Rethinking Kenderdine Campus
Development needs to include U of S access

COLLEEN MACPHERSON

A request for proposals (RFP) has been issued by the University of Saskatchewan to find someone interested in a business opportunity—develop a meeting and lodging facility at the mothballed Kenderdine Campus at Emma Lake in exchange for some access and a long-term lease on the land.

The RFP was issued March 10 is an effort to find a financially sustainable plan for the campus that was established in 1935 with a focus on U of S arts and ecology activities in addition to community use. Programs at the campus were suspended in late 2012.

When that announcement was made, then acting vice-president of finance and resources Greg Fowler said millions of dollars in capital investment was needed at the facility to bring it up to operating standard, and "we simply don’t have the funds at this time."

It was also reported in 2012 that only about 200 students participated in programs at the campus that year, and that ceasing operations for three years in order to re-evaluate the facility would save the university $500,000.

The RFP asks interested proponents to submit proposals for the 22-acre site based on a financially sustainable business plan, explained James Cook, manager of business opportunities in Corporate Administration. The U of S will provide a long-term lease on the property to allow the successful developer time to recover any investment, but Cook emphasized the winning project must ensure a degree of university access to whatever facilities are on site.

"We've provided a list of our desired uses in the RFP," he said. "These include teaching and learning, and research in areas like biology, soil sciences, art and art history, and music. We've asked for space for various studio arts, teaching and learning spaces that accommodate up to 40 people, sleeping and eating facilities, and outdoor activity areas."

The process of reviewing the future of the Kenderdine campus since its activities were suspended...
Kenderdine RFP closes May 7

The winning proponent can make a lot of changes to the site—I imagine it would be primarily marketed as some other kind of facility than a university arts camp—but they need to tell us how they plan to accommodate the desired uses of the university,” said Cook. “They also have to demonstrate how they’re going to maintain the spirit of the campus as a place where the natural environment inspires its users.”

Cook said the RFP, which closes May 7, is similar to ones issued for an ice facility and a hotel—the institution seeking an independent party able to design, finance, develop, build and operate facilities on its lands while still allowing the university access for its own uses. In the case of the Kenderdine Campus, how the university compensates the operator of use of space will be up for negotiation, he said.

He added there is no way to predict what might result from the proposal request “but I know of two groups that have told us they’re interested in responding to the RFP, and they’ve been telling us that for a long time.”

Around the Bowl

The Saskatchewan Agriculture Graduates Association has presented an Honorary Life Membership to Bryan Harvey, who graduated in 1960. He returned to the U of S in 1966 where he held a number of positions in the Dept. of Plant Sciences and was a pioneer in barley breeding, particularly two-row malting barley.

Robert Innes, a faculty member in the Dept. of Native Studies, David McGrane, professor in the Dept. of Political Studies at St. Thomas More College, and Merle Massie, adjunct faculty member in the School of Environment and Sustainability, have all received nominations for the 2015 Saskatchewan Book Awards. Innes’ book Elder Brother and the Law of the People: Contemporary Kinship and Cowessess First Nation is up for two awards—the Rasmussen, Rasmussen and Charovsky Aboriginal Peoples’ Writing Award and the Luther College and University of Regina Arts Award for Scholarly Writing. McGrane is also nominated in the scholarly writing category for his book Remaining Loyal: Social Democracy in Quebec and Saskatchewan.

The third book in that category is Massie’s entitled Forest Prairie Edge: Place History in Saskatchewan. The awards will be handed out April 25 in Regina.

A collaboration between nursing, dentistry and optometry has earned a group of individuals a national award for eHealth. The team consisting of Jill Bally, Shelley Spurr, Lorna Butler and Mark Tomtene from the College of Nursing, Dr. Alyssa Hayes from dentistry and ophthalmologist Dr. Shahab Khan received the 2015 Faculty Interprofessional eHealth Award from Canada Health Infoway. The focus of the network is educate students in patient-centered, interprofessional and collaborative care, in a technologically-enabled environment.

A new science advisory panel set up by the Alberta Environmental Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Agency will include John Giesy from the Dept. of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences and the Toxicology Centre. The panel will review and validate provincial environmental programs and activities.

The following announcements have been made by the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic:

Kerry Mansell appointed assistant dean in the Division of Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition for a three-year term starting July 1. Roy Dobson will continue in the position until then.

Dr. Susantha Gomis appointed acting head of the Department of Veterinary Pathology for a six-month term that runs until July 26.

Dr. Janet Hill appointed acting head of the Department of Veterinary Microbiology for a six-month term that began Jan 26.


Grant Stoneham re-appointed associate dean, Saskatoon Programs in the College of Medicine until Dec. 31, 2019.

Fred Remillard extended as associate dean, research and graduate affairs in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition until June 30, 2016.

Mehdi Nemati appointed interim head of the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering until June 30.

One day for us to learn to lead the way

Undergraduate students Jordan McCool-Morin, Ketayani Agrawal and Briana Mackow put leadership into practice by organizing the IGNITE student leadership conference on February 28, 2015. Donor support of the President’s Student Experience Fund helped cover the costs of the event.

On March 20, 2015, help more students hone their leadership skills by supporting the President’s Student Experience Fund and your donation will be doubled!

give.usask.ca/oneday
#onedayforstudents #usask

Board of Governors’
Campus Community Reception

Join the University of Saskatchewan Board of Governors for an informal reception at Louis’ Loft. This is your opportunity to chat with your board members one-on-one.

Louis’ Loft | Monday, March 23 | 4:30 – 6 pm

A complimentary refreshment and light snacks will be served.

RSVP by March 18, 2015 by visiting alumni.usask.ca/events/registration
Gieni smashing track records

LESLEY PORTER

Aside from staying inside her own lane, competitive hurdler Muriel Gieni has an interesting strategy for ensuring she does not fall during a competition: she just doesn’t.

“I don’t fall,” she said with a laugh. “It’s never entered my mind.”

It sounds like big talk, but Gieni, a facilities and projects assistant in the College of Arts and Science, is a serial record breaker in Canadian track and field. Her activities of choice? Triple jump, long jump and, of course, hurdles.

She started competing 13 years ago, when her son Morgan joined the Riversdale Track Club. Gieni sat and watched him for five years’ worth of records to go by.

“Every time you change an age group, you look at a new five years’ worth of records to go after,” she said. She set her first record in 80 metre indoor hurdles when she was 45 years old. Since then, she has broken 13 various indoor and outdoor records across three age groups.

But one record almost didn’t happen.

At the Knights of Columbus Games in January at the Saskatoon Field House, Gieni broke the Canadian triple jump record on her first try. “I was pretty happy about it,” she said. Her excitement was short-lived, however. After the preliminary measurement of 9.22 metres was done, a volunteer raked the pit to prepare for the next competitor before a national official could retch the value.

Weeks later, a volunteer raked the pit again.

At the end of the year, a new age group was added, and Gieni was able to measure the pit to get her new record.

She initially trained with younger groups at the track club and moved up as her fitness level increased. She then started competing provincially and then nationally as a masters athlete, a class of athletics for those age 35 and over.

Masters athletes are a small group provincially, she explained, but are quite extensive at the national level. Every five years, the athletes progress to a new level based on their age (35-39, 40-44, 45-49, etc.), which Gieni looks upon excitedly.

“Every time you change an age group, you look at a new five years’ worth of records to go closer to 3.14. Workers laying a circular patio will use pi to calculate how many bricks they need, or how much concrete to use for a cylindrical piling under the foundation of a building. It is also used to explore the foundations of the universe.

“Pi shows up all the time in physics, and in my area of theoretical particle physics there are factors of pi in almost every calculation,” said Tom Steele, head of the Department of Physics and Engineering Physics.

Steele said that at one time, he was able to leverage the day with the local Bay store to get free promotional pi-themed mugs, t-shirts and even samples of Greenchy’s “π—the sign of intelligence” Cologne. These would be given out around the department.

Minus the freebies, he and his colleagues “usually talk up Pi Day at the very least,” decorate office doors, or engage in a little informal competition to see who can remember the most digits of pi. And physicists have a mnemonic to get them through the first 15 digits (3.141592653589797).

Steele explained: “The number of letters in each word represents the digit. Here it is: ‘How I want a drink, alcoholic of course, after the heavy lectures involving quantum mechanics.’”

Pi’s name also lends it to punsters. For instance, r2—the formula for calculating the area of a circle—is pronounced “pie are squared,” to which the punster responds, “pie are not square, they are round.”

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Darryl Falzarano’s fascination with the world’s deadliest pathogens has led him to some of the most secure research labs in North America, as well as to field work in Africa providing lab service.

A specialist in virology and animal models of disease at VIDO-InterVac, Falzarano worked for a month in 2014 in Liberia during that African country’s struggle with Ebola. It was a capstone of 10 years studying the disease, beginning at Canada’s only containment level 4 facility in his native Winnipeg.

Falzarano initially went to the University of Winnipeg intending to become a doctor, but after completing a bachelor’s degree in biology, a different track beckoned. He pursued the field of medical microbiology, which led him to graduate studies at the University of Manitoba.

A postgraduate position took him to the U.S. National Institutes of Health’s Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Montana. There he investigated antiretroviral strategies against Ebola and an emerging disease, Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV). This included developing a new animal model for MERS-CoV and the first potential treatment. Unlike Ebola, MERS-CoV is level 3 pathogen, which presented an opportunity.

“VIDO-InterVac has a level 3 facility with the ability to do larger animal experiments, something that I really haven’t done in the past,” Falzarano said.

“It was an exciting opportunity to move back to Canada as well.”

Falzarano is now exploring next steps with MERS-CoV. While it is still uncertain precisely how the disease spreads, camels are thought to transmit it to humans, where it kills nearly 40 per cent of people infected. Camels are impractical for research—they’re hard to find in North America—and expensive, but the alpaca may prove to be a useful stand-in.

So far, only a few cases of MERS-CoV have shown up in Europe, the U.S. and the Philippines but Falzarano said it “could be waiting until the right virus gets into the right person.” In the age of air travel, that puts the disease only hours away from anywhere on Earth.

“MERS-CoV is not a Saskatchewan-specific problem, but if you care what goes on in the world, if you believe in the one-health concept, these problems need to be addressed.”

Citizen scientists take on the snow pack

New to campus news, the U of S Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS) launched a citizen science project to learn about the dynamics of snow conditions in an urban setting.

“Ever looked at the mountains of snow and wondered how long the piles will take to melt come spring? Or pondered how the weather anchor person knows that it snowed 30 centimetres last night?”

For a group of snow enthusiasts at the U of S Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS), questions like these led them to explore the dynamics of snow conditions in an urban setting.

“What we’re doing is citizen science—where anyone can participate despite their background, take measurements and learn about scientific methods and their complexities,” said Willemijn Appels, a postdoctoral fellow with GIWS and a participant on the project. “We all got together because we’re interested in learning more about snow processes, particularly in Saskatchewan.”

For the second year in a row, a group of volunteer graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and research staff are taking daily recordings of snow depths, snowfall and snow density in the field across the road from GIWS headquarters at the Environment Canada National Hydrology Research Centre at Innovation Place.

The level of training and home country of each of the citizen scientists varied, and not everyone was familiar with the characteristics of snowfall or with the issues associated with measuring snow. It made for a dynamic team-learning environment.

“What started as a team-building effort to pull us through the long winter ended up sparking heated debates during lunch breaks,” Appels explained.

The project is prompting the young scientists to explore field-monitoring practices with Environment Canada scientists and to understand values of continuous measurements.

“In order to make our daily dataset more reliable and improve our measurements of daily snowfall, we added a nipher gauge and wind meter to this year’s experimental setup,” Appels said. A nipher gauge captures snow and is shaped like an upside down bell to reduce the amount of snow lost to wind. The snow is then weighed to estimate its water content.

One of the more interesting findings last year was that snow pack varies considerably in water content, from 10 to 30 per cent. Another was that it disappeared, daily snowfall amounts over the winter did not add up to the total amount measured in the snowpack by the end of the winter.

One of the challenges was consistent staffing. Volunteers are hard to find for weekends and public holidays, especially when temperatures plummet, but Appels said the team is confident they have a good coverage.

“Gaps in the rotating schedule are usually filled by some enthusiasts, even on New Year’s Day,” he said. “We hope this campaign will reach the same level of coverage as last winter and marks the start of an office tradition.”

NEW TO US

Citizen scientists take on the snow pack

Darryl Falzarano

Darryl Falzarano’s fascination with the world’s deadliest pathogens has led him to some of the most secure research labs in North America, as well as to field work in Africa providing lab service.
The northern community of Cumberland House sits in the Saskatchewan River delta in a region that experiences the cumulative impact of water used by cities like Calgary and Saskatoon and diverted through dams. River channels, lakes and wetlands create a veined landscape with an abundance of wildlife. For those living in this downstream community, life is defined by water.

“The delta is literally everything to people that live here,” said Renee Carriere, a teacher at the local Cariboos Community School. “It is language, home, history, roots, stories and knowledge. It is where we are born and are buried. It makes us who we are.”

On February 6, students from Carriere’s Grade Eight class travelled with Carriere to the U of S where they shared a photo with SENS faculty and students. “We really saw the youth build confidence throughout the multiple iterations of their presentations,” said Andrews. “You could hear the buzz in the room grow as time went on. The audience was able to interpret some of the photo at a glance, but wasn’t able to interpret the full meaning of the photo without the dialogue exchange.”

“The power of the photo is to get the dialogue going. And then people begin adding their voice to the conversation because they get excited,” Carriere said. Carriere plans to display the full suite of class photos around the community. Right now, they are on display in her classroom and the students will be adding to the project as the snow melts and spring arrives.

“Photos help leave you with a history. A printed photo leaves an important legacy.”

Meagan Hinther is communications specialist with the Global Institute for Water Security and School of Environment and Sustainability.

One of the photos produced by Cumberland House students.
Knowledge is beautiful campaign

Knowledge is beautiful, and a new advertising campaign featuring U of S success stories is proving that statement.

With funding from the Provost’s Committee on Integrated Planning (PCIP)—about $400,000 in total—the marketing and communications team, led by Ivan Muzychka, associate vice-president of communications, recently launched an intensive campaign to build the university’s reputation.

“We received PCIP funding some time ago, but the university was dealing with a number of issues so we delayed the campaign until now,” said Muzychka of the launch of the awareness-building project in mid-February.

He explained the results from a perception survey conducted last spring during a change in the institution’s senior administrators indicated that “the university was still very much respected, but we knew we had more work to do. The university is not defined by one incident; we are much larger than that and this campaign tells those stories.”

The campaign revolves around the tag line “Knowledge is Beautiful and how knowledge created at the U of S through teaching and research across all colleges and disciplines translates into solutions for everyone, he said. Print ads feature large images, the tagline and two sections of text: one that is a technical explanation of research, and one that uses lay terms to describe the work and why it matters to the average person. The ads are running in The Globe and Mail, national magazines like Maclean’s and University Affairs, and in targeted publications across Canada, will feature research and teaching with the aim to highlight U of S successes.

“Most people with an affinity for universities will likely know what we mean when we say, ‘knowledge is beautiful,’” Muzychka said. “They will understand the feeling captured by the phrase so if we can get their attention, we think we have an opportunity to make a point or two about the U of S and they will then at least be slightly more aware of us. We want to give them a thing or two to think about.

“Outside of Saskatchewan, awareness of the U of S and its strengths beyond agriculture is limited,” he continued. “So we’ll focus on water security, the synchrotron, work in vaccines and other areas we are really strong in.”

The campaign will take place in two waves. The first will run until the end of March, and the second will begin in July. Complementing the paid advertising is an increase in media relation activities with more news releases being sent to targeted news outlets across Canada. There will also be an online component to the campaign that will feature the images and text.

“We’ve also refreshed the banners on College Drive, the banners in the Regina airport, and we’ve put up a very large, very colourful display in the Saskatoon airport. These are all part of our awareness efforts.”

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The Canadian Light Source’s Medical Isotopes Project (MIP) produces molybdenum-99 (Mo-99)—the parent isotope of Tc-99m—from the stable isotope, molybdenum-100 (Mo-100).

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The university is not defined by one incident; we are much larger than that and this campaign tells those stories.

Ivan Muzychka

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A Vision for the Future: Ted Hsu, the Science, Technology and Post Secondary Education Critic, on the Liberal Vision

Join Dr. Ted Hsu and the Liberal Party of Canada in Saskatoon for and evening colloquium and buffet dinner to discuss the current government’s policy on science and technology and to present a Liberal vision for the future.

When: Thursday, March 19 at 6 pm. Doors open at 5 pm for drinks.
Where: St. Thomas More Cafeteria

Tickets are $50 available from http://tinyurl.com/LiberalVision
Knowledge is beautiful campaign launched

The Canadian Light Source’s Medical Isotopes Project (MIP) produces molybdenum-99 (Mo-99)—the parent isotope of Tc-99m—from the stable isotope, molybdenum-100 (Mo-100).

Knowledge is beautiful.

usask.ca

In other words, our researchers create material that lets physicians take pictures of your body from the inside. That goes a long way in pinpointing and fighting disease, and saving lives.

Knowledge is beautiful.

usask.ca

A follow-up perception survey will be done at the end of the second wave of advertisements to see how general awareness has changed. “We are having a lot of fun profiling the university. This is very different from ads that say we’re the best in capital letters and exclamation points. We believe this campaign has a certain kind of subtlety and sophistication that is aimed at people who care about universities and university values.”

Knowledge is beautiful.

usask.ca

A Constitutional Right to Strike in Canada?

John Gormley

Professor of Law at the University of Saskatchewan, former Saskatchewan Attorney General, and Law Society of Saskatchewan President

Did the Supreme Court of Canada get it right in SFL v. Saskatchewan?

Charles Smith

Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Saskatchewan

March 25th, 3:30-5:00pm

STEM Auditorium

Hosted by

St. Thomas More College
University of Saskatchewan

March 15-21, 2015

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week

Stop by our display table @ the Health Sciences Bldg Foyer

March 17 & 18

From 9:00am to noon

Clean Energy 2015

Organized by the International Association of Hydrogen Energy, Asia Pacific Society for Solar and Hybrid Technologies, University of Miami Clean Energy Research Institute, and the University of Saskatchewan.

SEPTEMBER 27 — OCTOBER 1, 2015

Prairieland Park Trade and Convention Centre,
SASKATOON, SK

www.icce2015.net

Call for Abstracts

Peer reviewed process; all accepted and presented papers and posters are published in an international journal, plus;

- $1000 Cash Award for best Student Poster
- $1000 Cash Award for best Student Oral Presentation
- $1000 Cash Award for best Poster
- $2000 Cash Award for best Research or Educator Presentation

Each cash award includes complimentary registration to STEMfest 2016 Australia (Valued at $1200)

ICCE 2015

will be held in conjunction with STEMfest, 2nd International Festival of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

www.stemstates.org
Ancient technologies in a digital world

MICHAEL ROBIN

For Yin Liu, the history of information technology begins before the invention of the transistor or integrated circuit chip, long before.

“It really is useful to look at the past when considering issues of the present,” said Liu, an associate professor in the Department of English. “Here’s a thousand years of research, development and usability testing that we can study and learn from. Why would we not want to look at it?”

That thousand years is the Middle Ages, between the years 500 and 1500 CE. Liu, a medieval scholar, said historians of information technology tend to skip over that period as a time where nothing of import happened.

“The most common narrative I’ve come across is, ‘well, people in Classical Greece and Rome were really smart,’ she explained. “And then there were the Middle Ages and people didn’t know anything. Then they invented the printing press and that was the start of the Renaissance, and then they were smart again.’

But a lot can happen in 1,000 years. “It’s absurd to think that the way people thought and behaved and the way they perceived the world they lived in was the same in the year 1500 as it was in the year 500; of course it wasn’t,” she said.

By examining the strategies people in the Middle Ages developed to handle information in her project entitled Medieval Codes, Liu hopes to uncover lessons that may inform

Gieni motivated by coaches, teammates

Guy Vanderhaeghe
Award-Winning Author/Playwright, St. Thomas More Scholar.

Book Reading & Reception
Friday, March 27th
Doors 7pm - Reading 7:30pm
St. Thomas More College Atrium
College Drive & Bottomley Ave.

Daddy Lenin and Other Stories (McClelland & Stewart)
Bestselling author Guy Vanderhaeghe will read from his soon to be released new book of fiction that captures his talent as a storyteller and insightful observer of the human condition.

Muriel Gieni competing in hurdles at the 2015 Knights of Columbus Games in Saskatoon.

From Page 3
Gieni motivated by coaches, teammates

He tries to recreate the jump but to no avail. Disheartened, she thought about throwing in the towel early. “I thought, ‘I’m done,’” she recalled. However, she went in for her sixth and final jump and “it was the best jump of my life.” To no surprise, she broke the record again. This time, the rakers left her imprint in the dirt until an official could inspect it and award her the Canadian record.

“It was a real learning experience for all of us,” she said with a laugh.

Gieni said she owes a lot to her coaches, who “have always treated me like one of the group,” as well as to her teammates and fellow club members, who help keep her motivated.

“My teammates are important to me because I can set a national record on a Saturday and it’s a big deal, but on Monday you’re just one of the group again.”

See Past Page 9
Past can inform technology future

From Page 8

the present. As for the future, her research so far indicates it is far too early to predict how people will deal with information in the decades to come.

She explained technologies developed during the Middle Ages are in fact still in use today. One, putting spaces between words, was introduced as literacy came to the British Isles.

Latin writing before the 8th century took the form of scriptio continua, where all words were written in continuous lines with no breaks. It required special training not only to write but also to read aloud, which in most cases was its purpose, she said.

“You had people trying to read Latin whose language was not descended from Latin. There were a bunch of Irish monks, then Anglo-Saxons trying to read Latin text. So they grammaticalized it to make it easier to use these books,” Liu said. “There’s a history behind that kind of layout that tells you an awful lot about the way people were expected to read, about how they were expected to use these books,” Liu said. Even a closer look at the much-vaunted printing press reveals the technology may have been revolutionary, but it was a couple of centuries in the making. Liu pointed out that printing required a complex set of skills and a team of workers to arrange every letter and page layout with extra space specifically for readers’ notes.

“There’s a history behind that kind of layout that tells you an awful lot about the way people were expected to read, about how they were expected to use these books,” Liu said. Even a closer look at the much-vaunted printing press reveals the technology may have been revolutionary, but it was a couple of centuries in the making. Liu pointed out that printing required a complex set of skills and a team of workers to arrange every letter and page layout with extra space specifically for readers’ notes.

“Liu explained that even the beautifully elaborate, colorful illustrations in many medieval manuscripts had a purpose: they were memory triggers to help the book’s owner find a familiar page.”

“They’re designed to do that, so very often the images are strange or sort of bizarre, striking or amusing in some way. So, you would remember the picture of the funny little blue bird about a third of the way through the book, and it would help you quickly find what you were looking for.”

The asterisk had its start as a sign of return. A precursor to today’s footnotes and online hyperlinks, these were used to link comments like margin notes to the passage to which they referred. Some scribes did their page layout with extra space specifically for readers’ notes.

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Leadership Conference
The Edwards School of Business presents the 2015 University of Saskatchewan Student Leadership Conference – From Crisis to Crucial at 1600 Alumni Hall March 18. The conference will showcase Saskatchewan student leaders’ knowledge and expertise, as well as celebrate their personal experiences and practices on sustainable leadership. Keynote speakers include Hardik Neher, mayor of Caribou, Emetcha Omoza, vice-president of Global Government Affairs, Suna Canada, and Jim Hepson, president and CEO of the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Information and registration are available at leadershipconference.usask.ca.

PSFAM Annual Meeting
All third-year Protein Structure, Function and Malfunction annual meeting takes place May 8 at the College of Medicine. Registration and abstract submission is available at cmlightsource.ca/psfamregistration

Mindfulness, Stress and Resilience
March 21–29, Room 800, St. Joseph High School presents the 6th annual Mindfulness, Stress and Resilience workshops open to all U of S faculty and staff for free registration. It’s free, and meets the criteria as an eligible activity for U of S HR pressure relief benefits. For further information and to register, contact Wellness Resources at 306-966-4127 or email wellnessprograms@usask.ca.

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education
For information on conference dates, please email 306-966-8486, email outreach@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca or contact us. Outreach

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**University Library Dean’s Award for Excellence**

Have you received exceptional service/work from a University Library employee or team?

**Awards Information**

The Award: Nominate an individual or a team who has demonstrated exemplary service/work toward fulfilling the library’s mission.

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.

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

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**COMIC STRIP CHEMISTRY**

Master’s of science student Natasha Vetter had a novel idea for a recent research poster—convey the information in comic strip style with characters representing herself and her co-researcher, David Palmer, head of the Department of Chemistry. Palmer’s response? “I said why not.” Vetter used a website that integrated The Curious Case of the Convoluted Catalysis! into the strip format and generate the characters which, according to Palmer, bear an uncanny resemblance to the real people. The poster took top prize at a recent medical chemistry conference and the two will continue to publish but not in graphic novel form, Palmer said.

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**The Campus Sustainability Revolving Fund**

Finances sustainability initiatives on campus

Resulting utility savings return to the fund to help it grow

The first approved project will upgrade the Gordon Snelgrove Art Gallery’s lighting system using LED equivalents.

For more information and to see if your sustainability idea could be funded, visit the Office of Sustainability’s website at sustainability.usask.ca.
The great flag debate

There is a wealth of material in University Archives and Special Collections in the University Library related to the celebration of anniversaries, many involving the university’s colleges and departments, some notable research achievements, and this year in particular, the start of World War I. This year also marks the 50th anniversary of another event that has resulted in a flurry of requests for archival material: the formal adoption of the new Canadian flag on Feb. 15, 1965.

During the debate that raged between 1964-1965, Canadians by the thousands submitted designs for a distinctive flag. Many of these were sent to John Diefenbaker, then leader of the opposition, and the submissions form part of the Diefenbaker archival collection.

Requests to University Archives and Special Collections for flag designs began in March 2014 when CTV staff was working on a segment for the show W5 about the untold story behind the flag that unified Canada. The number of similar requests for images has not abated. Textbook editors, the Toronto Star and the National Post have all been in touch looking for flag images, as has Government House in Regina and staff from the Argyle Museum in Manitoba, which is preparing for an exhibit in the Manitoba Legislature. In addition, a few individuals have wondered if family members might have been responsible for some of the designs.

Whatever else one might see in these images, which are actual flag designs from the Diefenbaker collection, they are heartfelt depictions by citizens about their country, and they continue to evoke a response.