Wilfrid Laurier University, is one of several external faculty and students doing research at the University Archives and Special Collections.

In his dissertation, Scurr intends to examine the degree to which the personal and ideological convictions of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker shaped Canada’s approaches to Canadian-Soviet relations.

The majority of scholars’ assessments of Diefenbaker’s Soviet policy unfavourably compare it to the so-called “golden age of Canadian foreign policy” shaped by preceding Liberal governments. Scurr argues this interpretation is unjust, primarily because it lacks a global perspective, and because it does not take into consideration the importance of domestic social and cultural influences.

Using the Diefenbaker fonds, Scurr is paying particular attention to the hundreds of personal and formal letters and memorandums submitted to the government by various minority groups. He has also taken advantage of the massive newspaper clippings collection. The clippings, Scurr believes, will provide a glimpse into how the public interpreted Canada’s international position. Examining what information the public was being fed will allow Scurr to better interpret how the public influenced Diefenbaker’s Soviet policy.