Rajat Chakravarty was elected president of the U of S Graduate Students' Association (GSA) on an ambitious platform, and he intends to build on every plank. The PhD student in mechanical engineering took over May 1 as head of an organization that has been through a tumultuous year marked by disagreement, conflict and allegations of wrongdoing, some of which are under police investigation. Chakravarty said it was inappropriate to comment on the details of what may or may not have happened except to say the new GSA executive fully supports the investigation. He does acknowledge that serving as vice-president of student affairs last year “was a huge learning experience for me. Now we have the chance to rebuild something that has crashed and burned.”

Going into the new year, Chakravarty believes the top priority for the organization has to be transparency. “There is an asymmetry of information about the GSA,” he said, particularly when it comes to its financial position and operations. His commitment is to provide members with regular financial updates and ensure the GSA books are open to all. At the organization’s annual meeting April 28, members gave approval to proceed with a financial audit and also discussed the need for a second review to ensure financial dealings are in compliance with GSA policies, said Chakravarty. Work still needs to be done to determine if a compliance audit could be done at the same time as the financial audit. “They might be one and the same,” he said, adding the university, particularly the College of Graduate Studies and Research, has indicated willingness to provide monetary support for the process.

The college has also offered to pay for a governance expert to assist in a review of the GSA policies and constitution, said Chakravarty. A 10-member grad student committee is already in place and working to “clean up” those policies.

“There’s a lot of ambiguity,” he said, “a lot of room for bad faith or subjective interpretation. That ship has sailed. We want to really tighten it up. To operate effectively and transparently, we have to be able to explicitly say what’s legitimate and what’s not.”

The second plank in Chakravarty’s election platform and another priority for 2015-16 is upping the level of grad student engagement in the organization. “A lot of grad students are confined to labs and any interactions they have happen within departments. We have to look for more opportunities for them to interact, things that go beyond departmental boundaries.”

Chakravarty said those opportunities include events, conferences, lectures, information sessions and workshops on topics like filing tax returns. He also believes a multicultural focus is key to grad student engagement. “That’s what I concentrated on as VP and it paid off,” with students celebrating their various cultures at a number of social gatherings. “We want to make sure students don’t just eat the food and leave.”

Collaboration is Chakravarty’s third priority, particularly where efforts are duplicated across the university. “The GSA does the exact
College of Medicine ready for accreditation visit

LAURA HERMAN

It is go time for the College of Medicine’s next accreditation visit, and according to Dean Preston Smith, “we’re ready.”

“We’ve crossed our T’s and dotted our I’s,” he continued. “Our documentation is submitted, the planning is complete, and we’re as ready as we can be.”

The undergraduate medical education (UGME) program has been on probation since November 2013, after previous accreditation visits noted deficiencies with 13 of the 139 accreditation standards for Canadian medical schools.

“We’re not unlike any medical school across the country” said Smith. “Every school struggles with accreditation standards at some point. Here in Saskatchewan, our challenges have resulted from structural issues and not always ensuring the right number of teachers deliver the program.”

A four-member survey team from the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) will be in Saskatchewan May 10-13 meeting with educators, administrators and students in both Saskatoon and Regina to review and evaluate the college on each standard in question.

Smith is confident the college is ready to demonstrate improvement since the last visit in March 2013. “We’ve made significant progress on many fronts. Stable, permanent leadership is now in place. More importantly, the college has brought together a team of people, including the vice-dean, associate and assistant deans, and key administrators, to fully support the planning and delivery of our undergraduate medical education program and our students.”

Smith calls accreditation a team sport, and he credits the work and expertise of many in the college who have prepared for the visit. “Dr. Athena McConnell, Dr. Sheila Harding, our department heads, Kevin Siebert, Darla Wyatt, and the entire UGME office have really pulled together to make this visit happen.”

Mock run-throughs of meetings with the survey team were held to ensure everyone knows where they are going amid construction in Health Sciences. Even the closure of the University Bridge was factored into the survey team’s transportation schedule.

The college will not be informed of official results until fall 2015 at the earliest, and Smith will not speculate about the outcome.

“Accreditation is an eight-year cycle. My experience at Dalhousie suggests it’s common for accreditors to complete two survey visits before changing the program’s status (and) I am certain Saskatchewan’s medical school is on the right path.”

A full survey visit for the College of Medicine will be in 2017.

Lauras Herman is communications officer in the College of Medicine

Full agenda for 2015-16

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same thing as a lot of other independent bodies on campus,” he said, orientation being one example. There is also the need for a graduate student voice in policy development work in areas like child care and sexual assault. Chakravarty is part of a coalition advocating for a sexual assault policy for the U of S “and it would be unfortunate if there is no grad student perspective” because in university residences that accommodate grad students with spouses and children, “the dynamics of sexual assault can look very different.”

Having detailed his agenda for the coming year, Chakravarty added that he will soon face a comprehensive exam and has a thesis that needs to be written. It will be a busy time for the GSA president, “but it’s a huge opportunity.”

Joining Chakravarty on the GSA executive for 2015-16 is Natalia Terekhova as VP communications officer in the College of Medicine

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Grad student employees vote to unionize

University of Saskatchewan officials and representatives of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) will soon begin talks that will culminate in a first-ever collective agreement for graduate student employees at the U of S.

The student employees voted 96 per cent in favour of unionizing in a ballot held March 27. It was “a strong message to the university,” said Cheryl Carver, acting associate vice-president of human resources, adding “while we certainly respect the right of the other group to organize, one of the first things on the agenda in our talks with PSAC will be making sure we’re clear on who’s in the union, and who’s not.”

Initially, some 1,400 eligible student employees compared to about 1,000 on the U of S list but even before the votes were counted, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) filed an application for intervenor status with the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board claiming it should be the bargaining unit for the employee group. When that application was subsequently withdrawn, university officials met with the board and PSAC lawyers, ultimately agreeing that 473 of the votes cast qualified to be counted, explained Carver. Of that total, 455 supported unionization.

Carver said discussions will continue with PSAC to finalize in which employees will be part of the bargaining unit, a process she expects will be neither contentious nor complicated.

Even before the vote count, Carver said consultations were held with various leaders across campus to determine what issues will be relevant in the bargaining process. “We were anticipating this (vote) outcome,” she said, “but there is still a lot of work to do,” including looking at collective agreements governing student employees at other Canadian universities. In an earlier interview, Carver said the U of S was one of very few post-secondary institutions in the country where graduate student employees are not unionized.

While the certification order from the labour board requires the two parties hold an initial meeting within 20 days, Carver said there is no time limit on negotiating a first contract. “We’re coming in with a completely blank slate. We’ll be talking about everything related to terms and conditions of employment but because PSAC represents other grad student employees across the country, I expect they will have a well thought out template for a contract and we’ll have the same for what makes sense from our institutional perspective.”

The first attempt at a collective agreement, she added, “is usually the most important.” One challenge will be fitting the talks with PSAC into an already full schedule. Carver said university officials are currently negotiating with or in discussions with the Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Association, the Professional Association of Interns and Residents, CUPE Local 3287 representing sessional lecturers, and the U of S Faculty Association.

“She’ll just have to determine how best to utilize our resources,” she said.


colleen MacPherson

Council subcommittee reviewing policy on low-enrolment programs

The number of classes at the U of S with fewer than five students is on the rise and what to do with low-enrolment programs is a topic that needs to be discussed, according to the chair of Council’s Planning and Priorities Committee.

“We know that about 10 per cent of the classes offered at the U of S have fewer than five students enrolled,” said Lisa Kalynchuk. “It is an issue that University Council is ideally suited to address; it falls exactly within Council’s mandate to lead academic programming.”

To examine the issues, an enrolment subcommittee has been formed and charged with updating a Council-approved policy from 2007 that addresses programs with low enrolment.

“We need to update this document, identify key metrics and determine if it still reflects current thinking about program enrolment,” said Kalynchuk, a professor of neurology in the College of Medicine. She added there is a sense that the number of low-enrolment programs at the U of S is disproportionately high, so the subcommittee’s first step will be to determine the magnitude of the situation.

While the number may be high, some low-enrolment programs are offered for good reason, continued Kalynchuk, who chairs the subcommittee. “Some of these are offered because they support the provincial knowledge economy; some programs historically have outstanding students year in and year out and are prestigious, some support valuable research enterprises. Maybe we want to keep offering these programs with low enrolment, but we need to have the discussion and engage Council members to see what their thoughts are.”

Chief among the issues to consider around low enrolment, she continued, are resources, student experience and how comparator institutions deal with similar classes. The job of the subcommittee is to determine the landscape outside of the U of S, and to gauge how students feel about these programs and their experience in them.

“We are trying to find out how comparator institutions in the U15, like Dalhousie and Queen’s, and regionally, like University of Calgary and University of Manitoba, deal with low-enrolment programs.”

The subcommittee will also look at a few institutions that focus on undergrad programs “to see if it’s different at a less research-intensive institution.”

Playing perhaps the most important factor in this, she continued, are the students and their perspectives on smaller programs. “We want to talk to them and see how they feel about it — why they went into the programs, why they didn’t go into the programs. We want to know how they would rate their experience in big versus small programs.”

There is a sweet spot, an optimum number, for student enrolment, continued Kalynchuk. “We’re not talking about 500 students in every class, but also not three or four. Can we reach equilibrium of 20 to 30 students in second, third and fourth years and avoid classes with fewer than five? What’s the optimum number?”

The educational experience for students is really driving this process right now, she said, using her own experience as an undergrad as an example. “I had a lot of students in my program and really benefited from that. It contributes to a vibrant student cohort; students support each other and develop friendships.”

Kalychnuk is clear that what the subcommittee hopes to present to Council this fall will be “a completely blank slate. We’ll be talking about everything related to terms and conditions of employment but because PSAC represents other grad student employees across the country, I expect they will have a well thought out template for a contract and we’ll have the same for what makes sense from our institutional perspective.”

The first attempt at a collective agreement, she added, “is usually the most important.” One challenge will be fitting the talks with PSAC into an already full schedule. Carver said university officials are currently negotiating with or in discussions with the Administrative and Supervisory Personnel Association, the Professional Association of Interns and Residents, CUPE Local 3287 representing sessional lecturers, and the U of S Faculty Association.

“We’ll just have to determine how best to utilize our resources,” she said.
Move province forward with renewable, not nuclear power

Neil Alexander’s story seems quite familiar to my own, except I would use exactly the same arguments to promote efficiency, conservation, renewables and building sustainable communities that present all sorts of entrepreneurial opportunities to move this province forward.

In my case, I started out as a geologist involved in exploration for uranium in the Athabasca Basin. However I grew up in the era of the Cold War and the weapon connection was something that has always bothered me. I turned, instead, to promoting efficiency and renewable power and continue to do so. Then, I was thinking of the bomb. Now I would also have to include the use of depleted uranium in armor piercing artillery and missiles as a nuclear weapon, considering the radioactive debris that is left on the battlefield. I would also have to consider the large amount of radioactive mine waste that is basically left on the surface that will eventually be exposed to entrenchment and reintroduced into the environment.

The really big one—how to take care of the reactor waste indefinitely, or the reactors themselves, without creating a problem for future generations to deal with. It is morally wrong to create such dangerous wastes without a proper way of disposing of it first. Surely he (Neil Alexander) must be aware that at least one of the reactors at Fukushima suffered a core meltdown and a very highly radioactive core, resulting in the radioactive debris that is left on the surface and the radioactive mine waste that is left eventually on the surface. It will eventually be exposed to entrenchment and reintroduced into the environment.

I really don’t know where he gets his figures on safety margins from. If it is tripping over workplace hazards, that can be worked on. They surely have nothing to do with radiation in the environment.

My governing philosophy for making decisions is, ‘Have respect for future generations to come and all life on this planet.’ Current renewable technologies are up to the task and can deliver their energy at competitive prices. www.irena.org/publications - go down the list to Jan 2015 “Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2014”. 120 gigawatts renewables was added globally in 2013 and numbers are expected to be similar for 2014. Renewable energy accounted for 22 per cent of global electricity generation and 19 per cent of total final energy consumption in 2013. Residential customers pay SaskPower 12.34¢ per kWh. Tesla has just announced a storage battery for 2 cents per kWh. Britain just released cost on proposed (2023) new nuclear unit as 16 (cents)—more than double renewables. With this in mind, it might be time for a shift in research priorities at the University. Research such as nuclear medical research will still have value but it doesn’t require nuclear reactors. The world is on the cusp of evolving to renewable energies and energy efficiency, including the electrical power, transportation, building, and industrial sectors. For reasons of social, economic and environmental benefit and speed of implementation, sustainable communities using green renewable technologies will deliver a clean, thriving, healthy, socially just global society that is in tune with our global environment. We really need to commit!

Steve Lawrence,
U of S Alumnus, Prince Albert
Patience pays off in research and in publishing

Patience pays off in fat, using fat from the liver and switches on and goes to work, Arnason said the enzyme body. When energy levels are response to energy levels in the is turned on and off in cells in been looking at an enzyme that from PhD students, post-docs, she joined the U of S College of crinologist with a particular Arnason, a practicing endo- tale of perseverance, payoff and of important research focused the paper is revealed as a story its Activation, Activity and the Kinase UBA Domain Restrains For non-scientists, Dr. Terra

The Provost’s Awards for Outstanding Teaching and the Provost’s Themed Teaching Awards are presented annually to recognize outstanding teaching across campus.

The 2015 recipients of the Provost’s Awards for Outstanding Teaching, which are put forward by each college on campus, are:

Hugo Cota-Sanchez, Biology, College of Arts and Science
Fiona Buchanan, Animal and Poultry Science, College of Agriculture and Bioresources
Brenda Kalyn, Curriculum Studies, College of Education
Gary Entwistle, Accounting, Edwards School of Business
John Moffat, Graham School of Professional Development
Nancy Gyrusck, College of Kinesiology
Sarah Buehler, College of Law
Dr. Regina Taylor-Gjerve, College of Medicine
Don Leidl, College of Nursing
AddJ. Nazarali, Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy and Nutrition
Dr. Matthew Loewen, Biomedical Sciences, Western College of Veterinary Medicine

The 2015 recipients of the Provost’s Themed Teaching Awards, which are selected by a committee of faculty, USSU and GSA representatives, are:

Provost’s Award for Excellence in Aboriginal Education recognizes a teacher who makes an exceptional contribution to Aboriginal learning at the U of S. Mary Longman, Art and Art History

The Provost’s Award for Outstanding Graduating Student recognizes a teacher who demonstrates excellence in teaching courses at the graduate level. Dr. Cheryl Waldner, Western College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health

The Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Graduate Level recognizes the outstanding contribution of a teacher who has demonstrated excellence in teaching courses at the graduate level. Dr. Cheryl Waldner, Western College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health

The Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Undergraduate Level recognizes the outstanding contribution of a teacher who has demonstrated excellence in teaching at the undergraduate level. Dr. Cheryl Waldner, Western College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health

The Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching at the Adult Education Level recognizes the outstanding contribution of a teacher who has demonstrated excellence in teaching at the adult education level. Dr. Cheryl Waldner, Western College of Veterinary Medicine and School of Public Health

The multi-year project led by Dr. Arnason, a practicing endocrinologist with a particular interest in diabetes research, has been looking at an enzyme. “In yeast, there are three possible forms of this enzyme,” she said. “In humans, there are 12 and they vary by tissue type and are regulated by hormones which yeast don’t have. Yeast is so simple it lets us look at the fundamental processes.” Her focus was on a particular string of amino acids, called a motif, which exists in the enzyme and is found in organisms from yeast and plants up to and including human liver, fat and muscle cells. By manipulating the motif, Arnason showed that it actually puts the brakes on the enzyme’s ability to turn on, thus negating the benefits for artichokes. However, she also established the motif has the potential to enhance the ability of cells to withstand stress and aging “which I fully expect to be applicable to human health.

“It’s the result I was hoping for seven years ago, it just took me a long time to get there. My longest-term goal is to find a drug that targets and blocks the motif, and that enhances the enzyme, resulting in health benefits.”

Arnason said she first sent her paper to a scientific journal in September of 2014. It was rejected, too specialized, the editors said. Other submissions and rejections followed, but she remained optimistic. “I’ve had papers go through half a dozen journals until I found one that was just the right fit. And yeast isn’t very sexy.” Finally the editors of the Journal of Biological Chemistry realized its potential. And along with its acceptance for publication came its selection as a paper of the week. That means the editorial board determined it to be in the top two per cent of the more than 6,800 papers the journal will publish this year based on significance and overall importance.

“It’s a huge honour,” said Arnason. “When I read the email, I was happily shocked. Who said you can’t study diabetes in a yeast cell!”

The paper is already on the journal’s website and will appear in print in June. The journal editors also offered to consider using an image from the research on the cover but “yeast is not very photogenic,” she said with a laugh. “We have before and after shots, but they’re identical.”

For Arnason and the paper’s first author, PhD student Rubin Jato, the long road to publication has ended, but there may well be many more chapters to be written in this story.

In addition to seeing her findings offering significant health benefits to diabetics, Arnason has recently turned her mind to how manipulating the amino acid motif in plants could enhance resistance to stressors.

“I haven’t even talked to anyone about this yet but if we could imagine if we could come up with crops that could better resist drought, or elevation, or if we could drain a salty marsh and grow something edible, all by mutating a single amino acid in an enzyme.”

The Master of Physical Therapy program at the U of S has been awarded full accreditation until April 30, 2022.

The accreditation was granted following a review by Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC), which oversees the status of all physiotherapy programs in Canada. In a media release, Stephan Milosavljevic, director of the school, said accreditation “recognizes the School of Physical Therapy’s quality of education, research and community support, not to mention a legacy of strong leadership and collaboration.”

In its written review, PEAC noted a number of strengths in the master’s program including inter-professional initiatives and cultural competence, and encouraged school officials to share its comprehensive program evaluation plan with other education programs.

The school graduates 40 students annually, and is part of the U of S College of Medicine.
Learning to be an academic

MEAGAN HINTHER

“Do high quality work and publish early and often. It’s that simple.”

That is how Jeffrey McDonnell began his presentation to a full classroom of PhD students, postdoctoral fellows and research associates from colleges and schools across campus eager to learn how to set themselves up for a career in academia.

Simple in theory maybe, but certainly not easy in practice. The one-day workshop, offered through the School of Environment and Sustainability by professors McDonnell and Maureen Reed, looked at how young researchers can position themselves as successful academics, how to get the elusive assistant professorship and how to thrive once landing a coveted place in an institution.

“Students are training for an academic position, but they aren’t sure quite how to get one,” said Reed. “They envision the advisor as someone who can trust you because you’re a PhD and then get a faculty job.”

The workshop was billed as a “casual, candid and (brutally) honest” look at academia. Newer faculty members from various disciplines led breakout sessions and shared their perspectives and experiences. With the high level of interest and the struggles of trying to fit it all into one day, school administrators are now exploring the possibility of turning the workshop into an annual three-credit-unit course.

When asked if it all comes down to publishing or perish, Reed and McDonnell nodded in unison, but added that there are many things students can do to distinguish themselves from the pack.

“I think that other than the physical logistics of publishing, the main challenge that they are up against is defining themselves,” said Reed. “And making their work sound important and relevant to society,” added McDonnell. “How to communicate that to someone outside your discipline can be a struggle.”

I think more and more students are realising that these soft skills are critical to their success both in their departments and beyond. This is something that has changed since us ‘old guys’ got our PhDs.”

In addition to learning how to brand themselves, the participants were told to make the most out of conferences by convening sessions and networking as much as possible, to visit labs and researchers that are leaders in the field, and to treat a postdoctoral fellowship like an apprenticeship.

“The post-doc is the chance to transition from a worker bee to an idea generator. Take full advantage of this,” said McDonnell.

Above all, Reed and McDonnell agree that the number one ingredient for success is time management. “Like in any profession, students need to think strategically and be organized. Time is precious,” said Reed.

“The researchers I’ve seen that really succeed are the ones that can be highly effective,” said McDonnell. “They may not be the smartest, they may not have the strongest soft skills, but they’ve just found a way to have traction.”

Overall, the participants were pleased with the workshop and said that not many people have talked to them before about the factors needed to be successful in academia and that they feel more armed now for the road ahead. For others, it was a wake-up call.

“We had a student in one of the breakout sessions say ‘This is awful… I don’t want to go down this road. This is not what I thought it was.’ And my reaction was that it’s helpful to figure that out now,” said McDonnell. “As for how any young researcher can weather those days when they feel utterly discouraged, Reed offers this advice:

“You’re going to have those types of days in research and in life. Everyone has had a paper rejected. Students need to figure out where they are within that — how can they be resilient and use criticism constructively. How can they be the kind of academic that they want academia to be populated with? How can they make that model that behaviour? It’s really not that different from other professions when it all comes down to it.”

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

Girl Guides more than the cookies

LESLIE PORTER

With a great shirt, comes great responsibility.

Such is the case whenever Sharla Daviduik wears her Girl Guide uniform in public.

“I actually have been stopped by total strangers while carrying cookies in a parking lot,” she said with a laugh, “and I’ve been told by people, ‘I can trust you because you’re a Brownie leader.’”

An administrative officer in the School of Environment and Sustainability (SENS)— and a former Brownie herself—Daviduik joined the Girl Guides of Canada as a leader 13 years ago. At the time, she was working for the USSU and looking for volunteer experience, but was not sure where. She was walking through the Arts tunnel one day and noticed the Girls Guides had a table set up. Intrigued, she signed up and, after an intake interview and initial screening, was soon placed as a leader for a group of Brownies, comprised of girls aged 7 and 8.

In her role as leader, Daviduik plans thematic activities for her Brownie unit to participate in each week that encourage interaction and creative thinking. They range from biology and the living world to fine arts and active living. Other modules look at community building, building self-esteem and respecting others.

“I basically see it as good citizenship training,” said Daviduik. “A lot of activities for kids, they’re focused on one thing, like a sport or dancing. In Guiding, they get to try a lot of different things.”

For a past session on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), Daviduik brought in SENS graduate students and faculty to talk about what it is like to work in a scientific environment. “It’s good to be at SENS where you have access to excellent female role models for the girls,” said she.

It is a sense of discovery in the girls that she finds rewarding about being involved with Brownies. “It’s neat when they figure out how to do something they thought they couldn’t do,” she said, recalling one girl who recently transplanted her first potted plant after thinking she could not do it. “She had never taken a potted plant out of the little green pot it comes in. I showed her how to do it and she did it all by herself. When you’re seven—or any age—that’s a huge moment.”

She also had the opportunity to see one of her former troop members, now 19, stay on with the organization. “She was one of my Brownies early on, and she’s one of the leaders in the unit now. She stuck with it all the way through.”

Daviduik enjoys leading girls at the Brownies level. “They’re old enough that they can do a lot,” she said, adding that though they are young, they are bright and motivated. “It’s neat for me and the other leaders imparting our knowledge on the girls. They’re smart and they’re creative and they think of stuff that I never would have.”

And her cookie of choice? “I like the vanilla sandwich cookies the most. They’re just so delicious. I mean, all the cookies are delicious, but those ones are the best.”

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French Voyageur for Real Beginners

From Page 3

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• Aug. 14–16, ideal for the traveller who has little or no French-speaking skill, 20 hours over 2.5 days, cost: $280 (GST exempt) textbooks and workbooks are included.

Sallows Fry Conference

The 2015 Sallows Fry Conference entitled A Canadian Crisis: Criminalization and Impoverishment of Indigenous People and those with Disabling Mental Health Issues takes place May 21-22 in the College of Law, hosted by Kim Pate. The two-day conference features a number of sessions and a panel discussion entitled Dying from Improvement: Inquests and Inquiries into Indigenous Deaths in Custody. For information, go to sallowsfry.usask.ca

Highlights in Medicine Reunion Conference

The University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine is holding its 10th annual Alumni Conference and Reunion June 24-27. The event includes 1.5 days of CME credited workshops, special keynote addresses about new trends in research and integrative medicine, a dinner, a welcome reception, a reunion banquet, tours of the university campus, and more. The event honours all classes that graduated before 1957 and the honoured class years of 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2010. There will be special class activities.

The Arts

College Art Galleries Opening May 22 with an 8 pm reception and continuing until Aug. 11 is the Anake Atikin exhibition we live on the edge of a desert and imagine we are in a musical. The exhibition highlights the Saskatche wan artist’s expansion of her practice from film and video to installation. The exhibi tion tour is co-organized by the College Art Galleries, the Southern Alberta Art Gallery and the MacKenzie Art Gallery.

Gordon Snellgrove Gallery

May 17 until May 19 to be on show in the Gordon Snellgrove Gallery the first exhibition of works by Yvonne Konick seen in Canada.

Bumper Crop

The U of S Symphony will perform Sunday May 17 at 3 pm in Quinence Theatre to launch its 2015-2016 concert season. Features include an exhibition of Yvonne Konick seen in Canada.

Amati Concert

The Amati Quartet presents Celebrate Mozart’s String Quartet in B flat, K.458, with Canadian guests. The symposium continues May 22 and 23 at Station 20 West with other speakers from across Canada and a methodological workshop. Online registration is available at www.foodenvironments.ca for more information contact Tracy Reid at 306-966-2337.

Community Music Education

The Community Music Education Program offers classes in Music in Early Childhood, Suzuki Early Childhood and Parenting with Music along with private lessons in traditional guitar, Suzuki guitar, traditional piano, Suzuki piano and violin. On-line registration for fall classes is now open, as is registration for Music Around the World Camp. For more information contact Nicole Wit at 306-966-5625 or visit code.usask.ca/community-music

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History of history

Faculty from the history department became the focus of archival research recently, in a project that may well have made use of more individual collections than any other single study this year.

Professor Keith Carlson and Professor Emeritus Michael Hayden are literally mapping the intellectual history of the University’s history department, with the help of student Eric Story. They have looked at history faculty hired prior to 1980 to determine first, where they received their degrees, and then the temporal and geographic coverage of their MA and PhD thesis topics. From there, they are analyzing the degree to which faculty publishing and teaching topics shifted over the course of people’s tenure at the U of S. The result will be a historical atlas of scholarship and teaching in the department.

Story’s task was to locate some of the basic data: not as easy as it might seem, particularly for many early faculty members. Sources he consulted included the personal papers donated by 15 faculty members, the faculty authors, offprints and biography collections, correspondence in the early records of the president’s office, university calendars, and the annual reports from the department, to name a few.