A CREATIVE FELLOW
Susan Aglukark, Juno-winning musician and northern advocate, was recently named the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity’s Aboriginal fellow in Creativity, a role in which she will mentor students, deliver a Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music and conduct a class titled “In the Company of Music” from January to April 2016. Read the full story on Page 6.

INSIDE
CAMPUS NEWS
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Closing the education gap
National forum brings together post-secondary and Aboriginal leaders

The presidents and executive heads of all 24 Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions have made a commitment to work together on closing the education gap for Aboriginal people—a gap due in large part to the residential school system and its intergenerational consequences.

The agreement was announced by University of Saskatchewan President Peter Stoicheff at the start of the national “Building Reconciliation” forum of university presidents and Aboriginal leaders that took place Nov. 18 and 19 on the U of S campus and at Wanuskewin Heritage Park.

The forum, the first-of-its-kind in Canada, examined how universities can respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) calls to action for post-secondary education.

“The presidents and executive heads of all Saskatchewan post-secondary institutions, acknowledge the importance of building reconciliation,” the agreement stated. “While honouring the unique missions and mandates of each of our institutions, we will seek opportunities to collaborate, in consultation with Aboriginal communities, to close the education gap for Aboriginal people.”

The accord, believed to be the first province-wide commitment of its kind in Canada, was agreed to by the presidents of U of S, University of Regina, First Nations University of Canada, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, St. Thomas More College, Gabriel Dumont Institute, Luther College, Campion College, the six colleges affiliated with the U of S, the eight regional colleges, NORTEP-NORPAC, and the Saskatchewan Indian Institute of

See Reconciliation, Page 4
It was not a problem of awareness—the research team knew people were well aware smoking is bad for their health and simply telling them to stop does not work.

So they did not use that approach.

Instead, they started with community values: what are the things most important to the people? For the people of Sturgeon Lake First Nation northwest of Prince Albert, the answer was the health of their children and their elders.

“If I say to you, ‘stop smoking,’ what do you think you’re going to do with that?” asked Vivian Ramsden, an applied public health researcher in the College of Medicine.

“Well, you’ve told me a million times before and nothing’s happened. If I say ‘can you step outside and smoke and protect the children and elders or older adults living in the home?’ That’s made a huge difference.”

This strategy is the core of the Green Light Program, developed with the community as active and even leading partners.

Ramsden explained that in 2008, the research team—composed of university and community partners—wanted to better understand the social determinants of public health within Sturgeon Lake First Nation. They worked together to design and implement a community-based survey that garnered a participation rate of 96 per cent.

The survey provided the foundational knowledge for a public health framework document called Primary Health Care: Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Resulting in Pathways for Wellness. It identified the most common risk factor for chronic disease was tobacco misuse, that is, non-traditional use of tobacco.

The Green Light Program message resonated with the community, with more than two thirds of households participating and proudly sharing this status with the community with green light bulbs by their doors supplied through the program. Ramsden credits the success to her community partners.

“It’s all about them. The methodology is about them; we are coming in to answer their questions in ways that are meaningful,” she said. “What’s important is the community. They own it.”

This success is exportable: Ramsden said there are now 106 communities involved with the Green Light Program, up from 14 communities when it started. This participatory research approach is now also being used to tackle issues such as chronic health conditions like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases as well as infectious diseases such as HIV and hepatitis C.

The participatory research approach has won Ramsden the trust of communities from India to northern Saskatchewan. Her efforts were recognized this year when the College of Family Physicians of Canada named her one of the Top 20 Pioneers in Family Medicine Research.

Ramsden’s broad geographic reach reflects her position as research director and professor in the Department of Academic Family Medicine. From her office at the West Winds Primary Health Centre on Saskatoon’s west side, she teaches research to residents, graduate students and health-care professionals across the province. This includes a research methods survey course developed about eight years ago which has since become standard.

“There was no systematic approach to a research project but every resident in the Department of Academic Family Medicine has to systematically answer a question and present it at the Annual Resident Research Day,” she said. “So I started developing core modules and collaborated with other people for others.”

The course—which is updated every year—walks residents through the research process. It has evolved to reflect the Triple C Curriculum, the program that governs the training of family physicians in Canada administered by the College of Family Physicians of Canada as well as the newly updated CanMEDs, the program that governs specialist training for physicians administered through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

“CanMEDS 2015 are more competency-based, so the whole course has changed to be competency-based skills,” Ramsden said. What this means for the course is participants are taught how to identify a research question from clinical practice and reading the literature, learn the skills needed for peer reviewing quantitative and qualitative articles, and learn how to put together a research poster so that they are able share what they have learned with others.

A testament to the research methods course value is that faculty from other Canadian universities have taken it as part of their continuing professional development. Some elements of the course are also used with her partners in India.

“Instead of coming to us with a question from clinical practice, “What’s the best thing they can do is come and spend six weeks here learning their trade,” she said. “There are lots of things at Sturgeon Lake that we took to India, and lots of things from India that actually apply to Sturgeon Lake.”

For Ramsden, the bottom line for any health intervention is, “does it work?” Sometimes, this means broadening one’s perspective, something she said she learned in India where allopathic (i.e. Western medicine) and ayurvedic (i.e. “alternative” medicine) are used side by side.

Back in Canada, this means considering and including Aboriginal knowledge and practice.

“They have a healing process, a traditional medicine practice,” she said. “So maybe we need to be thinking about outcomes. If blood pressure readings are fine, then however they’re treating their blood pressure is working. If their A1Cs (a standard blood glucose test) are normal, however they’re treating diabetes is working. Maybe we need to think about asking questions or taking a history in a new way.”

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Chances are, you have had a restless night or two in your life when despite all the tossing, turning and sleep-counting, sleep just does not come easy. Chronic sleep disorders such as insomnia can wreak havoc on one’s physical and mental health, leading many sufferers to take sleeping pills to help them get some shut eye.

The College of Pharmacy and Nutrition is piloting a new program that looks at non-medication therapy to help those suffering from insomnia who may or may not be taking drugs to assist with their sleep.

PharmaZzz is led by Fred Remillard and Karen Jensen. Remillard is a pharmacy professor and holds a clinical practice with the Saskatchewan Health Region specializing in psychiatric and neurologic disorders. Jensen is a pharmacist and the manager of medSask, a public medication information service located within the college. She said that sleeplessness is an issue that comes up often with patients, especially those taking prescription sleep aids (such as hypnotics and sedatives).

“We get a lot of calls from people who have been on their sleeping pills for years and years, and they want to come off, but they can’t because there’s no option,” she said. “They really feel that if they stop on their own, they’re not going to be able to sleep, or they’ve already tried it and it hasn’t worked for them.”

Additionally, hypnotics are meant to be a temporary solution, said Remillard, and many people have trouble getting a restful night of sleep without them.

“The person becomes tolerant within a few months, and it affects your sleep patterns if you’re on them for too long,” he said. PharmaZzz consists of six cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) sessions for insomnia administered by community pharmacists. Long used for mental health issues such as depression and bi-polar disorder, CBT is a type of therapy that assists in changing patients’ ways of thinking at the neural level. In this case, said Remillard, it is more focused at the elements of sleep disturbances.

He explained that many people distort or catastrophize their own thoughts if they have trouble falling asleep. Their minds typically wander from “I can’t sleep” to “I’m going to lose my job if I don’t fall asleep,” a line of thinking that does not help the situation and only causes more anxiety and restlessness. CBT gets to the root of the sleep disturbances by changing the patient’s thought patterns and behavior, albeit with some personal commitment.

“Any kind of CBT requires work from the patient themselves,” said Remillard. “Just using medication is not just therapist-driven. He lists the program’s sleep logs as an example.

“You have to figure out how long you were in bed, how long you slept, whether you woke up, how long did it take you to fall back asleep again without looking at a clock. So there’s a fair amount of homework to collect the sleep logs on a daily basis.”

WasaCase-Lafferty said this conference is a great example of the commitment made by the university in the Third Integrated Plan to work between units and to co-operate with external bodies to be effective in Aboriginal engagement and education.

“We know that our goal of improving Aboriginal education is a moving target and that there is still much to be done to fulfill this commitment. However, this conference is a step in the right direction and it demonstrates a part of that commitment.”

Jordyn Sherbino is a special projects officer in the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives.
relying on people with the right expertise effectively using various instruments. The other involves geotechnical instrumentation, a process that is key to making underground mines more stable.

While his primary focus right now is on teaching and preparing his courses, Hughes completed in 2014, focused on mine backfill in the weak rock mines of Canada. Emerging in 2005 to work in industry for several years before pursuing his PhD, his work, which he completed in 2014, focused on mine backfill in the weak rock mines of Nevada and Montana and the high-grade gold mines of Ontario and Indonesia. (Mine backfill is used to fill cavities created during mine excavation to make underground mines more stable.)

This August, Hughes joined fellow engineering professors Doug Milne, Christopher Hawkes and Grant Ferguson to teach the two-week Geological Field School, which takes third-year engineering students to Pincher Creek, Alta. and Revelstoke, B.C. to perform geological and geotechnical mapping exercises. While his primary focus right now is on teaching and preparing his courses, Hughes has gotten two funding proposals out as well. One is for the potash industry as part of an initiative with the International Minerals Innovation Institute. The other involves geotechnical instrumentation, a process that relies on people with the right expertise effectively using various instruments during different stages of mining to measure the stress and strain profiles around an underground opening.

After close to three years of campus-wide consultation, University Council has received a series of recommendations on the administration of graduate studies.

"I was tasked with answering two questions," explained Adam Baxter-Jones, interim dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR). "Should graduate studies be central or decentralized, and if it’s central should it be a college or an office?"

After meeting with countless faculty, staff and, of course, graduate students, and doing an external scan of structures at comparable U15 institutions, Baxter-Jones began formulating recommendations on what structure would best suit graduate students at the U of S.

"After two years of consultation, listening to everyone, we found a majority view on what is best for grad studies," explained Baxter-Jones, also a professor in the College of Kinesiology.

The feedback, Baxter-Jones said, resoundingly pointed to graduate student support and administration remaining in a centralized faculty, which is also the common structure found at U15 counterparts.

The consultation, he continued, also indicated that the “status quo is not acceptable. While we recognize that the current structure best suits the needs of our students, we also identified numerous procedures and processes that need to be improved.”

Along with the recommendations to remain both centralized and a college, came a suggested name change to the College of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies, a change that will be put forward for University Council approval at a later time.

This “highlights the increase in the number of post-doctoral fellows within the institution and the need to have policies and procedures for them,” said Baxter-Jones, adding that while research is closely connected to graduate students, research intensity already exists within the mandate of the Office of the Vice-President Research.

Another recommendation relates to changing the title of the dean position to vice-provost graduate education and dean of the college in order to “reflect the fact that graduate student issues need to be discussed at the highest level to ensure grad students’ points of view are heard.”

Other recommendations listed in the report, Baxter-Jones explained, are “to improve efficiency. We need to make sure that we reduce the amount of time it takes from application to admission, we need to be able to guide them through and make decisions. We also need to make sure the admission process is linked with the delivery of scholarships and awards.”

Baxter-Jones will now be working with the appropriate bodies to enact the recommendations and stressed that “this is not status quo and changes occurring are to improve efficiencies. At the end of the day the majority of the people consulted wanted a central college. There were some who wanted a decentralized model, but that was a minority.”

Another major task for the college is financial aid for graduate students, something that Baxter-Jones and Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning, are working on.

“We are working with PCIP (Provost’s Committee on Inte- grated Planning) to start a discussion about how to best distribute the institution’s financial commitment to grad students for scholarships and awards. We will use a consultative approach to make these decisions.”

Reconciliation key to stronger nation

From Page 1

Technologies

"Across Canada, fewer than 10 per cent of Indigenous people have a university degree—about one-third the national rate of around 27 per cent," Stoicheff explained. "In Saskatchew- an, that disparity in higher education outcomes remains one of the province’s biggest chal- lenges—and a major obstacle to long-term quality of life and prosperity for all.

At the U of S, we are committed to strengthening our efforts across the institution to ensure the success of our Aboriginal faculty, students and staff, and to working together with other post-secondary partners provincially and nationally to rebuild some of the trust that has been lost in the educational system and advance recon- ciliation."

He noted that early in 2016, the U of S plans to hold campus events in which faculty, staff and students can engage in planning how the university can move forward in building reconciliation and ensuring that the university is a place where Aboriginal students can feel welcome and can succeed and excel.

Stoicheff also told the national gathering of almost 200 forum participants that the university plans to partner with the National Centre on Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) in Winnipeg. The centre, the permanent archive for all statements, documents, and other materials gathered by the TRC, provides opportunities for resi- dential school survivors and their families, researchers, students, and the public to engage with the oral and documented history of residential schools.

"As part of our university’s plans to support Indigenous education and reconciliation, we are committed to partnering with this unique centre of national and international significance,” Stoicheff said.

Details of the U of S contribution to the NCTR partner- ship of universities, colleges and other organizations are being worked through, and the univer- sity anticipates signing a formal agreement with the centre in 2016. "Reconciliation is imperative if we are to make Canada a better place for us living and working together,” said Stoicheff. "To its credit, the new federal government seems to see this clearly. And what better place to address this imperative than at the country’s leading cultural change institutions—the nation’s universities.”
Life after grad studies

New certificate helps develop non-academic professional skills

KRIS FOSTER

More than ever, graduate students will not find themselves in faculty positions once done pursuing education and will need to develop certain professional skills required outside of academia.

“We started the Graduate Professional Skills certificate program as a way that could help develop non-academic skills for master- and PhD-level students,” said Trever Crowe, associate dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR). “The certificate focuses on nine competencies, from communications and negotiation, to project management and human resources.

The need for this type of training, Crowe explained, stems from a national stat that indicates that more than 80 per cent of PhD graduates in Canada will not get faculty appointments.

“They will need skills different than, and in addition to, their academic training,” he explained. “This is really intended to make sure they are employable by industry or government. We are also trying to instill an entrepreneurial spirt so they could even start a business.”

Working with the Gwenna Moss Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, CGSR officially launched the free non-credit program open to all grad students at the U of S in 2014, Crowe explained. The curriculum is standard for the first and last courses—plus an ethics course that is required for all graduate studies—with the students selecting electives for the middle section.

“It is a bookend structure. The first course is on critical thinking and the last course is about reflecting on everything they learned in the program. The middle is 20 hours of electives the student chooses,” Crowe explained.

Choosing from topics in communications, teamwork, teaching, research, leadership and entrepreneurship leaves students with options that benefit both academic and career goals, said Noura Sheikhalzoor, a Master of Science candidate in nutrition who completed the certificate program this past October.

“There are many professional areas in which the program has impacted me,” said Sheikhalzoor, adding that the program focuses on developing skills through strengths as opposed to weaknesses. “I was able to identify my strengths, discuss them with my colleagues, and establish learning goals and a mission statement based on them.”

Sheikhalzoor explained that the program helped her with the end of the day, it was tied to a problem that students could see because a lot of them had seen ‘The Price is Right,’ he said.

“It allowed them to capture a problem and put it in a context they could understand.”

Willoughby used similar methods in past research within the health-care sector. He spent three years with the Health Quality Council, focusing on operational models to improve efficiencies such as emergency room wait times, treatment access and error reduction. “I’m a real applied person,” he said. “I like looking at how I can apply these tools in real problems, especially ones that make sense to students. If you can give them a context in which these tools can be applied, they begin to see how to apply it in real life, and it makes sense.”

Wheeling and dealing

LESLEY PORTER

The university’s newest master teacher is a real Keith of all trades.

Reviewing Keith Willoughby’s CV, one cannot help but notice the variety in his research topics, ranging from sports and health care to public transit and game shows.

An associate professor in the Edwards School of Business, his work focuses on production, access and error reduction.

While not the sexiest of topics, Willoughby found a way to engage his students in the subject matter with everyone’s favourite game show.

We looked at computer simulation models for spinning the big wheel on ‘The Price is Right,’” he said. “In essence, if you are the first person spinning the wheel, when should you stop? If you get 50 cents, should you spin again? If you get 90 cents, should you stop? In other words, what’s the stopping rule?”

Using a bit of math, the class developed a thorough spreadsheet simulation model that calculated the odds of hitting the jackpot during the Showcase Showdown segment. “They determined that if you’re the first person to spin, you should stop at 70 cents and above,” he said. “If you’re the second person, you should stop at 55 cents and above.”

While not the most traditional way of teaching numerical simulation, Willoughby noted that it is much more interesting for students. “If you do a computer model of producing widgets, nobody knows what a widget is. People are going to fall asleep,” he said.

Additionally, it gives students a real-world approach to operations and statistics. “At the middle section.

The first graduating class of the Graduate Professional Skills certificate (left to right): Mohamed Rani Abdel Salam, Qin Xiang, Noura Sheikhalzoor and Ahmed Abdel Salam.
Surviving the road
Aglukark’s path leads her to the U of S as the Aboriginal Fellow in Creativity

DEE HOBBSBAWN-SMITH

Juno-winning musician and northern advocate Susan Aglukark knows a thing or two about touring and the rigours of life on the road.

Recently named the Interdisciplinary Centre for Culture and Creativity’s Aboriginal Fellow in Creativity, Aglukark has travelled a long way from her home town of Arviat, Nunavut, to the U of S campus. As the Aboriginal fellow, she will mentor students in the Aboriginal Student Achievement Program, deliver a Fine Arts Research Lecture Series in Music and conduct a class titled "In the Company of Music" between January and April 2016.

"I see the class as being about the journey of finding your creative self through music, learning how to use art as a tool to keep you focused on goals and dreams," Aglukark said during a recent phone conversation. "I hope the students learn that one-hit careers do not a wealthy person make." In the first month of the course, the celebrated musician will discuss "how I found myself" to keep you focused on goals and dreams, Aglukark said during a recent phone conversation.

"The point is to make art: to paint, sew, bead—anything to make art to feed the soul," she said. "Even on the road, I squeeze the time for myself go?" The other culp it art or is it paying the bills? We forget very easily.

Part three will examine technology that has changed the music industry and how to integrate it into a career. Aglukark has first-hand experience of the music industry’s downsides. "Burnout," she said bluntly. "We forget to take care of ourselves as artists. Often we give up the art to take care of a paying gig. Then we wonder, where did the time for myself go?" The other culprit is music’s business side. "I would say 60 to 70 per cent of musicians are bad at business. We find people who will take care of it for us and are loyal. I had to do it for a time, but that energy has to come from somewhere."

Arviat is located on the north-western shores of Hudson Bay in Nunavut. Aglukark got her start singing in the choir of her Inuit preacher father’s Pentecostal church congregation, and sang along at home with country, gospel, bluegrass and Christian music. After high school, Aglukark travelled south to Ottawa and took a job as a translator with the former Department of Indian and Northern Affairs.

Her music career’s beginnings were "very fast and sudden," she said, springboarding from two independent CDs to a music video which became a MuchMusic hit; she subsequently signed with a major label.

In the ensuing years, collaborations and acclaim, including two Junos, established Aglukark as a major Canadian music star. But music has not defined Aglukark’s life. She has exercised her social conscience in many ways, most of which are addressed at improving northern life, and was made an officer of the Order of Canada in 2004. Seven CDs, thousands of miles, countless performances and 25 years later, Aglukark is as much honoured as a speaker and advocate for the people of Northern Canada as for her music. She is also once again an independent artist, looking for ways to raise money to get into the studio to record her next album.

"The point is to make art: to paint, sew, bead—anything to make art to feed the soul," she said. "Even on the road, I squeeze in time to be creative." Ultimately, she added, "we hit a crossroads. Is it art or is it paying the bills? We forget very easily."
Legal ease
CLASSIC aims for easy legal access

MICHAEL ROBIN

It is a basic tenet of Canadian society that all citizens are equal before the law, but this view may be a bit naïve, explained Sarah Buhler, an assistant professor in the College of Law. “First of all, accessing a lawyer is actually quite a barrier for a lot of people, including middle-class people,” Buhler explained. A familiar hurdle is money. According to a survey by Canadian Lawyer magazine, professional legal fees range from $230 to more than $400 per hour, depending on the experience of the lawyer involved. While this may be comparable to fees in other professions, it poses a problem, Buhler explained, particularly to those most marginalized in society. “Many, many people cannot afford lawyers,” she said, a situation made worse by an individual’s circumstances. This includes discrimination by race or ethnicity, low income, or cultural factors such as the legacy of colonialism and residential schools among Indigenous people. “We find that in fact, law operates differently on people who are more marginalized,” Buhler said. “So they’re more subject to legal regulation, policing, criminalization and interactions with the state.” Buhler’s interest in social justice led her to become involved in CLASSIC—Community Legal Assistance Services for Saskatoon Inner City. Launched by U of S law students in 2007, CLASSIC specializes in areas collectively known as poverty law or social justice law. Although she has been involved since the beginning, including acting as the clinic’s first executive director and supervising lawyer, Buhler emphasized her role is now more modest. “I’m one small piece of it and my part is to support the academic component,” Buhler said, while acknowledging she still spends a significant part of her time there working with students and on her own research.

Located on 20th Street in Saskatoon, CLASSIC is an independent not-for-profit entity with an executive director, three full-time lawyers, students and support staff. While it has close links with the College of Law, none of its staff are paid by the university. Its services are reserved for people with low income, and there is a particular emphasis on the needs of Indigenous clients.

See Connecting. Page 9

A gateway to mystery

LESLEY PORTER

Despite its universal inevitability, death is a touchy topic for many. It is a subject Meera Kachroo, sessional lecturer with the Department of Religion and Culture in the College of Arts and Science, hopes to bring out into the open, albeit in an abstract way.

“Death is a fascinating topic,” said Kachroo, “and it’s a really important part of people’s religious lives—all of the rituals around death and thinking about end-times is a huge preoccupation. It’s a part of life and is another aspect of how we move through the universe.”

Starting in January, Kachroo, who is completing her PhD in religious philosophies from McGill University, will be teaching a course at the U of S that profiles various world religions, particularly those in eastern and southern Asia, understand and process the concept of death. “We live kind of removed from it, so it’s hard to talk about personal things that affect us really deeply,” said Kachroo. “And it’s a really important part of people’s religious lives—all of the rituals around death and thinking about end-times is a huge preoccupation.”

Kachroo, who is completing her PhD in religious philosophies from McGill University, will be teaching a course at the U of S that profiles various world religions, particularly those in eastern and southern Asia, understand and process the concept of death. “We live kind of removed from it, so it’s hard to talk about personal things that affect us really deeply,” said Kachroo. “And it’s a really important part of people’s religious lives—all of the rituals around death and thinking about end-times is a huge preoccupation.”

“Death is a fascinating topic, and it’s a really important part of people’s religious lives—all of the rituals around death and thinking about end-times is a huge preoccupation.”

Meera Kachroo

Saskatoon, Kachroo grew up attending a Hindu temple and reads Sanskrit, where the take on death is much different—at a personal level, she considers it “a gateway to mystery.” She recalled reading ancient Hindu texts that contain interesting perspectives about death and the afterlife. One of those texts, the Katha Upanishad, is a foundational document of Hinduism and is considered one of the oldest philosophical texts in the world. “A boy has a conversation with death and death reveals to him all the secrets about his soul, about the nature of the universe, about his responsibilities in the world, and it really teaches him how to live,” she said. “Death comes back again and again as a teacher.”

Her goal with the class, she explained, is to use other mediums, such as art, poetry and philosophical ideas, to explore the depictions of and attitudes towards death in other religions. There will also be appearances from guest lecturers—such as funeral home workers and grief counselors—to share what it is like to have some aspect of death in their lives every day. “It’s easy to think about death in such a simplistic way if you don’t think about it too much,” she said. “But that’s kind of the point of the class: let’s think about it in a more nuanced, healing and helpful way.”

And while she encourages her students to be open and frank in their discussions, she is careful to frame the class academically due to its subject matter. “It’s very personal for everybody,” she said. “That’s something I’m going to pay attention to and I’ll be sensitive to that.”

The Kinkara Father-Mother are a dancing skeleton couple who are protective guardians of the charnel grounds in Tibetan tradition. Though fleshless, they are dressed in flowing costumes and animated in a co-ordinated dance, showing their intrinsic energy to protect the Buddha’s teachings. (Worlds of Transformation, Robert Thurman, ed. Tibet House, New York, Pub. (1999))

Sarah Buhler, an assistant professor in the College of Law.
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Water quality of Lake Diefenbaker may go with the flow

A team of U of S researchers studying the health of Lake Diefenbaker over the last few years has found that water flowing in from the South Saskatchewan River may be the principal factor affecting the lake’s water quality.

The researchers—from the Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS), the Toxotology Centre, the College of Arts and Science, and the School of Environment and Sustainability—contributed to a special issue of the Journal of Great Lakes Research that showed what happens upstream has the most impact on the reservoir’s water quality. Of the 15 articles in the special issue, the U of S contributed 13 papers studying the physical, chemical and biological properties of Lake Diefenbaker and assessing the reservoir’s susceptibility to increasing stress.

“It appears that the flow into the reservoir has the greatest impact on water quality,” said Rebecca North, GIWS research associate and lead guest editor of the special issue. “This could be a concern with increasing temperatures and lower water flows due to climate change.”

More than half of the papers in the special issue identified changes in hydrology as a principle factor affecting water quality. While there has been public concern about the potential for declining Lake Diefenbaker water quality, especially related to surface algal blooms, the researchers found little evidence that supported this perception.

“Algal blooms do occur in a portion of the reservoir—the Qu’Appelle arm—but in the rest of the lake, blooms are generally infrequent and even less frequent than other lakes with similar nutrient concentrations,” said North.

North explained that the low frequency of algal blooms may be attributed to the mixing effect of windy lake conditions and a combination of high water flows for the study period, low light penetration due to murky water and low phosphorus in the upper water column of the reservoir. “We are predicting that the risk of algal blooms may be more prevalent during years of lower water flow, which we will continue studying in order to fully understand the factors affecting the water quality of Lake Diefenbaker.”

North added that for Lake Diefenbaker, it is the upstream activities and precipitation patterns in the Saskatchewan River basin that primarily dictate what happens to the flow levels and the potential for algal blooms. “Based on the data we have to date, it is not the individual activities in the lake, such as the presence of the fish farming facility, the discharge of treated wastewater or cattle along the shorelines, that pose a significant risk to water quality, it’s the activities and weather patterns upstream,” said North. “Phosphorus input is of particular concern because under the right environmental conditions, fertilization due to phosphorus can create large-scale algal blooms.”

The findings suggest that land-management practices and efforts to reduce nutrient input should be focused at sites upstream to Lake Diefenbaker. “Of all the factors influencing the lake, the water coming from the South Saskatchewan is the most important. The less nutrients in that water, the better,” said North.

Skills important in job market

From Page 5

Crowe have the capacity or resources to accommodate all students who wish to complete the certificate.”

Right now, Crowe said, the program’s capacity is about 30 students per term. “We have a good program that is full because students are interested. That’s a good problem to have.”

Connecting justice and community

From Page 7

“We’re looking in particular how lawyers can be better educated and connected to those communities,” she said.
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November 20, 2015

Contents

Edwards School of Business Executive Education
For information call 306-966-8816, email exeed@usask.ca or visit edward.usask.ca/exeed.
Nov. 23–25, Digital & Social Media Program: Communications & Advertising – Saskatoon
Nov. 30, The Powerful Presenter in You – Saskatoon
Dec. 3, Emotional Intelligence – Saskatoon
Dec. 7–10, Certified Coaching Training – Saskatoon
Dec. 11–16, Business Writing & Grammar Workshop – Saskatoon

Library Researcher Series
The Library Researcher Series provides workshops on interdisciplinary topics of relevance to the research of graduate students and faculty. All sessions are free and registration is not necessary.
For more information visit libguides.usask.ca/LibraryResearcherSeries.
Nov. 24, 1–2 pm, Murray Library, Room 143, EndNote Desktop
Nov. 25, 11:30–12:30 pm, Murray Library, Room 143, ReWorK

Mental Health Training for Managers
May 21, 1–3 pm, Admin 280. If you manage U of S faculty and staff, this three-hour Mental Health Training for Managers will empower you to better break down stigma and create a mentally healthy workplace. Wellness resources, a division of Human Resources, has partnered with Sun Life Financial and powered by Solareh to provide this five-frame training for managers of U of S employees. You will learn: mental health issues in the workplace, strategies to prevent and manage mental health issues, tactics to create an inclusive workplace environment, real-world situations within the workplace, confidence in addressing potential issues in your unit. All from a manager's perspective. Please register online at http://safetyresources.usask.ca/services/training/

Winter 2015 Fall Fortnight: Teaching and Learning Recharge
Dec. 7–13, the Fortnight series is planned by the Gossa Centre for Teaching Effectiveness, in partnership with faculty members from across campus. The event is comprised of a series of workshops, talks and discussions all centered on enhancing teaching/practice. The theme of the Winter Fortnight is “Teaching and Learning Recharge” as December is the time for you to reflect on your past practice, brainstorm improvements and renew it for the coming term! For more information or to register, visit usask.ca/gcmte/ce/fortnight

Community Arts
Explore your creativity and develop skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, glass, jewelry-making, fiber art, graphic design, art history and more. These courses help you gain confidence as you develop your portfolio. Classes are taught by professional artists. Take classes for general interest or work toward a certificate. For more information, visit usask.ca/culture/courses. Register online or call 306-966-5539

International Trade and International Relations
Nov. 24, Room 271, Thursday, 1–2 pm, Teaching Building, 215 University Centre
Nov. 25, Room 271, Thursday, 1–2 pm, Teaching Building, 215 University Centre

Library Matters
Nov. 27, 7–10 pm, Social Hall, 505 10th Street E. Éloïe Aychtchonok presents: Video Games 101: A Non-Gamers’ Introduction to Narrative in Video Games. This talk is particularly addressed to audiences of skeptics and will offer some justification for video games to a non-gamer audience. It will offer an introductory discussion of the narrative potential of video games, and why they might deserve some credit for their storytelling capabilities. For information please contact the Department of English at 306-966-5486 or english@usask.ca.

Veterinary Microbiology / Veterinary Pathology Seminar Series
Nov. 17, 1–2 pm, Room 132, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Amal Alsaeed presents: Novel in-vitro measurement of antimicrobial susceptibility against strains of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).
Nov. 19, 12–1 pm, Room 271, Teaching Building, Kuan Zhang presents: The Phosphorylation of IκBα, the Inhibitor Protein of Bovine herpesvirus 1, Benefits Virus Replication.
Nov. 30, 12–1 pm, Room 132, VIDO Lecture Theatre, S. Khosa presents: Targeted transgenic pigs for food safety and health.

Small Places of Large Importance: Historical Maritime Sites in Ancient Siberia
Nov. 27, 7 pm, Archaeology Building, Room 201, Frederic Lapierre discusses, with Julian Bennett, Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Saskatchewan presents this talk focusing on need for ongoing bioarchaeological research in the CS-Baikal region of Siberia (Russian Federation). The first part will present findings from almost 20 years of work in the area, specifically with regards to the lifeways of two distinct population separated by an almost millennium-long ‘hiatus’ during the Middle Neolithic period (~7000–4000 years ago). The second part of the talk will focus on Shetlowsky and ongoing LAWA research, which synthesizes biological data from human remains and mortuary archaeological data in order to better understand the complex relationships between identity aspects such as age, gender, kinship, status and lifestyle (e.g. diet, mobility, health, activity).

Across the Pond: Music from the United Kingdom
Nov. 20, 7:30–9 pm, St. Joseph High School Auditorium. The U of S Wind Orchestra presents Across the Pond: Music from the United Kingdom. Conducted by Danieke Diefenbaker with special guest vocalist Barry Gable and featuring the music of Peter Marsh, Gustav Holst, Gordon Goodwin, Ralph Vaughan Williams and the world premiere of Stillness by Tom Dolan. Admission: adults $10, seniors and students $5. For more information, email danielle.wheeler@usask.ca.

A New Winter’s Day
Nov. 21, 1–4 pm, Knox United Church, 865 Spadina Crescent E. The U of S Wind Orchestra presents A New Winter’s Day. Featuring works including Rutter’s Gloria, Elgar’s A Sea Symphony, Grieg’s Solveig’s Theme and a variety of seasonal and classic sacred, secular and spiritual selections. Join us as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the U of S Wind Orchestra and take place every three years. For more information contact daniele.wheeler@usask.ca. For more information visit spectrum.usask.ca or email emma.greenwald@spectrum.usask.ca.

The The Arts

The Story at the Centre: Writing and Publishing in the Digital Age
Please contact the Department of English at 306-966-5486 or english@usask.ca.

School of Public Health
Voices, how to reduce stigma and communecuties- & apsico- mics Seminar Series
Nov. 26, 12:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Guang Li presents: the application of the interaction between Influenza A Virus Polymerase and N1-influenza Interferon Response Modulation.
Dec. 10, 12:30 pm, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Min You presents: Novel in-vitro measurement of antimicrobial susceptibility against strains of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).

Nov. 19, 12–1 pm, Room 132, VIDO Lecture Theatre, Kuan Zhang presents: The Phosphorylation of IκBα, the Inhibitor Protein of Bovine herpesvirus 1, Benefits Virus Replication.

Steven Banks, the Ground 

Seminars/Lectures
JSGS Public Lectures
Nov. 18, 12–1 pm, Room 305, Prairie Room, Diefenbaker Building. Small Modular Reactors: Energy Opportunities and Regulatory Views. Small modular reactors (SMRs) are part of a new generation of nuclear power plant designs whose benefits include less on-site construction, reduced cost, containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls. Saskatchewan, with its comparatively small population base, is not ideal for a conventional reactor that can serve a relatively small population base, is not ideal for a conventional reactor that can serve a relatively small population base. Saskatchewan, with its comparable size, increased containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls. Saskatchewan, with its comparatively small population base, is not ideal for a conventional reactor that can serve a relatively small population base. Saskatchewan, with its comparable size, increased containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls. Saskatchewan, with its comparable size, increased containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls. Saskatchewan, with its comparable size, increased containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls. Saskatchewan, with its comparable size, increased containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls. Saskatchewan, with its comparable size, increased containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls. Saskatchewan, with its comparable size, increased containment efficiency and the ability to have greater quality controls.

Saskatchewan Chapter, are hosting a unique opportunity to hear from experts in the field of bone health and fall prevention and to experience some of the exciting research happening on campus. There will be a free workshop and cafe on campus and open house event. Classes include: the Biological Determinants of Osteoporosis: A Journey from Molecular to Clinical and back, led by Dr. R. J. Williams and the College of Kinesiology, interactive displays and posters about bone health and bone density, and a chance to participate in an exercise demonstration focusing on activities to prevent falls.

What Does Food Security Mean to Canadians?
Nov. 26, 7–9 pm, Lou’s. This panel discussion will be led by researchers from several disciplines to dialogue about various aspects of food security and hidden hunger. It will address whether we are any closer to achieving food security (why or why not at the local, national and global levels. The interactive discussion will address opportunities and approaches to dealing with food security, in addition to examining various initiatives that have been in place to address food security as well as strategies for the future.

Everyone welcome.

Cameo Spectrum 2016
Jan. 14–17, 2016, 8:30–1 pm. Cameo Spectrum 2016 brings the marvellous of engineering and science to Saskatoon and area. Known as North America’s largest student-outreach exhibition of science and technology, it is ran by students who plan, organize and participate in the event. It typically features over 40 displays and workshops, offered by over 100 participating students. Started in 1930 as the Engineering Show of the University of Saskatchewan and takes place every three years. For more information visit spectrum.usask.ca or email emma.greenwald@spectrum.usask.ca.

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The heart of campus
Grit McCreath named first honorary ambassador at the U of S

Kris Foster

Education—and indeed the University of Saskatchewan—has always been important to Grit McCreath and her family.

From being a student and alumna, to a member of the University Senate and the Board of Governors—and most recently being appointed the university’s honorary ambassador—McCreath has held many roles at the U of S.

But her connection to campus goes back further than her time as a student. “As a young girl I would go to classes with my mom and get to know all the nooks and crannies. It was so cool to be on campus,” McCreath recalled.

McCreath is a first generation Canadian. Her parents, both academics in Europe (her father survived the Gulag), came to Canada in the 1949. Though well-educated, upon arrival in Canada they were given only 1 credit for one year of university and had to start their post-secondary educations again.

“My mom and dad both went to the U of S; they were always students,” explained McCreath, adding with a laugh that she too has spent a great amount of time and energy and help the university. “Grit has a vast number of skills; she is intuitive, a strong leader, and is such a delightful person who has friends and connections across the country,” Williamson explained. “She has a great love for the university and we wanted to find a way to continue to tap into all of that.”

McCreath also has extensive experience as both an educator and administrator in the K-12 education system, Williamson continued, and knows “how to connect and appeal to students of all ages. That is of great benefit to the university.”

Some of the duties that McCreath will take on in this role include meeting with and hosting alumni and donors, recruiting students, mentoring individuals and groups, attending university events and ceremonies, and providing the president with feedback from the community.

All of these things, McCreath said, she has been doing in some capacity for a number of years already.

“I’ve always been a small ‘a’ ambassador for the U of S,” McCreath said, adding that the job description, evolutionary in nature, comes with a big “A.”

“We have every confidence that Grit will uphold everything the university stands for,” said Williamson. “She reflects the university’s values.”

“The university is essential to the province and so many people are connected to it and have pride in it. I get to share that with others,” said McCreath. “My parents would be over-the-moon proud of this.”

At my last board meeting in July, they presented me with a certificate that named me as honorary ambassador. I was overwhelmed and absolutely delighted!”

Grit McCreath
When pigs fly

Growing up on a farm, Carolyn Cartwright, veterinary technologist and lead of specialties at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM), spent a lot of time around animals, especially horses. But it was one little pig that captured her heart about 10 years ago.

“He was running at large on campus one Halloween,” she recalled, allegedly part of a prank between two rival colleges. Young, small and hungry—no more than two pounds—the pig was captured and brought to the WCVM Veterinary Medical Centre for examination. Nobody claimed ownership of the pig, so Cartwright adopted it. He now lives the sweet life at her family farm just outside the city, alongside many horses, cats and dogs.

It is that love of animals that piqued Cartwright’s interest in working with them. She completed her training at the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST, now known as Saskatchewan Polytechnic) in 1985 and started at the WCVM that same year. While her specialty is anesthesia (she is the only technologist in the province with that level of certification), her 30 years on campus have given her the opportunity to cross-train in many areas, including the small and large animal clinics, dentistry and the veterinary pharmacy. She also teaches third-year clinical components for WCVM students as well as courses for the veterinary technology course at her alma mater.

And as for that little pig? She named him Curtis, after the veterinary student who first told her about the situation all those years ago. “He thought it was an honour,” she said.