Student employees hold union vote
Outcome uncertain pending procedural decisions

The votes have been cast but it will be weeks or even months before graduate student employees at the University of Saskatchewan find out if they have the support they need to join a union.

Cheryl Carver, acting associate vice-president of human resources, said students cast their ballots March 27 on the question of certification with the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC). Since then, the local Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) has applied to the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board for intervener status in the process, asserting that the employees in PSAC’s proposed bargaining unit should fall within its bargaining units instead.

“Unless CUPE and PSAC can resolve their differences, there is likely going to be a hearing and the labour board won’t count the ballots until it deals with the CUPE application,” she said. “That could take three or four months so it’s business as usual at the university. Nothing changes until we know the outcome.”

When the vote counting proceeds, the board will also have to rule on which graduate students were in fact eligible to cast ballots, said Carver. The university’s list of eligible students numbers about 1,100 while the PSAC list includes some 1,400 names. The difference, Carver explained, could be the result of a number of scenarios: a student may have been an employee in 2014 when they signed a union card but may no longer be on the payroll; or a student may not understand that their pay cheque is scholarship money rather than employment income.

If the university and PSAC cannot come to agreement on the list of eligible voters, the board will address the question of who should, and should not, be included in the certification effort.

When the issues surrounding the public service alliance’s effort to certify the students are resolved, and if the vote count shows majority support, “we would then move into the process of negotiating a collective agreement,” said Carver. “If that agreement is ratified, we will then implement its terms and conditions.”

Preparation for negotiating a new contract will involve a great deal of research, she said. It will include learning more about the PSAC should it be determined to be the bargaining agent “and what’s appropriate for that particular bargaining group. We’ll also have to do some broad consultation with leaders across campus to determine their interests, something we do around all of our bargaining tables.”

Should the vote fail, “this group of employees will remain non-unionized.”

She added the University of Saskatchewan is one of only a handful of post-secondary institutions in the country where graduate student employees are not unionized.

In terms of the university’s response to this unionization effort, Carver said the institution respects the right of employees to be represented by a bargaining group. At the same time, it works to ensure fair and reasonable terms and conditions of employment for everyone.

“We want to get to that outcome whether it’s done through a union or not through a union but clearly the students are trying to tell us something. It’s like they’re telling us we’re not living up to that standard, and we have to listen, understand and figure out how to address their concerns.”

TRACING CHAUCER
By transcribing some 30,000 pages of Middle English, English Professor Peter Robinson hopes to discover which of the remaining manuscripts of The Canterbury Tales is closest to the original. Read about his project on Page 8.

WRITE RIGHT ARTIST AT WORK

INSIDE

6 7
Supporting children and families
Laura Herman’s volunteerism comes from the heart

Laura Herman, communications officer in the College of Medicine.

Laura Herman devotes a great deal of her spare time to the Children’s Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan, a cause that is near to her heart in more ways than one. Herman, who is the communications officer in the College of Medicine, first heard about the foundation nine years ago. She happened to tune into a radio fundraiser for the organization while driving with her newborn son safely strapped into the seat behind her. She listened to parents of sick children tell their personal stories “and I felt so powerless,” she said. “At the same time, I knew it was a club I didn’t ever want to be in.” She made a donation to the foundation, and she has since joined that club.

Herman’s family has a long history of heart and other issues associated with Alagille syndrome, a genetic disorder. Her own case is a mild one but has a nephew who died from Alagille syndrome before Herman was born. Her son, who is nine, is perfectly healthy; her daughter, age six, was diagnosed with a mild heart condition in utero.

But the disease had taken a significant toll on other children in the family; a nephew died from complications related to Alagille syndrome and two nieces are severely affected. Herman has travelled with the children and their parents to children’s hospitals in Edmonton and in the U.S. as they sought treatment that is unavailable in Saskatchewan. They were experiences that cemented her commitment to seeing a similar facility built for the children of this province.

“Children’s hospitals are so very different than regular hospitals,” she said. “It’s a unique environment and a different way of treating patients where families are important. It’s not the building so much as it is the dedicated staff and facilities, and the access to services.”

Since her first donation nine years ago, Herman’s involvement with the foundation has steadily grown. She has answered phones and stuffed envelopes when needed, and has served as a key organizer of the same radio fundraiser she heard on her car.

This year, she is chairing the volunteer committee that is putting on the foundation’s Jeans & Jewels Gala April 24 at TCU Place. It is a significant fundraiser, she said: “The goal is to raise $200,000, and we will.” These major events have taken on additional significance “because we’ve got shovels in the ground now,” Herman said. “Construction is underway and the foundation will be buying the equipment, all the things that will make it a special hospital. What really matters is that there’s equipment and services meant for kids.”

Herman describes her work with the Children’s Hospital Foundation of Saskatchewan as “the longest volunteer relationship that I’ve ever had.” And while it continues to be rewarding, it can be quite demanding. In the weeks leading up to the Jeans & Jewels Gala, Herman said she will put in 10-12 hours a week ensuring every detail is just right. And she will continue to give her time to the foundation “as long as they have a need.”

When she thinks about her own children and health issues compared to what some others face, Herman describes her family as “very lucky.” At the same time, her understanding of the need for specialized facilities and services for sick children and their families has grown significantly through her volunteer work with the foundation and her personal experience. “I get it now. I didn’t get it before. There isn’t anything I can do for those moms who have kids who are sick or recovering except to raise some money to buy a comfortable rocking chair for them to sit in and hold their child.”

NEW HOTEL
WITH AMAZING LOCATION
SASKATOON’S ONLY HOTEL
AT REFRESH-ING PRICES
www.refreshinnandsuites.com

4-piece ensuite in each room
In-room temperature controls
40” LED Smart TV,
Netflix & free movies
Access to full kitchen/laundry
Free parking
Free internet
Free desktop computer access

Refresh Inn & Suites
1220 College Drive
Saskatoon, SK S7N 0W4
Toll Free: 1-855-493-7374
Email: refreshinn@sasktel.net

306.934.5555

Marketing

MYSTERY STICK
Mark O’Connell (left), claims to own the oldest known manufactured hockey stick. To verify his claim, he brought the stick to Colin Laroque, a tree-ring expert in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources. Laroque, who was involved in dating the Moffatt Stick, the world’s oldest handcrafted hockey stick as well as a piece of railing from the Titanic, will examine O’Connell’s stick for evidence of its age. The stick is stamped with the word “Ditson,” the name of a sporting good company established in 1871, the era from which O’Connell believes the stick comes.

Colleen MacPherson
April 10, 2015

Hand Foster
Battling misinformation about agriculture biotechnology

MICHAEL ROBIN

Whether it is hormones in beef and preservatives in bacon, or pesticides and genetically modified foods, Stuart Smyth wants to be part of the conversation.

“If someone’s looking for information about genetically modified corn or genetically modified canola, so much of the information on the internet is provided without a lot of accuracy or factual details,” he said. “Readers) are influenced by Dr. Phil or Dr. Oz or Food Babe, or this type of thing.”

To counterbalance the misinformation, Smyth, a professor in the Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics, and graduate student Savannah Gleim have launched Sustainable Agricultural Innovations and Food (SAIFood.com), an online blog and Twitter feed to provide science-based information on agricultural biotechnology (agbiotech).

For Smyth, the gap in the public discourse can benefit from U of S expertise not only in agricultural science but also in trade, regulatory affairs and public opinion. As an agricultural economist, he has seen first hand how advances in agricultural science can be stifled by social science problems.

For example, while there is broad scientific consensus that GMOs are no more dangerous than other crops, public fears have driven governments to create onerous regulations and trade barriers that are smothering advances in agriculture worldwide.

“We’ve got technologies, right now, that could make a huge impact, but because consumer acceptance in Europe and in African countries isn’t the same as it is in Canada and the United States, these technologies are not able to be adopted,” he said.

While there are some efforts to provide science-based information to the public by individuals and organizations, Smyth said they are still few in number and are often drowned out by purveyors of misinformation who have already staked out their online turf.

“As an agriculture industry, we’ve been very slow to engage in social media; to provide a factual counterbalance for those people who are seeking information. People realize when they go to a social media site it may not be the best source of information, but they struggle to find a trusted source.”

Smyth explained that incredible changes and advances have happened in plant breeding in the past two decades, and they have occurred much faster than advances in public scientific literacy Combined with growth in communications technology and a vast gulf between rural and urban populations, these factors have created an enormous challenge, one with high stakes.

By not adopting new agbiotech in response to the Food and Agriculture Organization’s challenge to figure out how to feed the world’s nine billion people, “we’re going to fail.”

This issue’s image takes us off campus and features a February 1916 photograph of a group of Nursing Sisters posing in front the Great Sphinx and pyramids at Giza. It can be found in the recently acquired papers of Louise Brock. The bulk of the collection is correspondence and material regarding the death of Ottawa soldier L.C. McColl. The X marks Nurse Brock in the photo.
“The one thing that everyone has in common is this ground we call ‘home,’” said Gail MacKay. “To have an appreciation of the naming of the place where we are and an understanding of the land through Indigenous language contributes to good relationships between people.”

An assistant professor in the Department of Curriculum Studies in the College of Education, MacKay said language is a critical part not only of culture but of how people see and interact with the world. This is Indigenous rhetorics, MacKay’s specialty and an area of study she would like to bring to Saskatchewan.

“A rhetoric is a system of meaning making that is understood by a group of people and is expressive of a world view and life philosophy,” she said, adding the printed word is only one part of such systems, which include visual elements, symbols and patterns all working together to communicate sophisticated ideas.

A Métis of Arishekkaye-European background, MacKay grew up in a small community in the woodlands of northwestern Ontario but has called the Prairies home since the 1990s. She completed a BA in English at the University of Calgary and a Bachelor of Education at the University of Toronto before coming to the U of S for her PhD. She is currently completing an interdisciplinary PhD in curriculum studies and native studies.

MacKay said “patterns of meaning-making” persist even as a person communicates in another language. For example, an Indigenous person may use English to express an idea, but choose words, symbols, constructions and logic guided by their Indigenous rhetoric. She said the result can sound like errors in academic English.

“Patterns in spoken and written languages are culturally specific,” she said. “Bringing this knowledge into the educational system contributes to mutual understanding.”

MacKay added she also hopes to imbue her students with a sense of community connection and service.

“If they trust themselves to build relationships in the communities where they teach, I think that will allow them to continue their own learning. We should always work from the position of humility and gratitude.”

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 usc@usask.ca
Getting to know Jack
Saddleback becomes USSU president May 1

Kris Foster

Jack Saddleback, incoming USSU president.

A lot of people know Jack Saddleback. They know he is a Cree man studying sociology. They know he is a two-spirit, transgender gay man. And as of March 26, they know he will be the new University of Saskatchewan Students’ Union (USSU) president. But there is more to Saddleback than that.

He’s the third First Nation, but first transgender USSU president

Saddleback is the third Aboriginal president in a row, following Jared Brown and Max FineDay.

“It’s important to celebrate these milestones as a campus community,” said Saddleback. “I happen to be First Nation and openly transgender, but we are all diverse and unique individuals.”

He likes Huskies more than all cats … except one

“I grew up with a wolf-husky cross named Princess,” said Saddleback, who was raised in Maskwacis, Alberta. “I definitely like dogs more than cats, except The Lion King is my favourite movie.”

Not only did he grow up with a princess, he also met the Queen

“Not a lot of people know that I met the Queen. I was one of a few people who got the chance to present her with some artwork at a cornerstone-unveiling event at the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.”

He almost didn’t run for president

“It took me quite a while to decide. I come from a number of marginalized groups and have faced a series of barriers, both external and internal. I was afraid and wasn’t sure if the campus was ready for a First Nation, two-spirit, transgender president,” said Saddleback, who was vice-president of student affairs this past year.

“In the end he ran, and won. “Everyone has an identity. Mine just happens to be rarer than most. People didn’t see me as a First Nation man or a trans man, they saw just a skilled, experienced and passionate individual.”

He had a four-point platform

Saddleback is putting his passion, experience and skills behind a four-point platform that won him the election with more than 47 per cent of the votes.

“He stressed the importance of creating a mental health strategy for the campus. “Mental health is a huge passion of mine and through my own experience with depression and suicide, I consider myself an advocate for change.” Last year, he was named a Face of Mental Illness with the Canadian Alliance on Mental Illness and Mental Health, and shared his struggles and stories about mental illness across the country.

The U of S is one of the last U15 universities without such a strategy. “There are gaps and we need to bridge those gaps so that no one falls through and that means faculty and staff too. Our success as students relies on the well-being of the faculty and staff.”

Another major issue for Saddleback is creating a sexual assault policy. “This is a huge issue across Canada and we are no different.” He wants to create concrete steps that can be followed by those reporting assaults and those receiving the reports. “We need to make it clear what steps will be taken and what the procedure going forward.”

Saddleback’s final two platform planks were about engagement, both with the student body on campus and the broader community off campus. “We need to engage with students at all levels to find out what issues we can address.” As for community engagement, he said he wants to make sure students know what funding is available to them to do even more community work.

He’s not doing all of this alone

Joining Saddleback on the USSU executive are: Gabe Senecal, vice-president of academic affairs; Kehan Fu, vice-president of student affairs; and Ata Merat, vice-president of operations and finance.

“The exec is filled with amazing people with great skills. It’s going to be a well-rounded team and I’m really stoked to get started.”

He’s looking forward to being on board

The USSU president has a seat waiting for him on the U of S Board of Governors and he is looking forward to occupying it. “But the board is like Las Vegas: what happens there, stays there,” he said with a laugh.

Oh yeah, he doesn’t like corn

“I don’t like corn, but I do like popcorn. Corn on the cob is just not part of my gig, but it’s a huge part of my culture.”

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN FOR STUDENTS 2014–15

You can brighten the future

There are students at the University of Saskatchewan right now who have the potential to change the world. They are our future leaders, teachers, scientists and health-care providers—but they need your help to fulfil their dreams.

Make your gift to support student scholarships through the Annual Campaign for Students 2014-15. Your donation gives students a brighter future and that makes a brighter future for us all. Please give today.

University of Saskatchewan | give.usask.ca/students | 1-800-699-1907

KRIS FOSTER
Writing it right: Helping students master language

A student who had been studying at the U of S for a number of years was one class away from finishing her degree. Once she passed, she could head back to her home in China to see her son for the first time in five years. That last class was English 111 and the instructor was Liv Marken.

“This student made it through almost her entire degree without having to do much intensive writing,” said Marken, who in addition to being a sessional lecturer is the co-ordinator of the Writing Help Centre. “She didn’t have the writing skills to pass an English class.”

Marken was not going to be the teacher who prevented the woman from getting back home to her family, so she worked tirelessly to ensure the student left the U of S with a degree in hand.

“Writing needs to be embedded across curriculum so that students can learn to think clearly and engage with the subject matter. Students need to hear their professors emphasize the importance of good writing in their disciplines.”

Liv Marken

Potential employers expect a certain base level of grammatical skills and we’ve inherited students without the skills needed. The college has put a lot of resources towards correcting that, including small class sizes that allow pros to meet with students one-on-one.

Rebekah Bennetch

Everywhere you look you will find a learning goal that states that our students must become effective communicators and have demonstrated effective communication skills by the time they graduate. Everyone agrees on this being the final goal. What we need to determine is how to get them there.

Patti McDougall
high school and students with learning disabilities. Marken, who is an increasingly diverse student body with more international students who require more training in English as a Subsequent Language (ESL). International students, Marken said, are “highly teachable and they really want help, but most professors aren’t trained to do a one-on-one instruction.”

So they enroll in ESL courses at their own expense. Unfortunately, Marken explained, this is not always proving to be a good solution because the scores on English proficiency requirements tests at the U of S are relatively low compared to other Canadian universities.

In talking about the second group of students, those right out of high school, Marken used her 17-year-old self as an example. “This student is coming to university after getting As in high school. She gets her first paper back and the bubble bursts. I was one of those students. I got a 67 on my first English paper and my dad was the head of the English department,” she said with a laugh.

The student in this case either blames the prof for being “picky”, blames his or her own poor writing skills, or accepts feedback. “They either have a fixed mindset that they can’t improve their writing or a growth mindset that they can develop that skill,” continued Marken, who, as a lead instructor of a course on transitioning from high school to university, sees members of this group often.

The final group Marken highlighted consists of students with undiagnosed learning disabilities, including ADD, ADHD and dyslexia.

“These numbers on campus are higher than we realize. A student could be doing well and then just hit the wall. These disabilities affect reading, writing and understanding instruction.”

...THE CAMPUS CASE...

“Encountering students with sub-par writing skills is not a rare case for Marken, nor for countless other instructors on campus. On a daily basis, teachers see writing issues ranging from poor grammar and an inability to construct an argument, to a lack of understanding around academic integrity.

“These are typical issues in a typical group of students,” said Marken, adding that there are three student groups for which writing problems are especially acute—international students, first-year students directly out of high school and students with learning disabilities.

Marken cited an increasingly diverse student body with more international students who require more training in English as a Subsequent Language (ESL). International students, Marken said, are “highly teachable and they really want help, but most professors aren’t trained to do a one-on-one instruction.”

So they enroll in ESL courses at their own expense. Unfortunately, Marken explained, this is not always proving to be a good solution because the scores on English proficiency requirements tests at the U of S are relatively low compared to other Canadian universities.

In talking about the second group of students, those right out of high school, Marken used her 17-year-old self as an example. “This student is coming to university after getting As in high school. She gets her first paper back and the bubble bursts. I was one of those students. I got a 67 on my first English paper and my dad was the head of the English department,” she said with a laugh.

The student in this case either blames the prof for being “picky”, blames his or her own poor writing skills, or accepts feedback. “They either have a fixed mindset that they can’t improve their writing or a growth mindset that they can develop that skill,” continued Marken, who, as a lead instructor of a course on transitioning from high school to university, sees members of this group often.

The final group Marken highlighted consists of students with undiagnosed learning disabilities, including ADD, ADHD and dyslexia.

“These numbers on campus are higher than we realize. A student could be doing well and then just hit the wall. These disabilities affect reading, writing and understanding instruction.”

...A BLAME GAME...

Patt McDougall, vice-provost of teaching and learning, agreed that blame should not be shifted to the K-12 system. “It would be a mistake for us to shift the emphasis...”

McDougall explained that when provincial K-12 curriculum is renewed, the Ministry of Education invites input and collaboration from the U of S, the University of Regina and Saskatchewan Polytechnic.

“We need to look at ourselves and evaluate our own curriculum and if we see gaps repeat...”

...TAKING CLASS ACTION...

“The vice-provost sees daily the effort of many...”

He says there are “significant strides being made in a number of colleges—Agriculture and Science—that require...”

The Arts and Science—require significant strides being made in a number of colleges—Agriculture and Science—that require communication skills by the time they graduate. Everyone agrees on this.

McDougall pointed to the Centre for Communication and Writing, the vice-provost sees daily the effort of many instructors. “This is the most basic connection, teaching people to communicate with humans,” said McDougall. “Having clear grammar is effective communication, mistakes take away from that clarity and that’s a waste of time.”

The centre came about through a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer by trade and graduate of the Ron and Jane Graham School of Business. The School of Business is named in recognition of its benefactors, Ron and Jane Graham, as well as a donation from its namesake Ron, an engineer...
Tracing Chaucer’s tales back to the original text

LESLEY PORTER

There is an aura of mystery surrounding The Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer’s collection of poetry from the 14th century. The original manuscript is long lost, and the remaining versions pre-dating 1500 are all slightly different. However, English professor Peter Robinson is bringing some clarity to the Middle English masterpiece with his transcription project. Robinson and his collaborators took on an enormous task: transcribe the 88 remaining versions—some 30,000 pages of text—into an online database. Line by line, the manuscripts were entered in their original Middle English, a painstaking process. Initially, it took about half an hour to transcribe a page, but “by the time you include all the checks, it’s going to get closer to an hour,” Robinson said. “That means 30,000 pages, 30,000 hours, which is 15 years of work, roughly.”

There are about 12,000 pages to go. Once the transcription is complete, Robinson hopes to determine which one of the manuscripts is closest to the original by analyzing the differences between versions, some of which are so subtle one might miss them at first glance.

“What we need to do is to figure out how they are related, which one descended from which, which belong to the same family, and then from that, arrive at some kind of understanding of how the texts developed,” he said. This can be difficult, he explained, as the spelling the scribes used back then were not standardized; regional dialects had a lot to do with the variation as well. “In different parts of the country, people used forms of English different from each other, both in terms of pronunciation and spelling.”

Robinson used a line from the poem The Nun’s Priest’s Tale as an example. Appearing in most modern versions as “And no wine drank she, either white or red,” a Middle English translation reads as “No wyn drank she, neither whit ne reed.” However, the line may vary from one version to another;wyn may become wyne or wynne, wht may turn into white or whytse, and so on, depending on the medieval scribe that wrote it.

With so many variations, Robinson uses a powerful computer program to keep track of even the most subtle nuance between the manuscript texts. The transcribed pages are run through the program that records the spelling and grammatical differences. It is similar to how evolutionary biologists chart out a family of organisms and put them inside the system, and get useful results from it, he said. “There’s an enormous amount of information here about how people spoke and wrote English in 1390 to 1500. And that’s not really been explored yet.”

Aside from exploring the early medieval language structure, Robinson also hopes the project makes Chaucer more accessible by opening it up to anyone who would like to help with the transcribing process. “It’s crowdsourcing, essentially,” he said, adding that a high level of academic control will be kept over the project to maintain the quality of the work. “We’ll end up with a lot more people owning it if we expand the number of people working on it.”

That sense of accessibility is important, he said, acknowledging that reading Middle English can be challenging. But if it is presented in an engaging way for a digital-savvy audience (such as in a smartphone app with the translation shown on screen), others may appreciate Chaucer more.

“It’s amazing how many people I’ve met who said, ‘I read The Canterbury Tales when I was in school, and I hated it,’” he said with a laugh. “If you have to read it on the page, it’s not very interesting, but if you hear it, and you can see the translation and understand what’s going on, it becomes so much more alive.”

Notwithstanding the Wall: The Peoples’ University Shall Survive & Thrive

Wednesday, April 22, 2015 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Room 241 Arts Building, Neatby-Timlin Theatre

3:30 p.m. “Academic Freedom and the SFL Case: The implications of the use of constitutional law to protect the right to strike and promote labour rights”

Peter Barnarce, Lead Counsel Supreme Court of Canada Decision and Recognized authority on International Labour Law and Human Justice

4:30 p.m. Panel Discussion: “Academic Freedom and Collegial Governance in Higher Education in Canada”

Chair/Moderator: Dr. Howard Woodhouse, University of Saskatchewan
Panelist: Jolene Armstrong, Athabasca University
Panelist: Bethanne Cox, University of Regina
Panelist: Charles Smith, University of Saskatchewan
Panelist: Dustin McNichol, University of Saskatchewan

All Sessions are Free and Open to the Public

Sponsored by the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association

Reception success

The campus community reception hosted March 23 by the Board of Governors was a casual affair, and that was just fine with everyone who attended.

“There was a mix of staff, faculty, some students and the board members at the reception,” said University Secretary Beth Williamson, “and the comments I’ve received are that people liked the format. They like having the ability to walk up and talk one-on-one with a member of the board.”

The reception, which was attended by over 100 people, was a change in format from previous gatherings held in Convocation Hall. On those occasions, board members made presentations about their work and then participated in a question-and-answer session but felt there was little opportunity to get to know members of the campus community.

Williamson said the venue—Louis’ Loft—was conducive to conversation, which she described as open and respectful.

“But this wasn’t just a social event. People raised a number of issues directly with board members,” everything from new endowments to university governance.

One piece of feedback that caught Williamson’s attention had to do with reception attire.

“We advertised it as a casual event but because it was held in conjunction with a board meeting, every member of the board was wearing a suit. Even I was wearing a suit, and some of the students who came felt a bit underdressed. Maybe we need to dress down a bit, or have two receptions—one for faculty and staff and one just for students. Those are some of the things we’re thinking about for the future.”
Carla Orosz believes in fun in class and on the stage

I love my job so much. It’s so addictive; you can’t help but focus everything into it. An artist’s job doesn’t stop when you leave the shop or the theatre.

Carla Orosz

“The way you construct for a set is different than a regular carpenter with a house. You have to build it and then take it apart; it’s not for a lifetime. This means for example that a lot of times you need to have screws exposed to disassemble and reassemble.”

Likewise, handling stage lighting involves training both in the electrician’s trade and in workplace safety, as work on ladders and scaffolds requires safety harnesses to guard against falls.

Orosz said, “The way I design a set is different than a regular carpenter with a house. You have to build it and then take it apart; it’s not for a lifetime. This means for example that a lot of times you need to have screws exposed to disassemble and reassemble.”

Carla Orosz received a Saskatoon and Area Theatre Award for best costume design for her work on Macbeth.

In Memoriam

Geraldine J. Englot, Culinary Services, Jan. 23
Donna C. Nagus, Law Library, Feb. 11
Naomi L. Friessen, Dept. of Music, Feb. 19
Betty Petreott, College of Dentistry, Feb. 21
Joanee J. Marken, Arts and Science, March 7
Eleanore E. Bateman, Trusts and Endowments, March 14
David Kaplan, Dept. of Music, April 6

More pictures and info www.susank.ca
Seminars/Lectures
- April 17, 7-9 pm, Maclean Hall B, Faculty of Law: Professor Stella de Tomaso will present “The Institutionalization of Organized Crime.”

Lecture Series
- April 17, 10-11 am, Room 110 Social Sciences Building: Capt. Robin Gregor, BEM, CD, will discuss the role of the Royal Canadian Navy in the Arctic.

Arts
- April 17, 7:30 pm,新城会堂: The Ensemble presents “The Great British Songbook,” a tribute to the greatest British composers of the 20th century.

Community Music Education
- Registration is open for spring classes for ages 6-18 months that begin in April, and for Music Around the World summer camps. Also offered are Music in Early Childhood, Saskatoon Early Childhood and Parenting with Music programs. For more information contact Nicole Wotton at 306-966-5625 or visit ucsask.ca/community-music

Events
- Collective Theatre will be a reception April 10 from 7-10 pm for Collective’s, a U of S advanced photography class. In this exhibition the work is by Patricia Bayak, Mark Zandstra, Jelca Cibulsky, Richard Roesch, M Kohler, Same K. Shekili, Celeste Y. Stewart and Kyle Zurevinski, all students in the advanced photography class in the Dept. of Art and Art History.

JO 370 in Concert
- Dean Monica, music professor and artistic director of the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra, will lead the ensemble in a performance April 12 at the Broadway Theatre that features Denzel Shircliff, one of the country’s most popular jazz vocalists. Tickets are available at the Broadway Theatre or online at broadwaytheatre.ca

Elixir Ensemble
- The Elixir Ensemble will perform a program of work by Beethoven, Brahms and Debussy April 12 at 7:30 pm in Concert Hall. Tickets are available through the Elixir website.

1812 Exhibit
- The DeLaurier Canada Centre presents “1812 One War Four Perspectives,” a travelling exhibition produced by the Canadian War Museum. The exhibition continues until June 21. Check the centre website for opening hours.

In The Making
- In The Making, a group exhibition of work by Alberta College of Art & Design alumni, will be on view in the College Art Galleries until April 11.

Kenderdine Gallery

Coming Events
ON CAMPUS NEWS  April 10, 2015

Remediation research

Using naturally occurring organisms to help clean up soils contaminated with diesel or gasoline is where Steven Siciliano will focus his attention in his new role as Industrial Research Chair at the University of Saskatchewan.

“We’re using new ways of fertilizing the naturally occurring underground organisms (bacteria and fungi) with phosphorus so that these organisms can degrade soil pollutants,” said Siciliano, a toxicology professor. “This is safer, cheaper and more sustainable than the traditional approach of excavating polluted soils and moving them to a landfill or treatment site.”

Siciliano will be testing the techniques at six former co-op fuel station sites in Western Canada. The research chair position, announced April 2, is funded with $1 million over five years from Federated Co-operatives Limited (FCL) with the same amount coming over the same five-year period from the federal Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council. The funding will be used for salaries for students and other research personnel, equipment and research materials. Some 16 undergraduate and graduate students are expected to participate in the research activities.

Siciliano has been researching remediation approaches at former co-op gas station sites since 2012. In his new position, he will also co-chair the Sustainable In-Situ Remediation Co-operative Alliance (SIRCA), which was formed by FCL in last year. The SIRCA brings together researchers, universities and co-operatives to advance remediation technologies.

Speaking at the industrial chair announcement event, FCL CEO Scott Banda said the organization is looking to “take research from the lab to sites across Western Canada” in the quest for new remediation standards that do not negatively impact the environment.

The Diefenbaker Canada Centre will be working with the Office of Sustainability to celebrate Earth Day with Sustainability Tours on campus. Come join us April 23 – 29 as we explore the beautiful University of Saskatchewan campus and highlight the sustainability initiatives that are making the university an environmentally-aware place of learning.

Contact the Diefenbaker Canada Centre for more information at 306-966-8384 or email dief.centre@usask.ca, and visit sustainability.usask.ca to get your own copy of the 2015 Campus Sustainability Tour Guide.
When Merlin Ford decided to document the history of draft horses in Saskatchewan, his research brought him to the University Archives and Special Collections.

Horses were essential at the turn of the 20th century, and the Saskatchewan stallion licensing board recognized five breeds of draft horses: Clydesdales, Percheron, Belgian, Shire and Suffolk Punch.

Ford’s book, *Horses, Harness and Homesteads*, is a history of, and nearly an elegy for, these beautiful, extraordinary animals. As he notes, purpose is essential to maintaining a breed.

Ford writes that in 1924, a visitor to the university could marvel “at the number of internationally renowned horses which were gathered in one location.” By 1953, however, “Saskatchewan’s horse population had fallen to 300,000, the lowest in 50 years,” and the university’s stable of Clydesdales was “reduced to about seven head.” Ford gives particular credit to “the horsemen who kept draft horses through the discouraging years of the 1950s and 1960s,” wondering “if they realized how critical they were to the future of draft horses.”