University Library changing with times
Consultation key to creating overarching master plan

Over the next decade, the University Library will write a new chapter that will include changes to physical spaces and services offered in order to respond to the changing information landscape.

Guiding this change, explained Charlene Sorensen, interim dean of the University Library, is a master plan that will be developed over the coming months with the help of the entire university community.

“We are looking at all of our library space so we can figure out where we are heading, what space can be used for; that’s something we can’t decide as we go,” said Sorensen. “I always compare this process to painting your house—you have all these rooms to paint and you need a plan to co-ordinate the process and achieve a cohesive result.”

Building on the broad changes to the ground and first floors of the Murray Library—which included the creation of the learning commons, a number of group spaces, the writing and math help centres and a Starbucks—this master plan will outline steps for each library space on campus.

“All seven library branches will be part of a process to determine how these spaces can best be used,” said Sorensen, adding that Group2 Architecture Interior Design will create the master plan through extensive consultation with faculty, students and staff at the U of S.

“This is about determining what is ideal for our libraries and figuring out the steps to get to the ideal.”

While Sorensen said changes have yet to be determined, she was clear that changes are needed and will continue the work of the past decade that saw the refurbishing of spaces and reconfiguring of collections.

“For more than a decade we have seen changes in the way libraries are used. Because of the explosion of digital information, libraries need to be more on-demand than ever before,” she said, adding that while visitor numbers at most U of S library branches continue to grow by leaps and bounds, print collection use has gone in the opposite direction.

“The digital age has brought transformative change to the scholarly information environment and has dramatically changed the way faculty and students use libraries. The need for change remains and is vital to ensure our library continues to meet the information needs of the campus community,” said Sorensen.

“It is time to transform the University Library. It is good for the students to help them achieve their academic and research goals. It will also address changes in how research is done and knowledge created. We are excited that the university sees the library as a priority.”

Students and faculty, Sorensen continued, see the potential of libraries at other institutions, like the University of Calgary and Concordia University, and they “will wonder why we don’t have that here at the U of S. This will help keep us competitive in post-secondary education.”

In broad strokes, Sorensen continued, potential changes will include refurbishment,
Mike Babcock was a wide-eyed teenager when he followed in the family footsteps to take classes at the University of Saskatchewan back in 1981. Little did he know that one day he would become one of the most decorated coaches in hockey history. The 53-year-old former member of the U of S Huskies hockey program has gone on to become the only head coach to win the three most prestigious championships in hockey—the Stanley Cup (2008), an Olympic gold medal (2010 and 2014) and a world championship (2004). The U of S will pay tribute to Babcock at Spring Convocation ceremonies on June 2 when he is awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws for outstanding achievement and exceptional service to the community.

“I don’t know if you can ever keep opening doors for yourself and embrace lifelong learning, like the U of S sets you up to do, then you have a chance … “Getting a university degree doesn’t guarantee success, but it gives you a platform to pursue it and then it’s up to you. So it’s a launching pad, but it’s a heck of a launching pad. And to me, I’m living proof that dreams do come true.” Indeed. Babcock’s remarkable resume is a story of success that starts right here in Saskatoon. After playing junior hockey with his hometown Saskatoon Blades, Babcock moved on campus to join the U of S Huskies and play for legendary coach Dave King, who would go on to guide Canada’s national team and coach in the National Hockey League. “I was a kid who had left major junior hockey to play at the U of S and I didn’t know much about education or about where I was going, or what I was doing,” said Babcock, whose mother, wife, and his sisters and their children all attended the U of S. “Dave was a renowned coach at the time and the U of S had a good program. I think we lost in the national final that year. He had a veteran team and I was one of the young guys on it and I enjoyed my time at the U of S. It was great. And for me, growing up in Saskatoon, when you get an opportunity to go to the school in your town, it’s a special, special place.” Babcock later moved on to finish his degree at McGill University, where he also did some post-graduate work in sports psychology, before embarking on a brief pro career in hockey overseas as a player/coach that kick-started a coaching career that has now spanned almost three decades. Getting his education before taking a shot at pro hockey was important to Babcock, who knows better than most how fewer than one percent of players in junior, college and university hockey ever play in the NHL. “I think it is so important to get your education, obviously,” said Babcock. “It builds a foundation for the rest of your life. It gives you a platform to pursue your passion and your goals and your dreams. The other thing about sports is sports end, especially if you are a player. It ends and it ends young. And what are you going to do with the rest of your life? So you need something and I am a big believer (in education).”

A former teammate of current Huskies head coach Dave Adolph, Babcock is one of three former U of S hockey players from Saskatchewan who fill three of the 30 head coaching positions in the NHL, along with Todd McLellan (Edmonton Oilers) and Willie Desjardins (Vancouver Canucks). “There have been a whole bunch of us (from the U of S) over the years and who knows why that has happened, but what I believe and one of the reasons why my wife and I bring our kids home every summer, is there is something about the authenticity of the people of Saskatchewan,” said Babcock, who played with Desjardins on the Huskies in 1981-82 and had McLellan alongside as one of his assistant coaches during Babcock’s 10-year stint as head coach of the Detroit Red Wings. “When you go across the country, you meet people who are U of S grads who are doing well and that are having an impact on society and more importantly, they are having an impact on their family and the people around them because they love what they do. And when you do that, it is contagious.” Babcock reached the

**When you go across the country, you meet people who are U of S grads who are doing well and that are having an impact on society and more importantly, they are having an impact on their family and the people around them because they love what they do. And when you do that, it is contagious.**

Mike Babcock

WWW.EDWARDSMBA.CA

R E D E F I N E

G L O B A L P E R S P E C T I V E

INTERNATIONAL STUDY TOUR

Edwards MBA students complete a two week International Study Tour which is designed to enhance the classroom curriculum by providing first-hand exposure to industries, organizations and business practices in another country. Our students develop an approach to management that is both integrative and strategic, gaining a deeper understanding of organizations and their local and global context.

APPLY NOW! APPLICATION DEADLINE IS MAY 31, 2016.
It has been a year to remember—a career to remember, in fact—for Laura Dally.

The University of Saskatchewan sociology student and all-star member of the Huskies women’s basketball team capped her five-year career with a national championship title, while also being named Canada West player of the year, the U of S female athlete of the year and a first-team all-Canadian.

“I am really lucky and it’s been an amazing year,” said Dally. “Even if we didn’t win, (coming to the U of S) still would have been one of the best decisions that I have ever made. The girls on the team and the coaching staff were so welcoming, people in the community, people at the gym, everyone was just so supportive… it was amazing.”

While 2016 has already been filled with an array of awards and accolades and a treasure trove of titles and trophies, it is only the beginning for the 23-year-old native of Bright’s Grove, Ont. Dally, who has been scheduled to complete her sociology degree studies in the spring session and graduate at Fall Convocation, is also preparing to move on to play professional basketball overseas this fall after completing a star-studded Canadian Interuniversity Sport career with the Huskies.

Dally recently signed with an agent at Toronto-based Slam Sports Management, which is securing a contract for her to play in Europe in 2016-17. For Dally, a six-foot-tall guard with the size, skills and shooting ability that pro teams covet, it is a chance to fulfill a dream to play professionally and travel internationally, while also giving her a year to figure out what she wants to study next in her academic career.

“(Playing professionally) is definitely not something that I am going to do until my body breaks down, but it is an opportunity to see other parts of the world, which is something that I have always wanted to do,” said Dally. “And for me, for school, I am not too sure what I will do next, so this is a good chance for me to take a break and think about that and then decide what to study.”

If that was not enough, Dally may also have a chance to represent Canada on the biggest international stage this year, when Huskies head coach Lisa Thomaidis guides the national women’s basketball team at the Summer Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. Dally is one of 24 players who have been picked to take part in the national team selection camp in Edmonton, beginning May 21.

“The players on that team, those are the girls that I have looked up to and they have brought Canadian basketball to another level, and to be on the same court as them would be unreal,” said Dally, who also donned a Team Canada jersey last summer when she helped lead the national development team to a silver medal at the World University Games in Korea.

It may be a long shot for Dally to play in the Olympics straight out of university, but Thomaidis said she has earned the right to be considered one of the best players in the country and to take part in a competitive camp that will also help her preparation for the future.

“Laura was so impactful for our team this season and she was exceptional at the national championship tournament and showed why she was one of the best basketball players in the CIS,” said Thomaidis.

“Having her come to our (Canadian) senior camp in May will be a tremendous opportunity for her as she continues to develop her game and prepare for a professional career in Europe … Laura will have a great career as a professional because she already carries herself like a pro. Her work ethic and determination is something that is rarely seen in individuals, and is what sets her apart.”

Laura Dally, Canada West player of the year, the U of S female athlete of the year and a first-team all-Canadian.

Henry Ty Glazebrook

When people see worrisome changes in their friends or colleagues, Robert Kliewer wants to help them find the assistance they need.

It is this goal that drives the Violent Threat Risk Assessment training program (VTRA), which aims to help people identify behaviour changes in those around them that may indicate a deeper issue or possibly even harmful actions.

“It’s based off of worrisome behaviours. If you’re witnessing behaviour that is concerning to you, what do you do with that information?” Kliewer said.

“It’s all about giving people the information of where to turn so that they understand that there are supports for them here on campus, and specifically who those people are.”

Kliewer is an emergency planning manager with University of Saskatchewan safety resources, where he is among the co-ordinators of VTRA. The program spreads awareness of mental health issues, possible indicators of personal distress and how to best connect those in need with the help they require—be it the support of friends, family or even professional psychological assistance.

The program was first introduced to campus in 2013, when the Public Schools Board of Education and Greater Saskatchewan Catholic Schools brought it to campus as part of a larger community push.

While VTRA includes many Saskatchewan and area partners, including Saskatoon Police Services, Saskatoon Fire Department and Saskatoon Health Region, Kliewer said it is one small part of a larger mental health initiative that spreads well beyond the city’s borders.

“It’s not just a university initiative; it’s a nationwide community approach to addressing, proactively, these types of issues,” he said.

Though VTRA does offer 25-minute presentations every semester, the most common identifiable worrisome behaviours— including uttering threats, substance abuse and anti-social conduct, among others—Kliewer stressed that the program is less about training people to diligently report others than it is to encourage peers to help each other.

“It’s more of a supportive approach than, say, a watchful eye. The goal is: ‘Hey, someone’s got an issue going on; we’ve identified a type of behaviour that’s not typical for them. How do we support them?’” he said. “It’s prevention of violence, and coming up with a good intervention plan to support that person.”

Kliewer said that younger people on campus, such as students, are often already quite good at identifying worrisome behaviour and encouraging each other to seek help through their friends, family, other loved ones or professional channels. However, he continued, part of what VTRA is striving to do is persuade older generations to act similarly.

“Now that there’s actually a process and people trained in support, we need to really get that out there and change the culture and change the mindset of our long-term faculty and staff,” he said, adding that this change can be monumental for some.

“We’re asking people to do something here that they’ve never been asked to do before: share information, share worrisome behaviours that people are identifying. That’s a huge thing to ask people.”

Special honour

From Page 2

The pinnacle of the profession by leading Detroit to the Stanley Cup in 2018, bringing Lord Stanley’s mug to campus that summer for a trip to Royal University Hospital. He is excited to return to the U of S next month for this spring’s convocation ceremonies.

Babcock will become the latest Saskatchewan sports star to be awarded an honorary degree from the U of S, joining the likes of NHL legend Gordie Howe and former Canadian Olympians Diane Jones-Konihowski and Catriona Le May Doan. He said he is truly honoured to join the select company of honorary degree winners, a U of S tradition dating back to 1919.

“It’s special,” said Babcock, who is also well known for his charity work in the community. “You don’t grow up thinking that someone is going to give you an opportunity like this (to coach at the highest level). What you try to do is you try to treat people right and you try to work hard and enjoy what you are doing and share your passion with others. And if you are fortunate enough to find your passion and you get to work at it, then you never have a job in your life, you just get to do what you love to do. So I have been very fortunate.”
With seven cats at home, Tammy Owens joked that she has almost enough to run a valid feeding study—something entirely appropriate for someone specializing in animal nutrition at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM). Owens joined the U of S faculty as an assistant professor in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences in January, recruited to add a new nutrition component to the curriculum.

Her path to veterinary medicine began in Sandpoint, Idaho, close to the British Columbia border. A desire for a quality education and to see a bit of the country drew her to Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, where she completed her undergraduate degree in biology. She worked in an immunology lab and as an EMT and considered a career in human medicine before personal circumstances drew her back across the continent to Las Vegas and a job at a veterinary clinic.

“I started pretty low on the totem pole, wrapping surgical packs,” she said. “I was really putting my college degree to good use!”

But the humble job led to her becoming a licensed veterinary technician and a clear career path. “I decided to be a veterinarian, which is what I wanted to be up until the point I was about 13,” she said.

She crossed the country yet again to pursue her veterinary degree at Ohio State University. Followed by an internship at Mississippi State University and two years working as an emergency vet at a private veterinary hospital in Tucson, Arizona. The hands-on work impressed upon her the importance of nutritional support for patients, inspiring her to complete a residency in clinical nutrition at the University of California. She continues to pursue further research there, now at a distance as she did not want to pass up the U of S opportunity.

Her first few months on the job have been consumed with teaching at the college veterinary clinic and creating the new curriculum on regular and therapeuic diets, that is, feeding to control conditions like kidney disease and obesity. Owens also fields calls from practicing vets across the country on questions of animal nutrition, particularly in cats. This is where her research interests lie.

“There are just a lot of unanswered questions,” she said. “Although we have a lot of tools available to us, there are no clear-cut answers, and it can be frustrating.”

She continued. “There are so many variables that can affect the nutritional needs of individual cats. For example, how often is a cat fed? Does it eat dry food, canned food, or do they eat a lot of treats? The combination of all these factors can affect the nutritional balance of the diet.”

Owens also fields calls from practicing vets across the country on questions of animal nutrition, particularly in cats. This is where her research interests lie. “There are just a lot of unanswered questions,” she said. “Although we have a lot of tools available to us, there are no clear-cut answers, and it can be frustrating.”

She continued. “There are so many variables that can affect the nutritional needs of individual cats. For example, how often is a cat fed? Does it eat dry food, canned food, or do they eat a lot of treats? The combination of all these factors can affect the nutritional balance of the diet.”

The hands-on work impressed upon her the importance of nutritional support for patients, inspiring her to complete a residency in clinical nutrition at the University of California. She continues to pursue further research there, now at a distance as she did not want to pass up the U of S opportunity.

New GSA president primed for progress

A desire to change things for his fellow students initially attracted Ziad Ghaith to the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA), and that will help others keep him on the executive for another year as president.

“I have a real passion to help my peers achieve their goals, academic and non-academic,” said Ghaith, a PhD student in the Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

Ghaith served as the VP operations from 2015-16, during which time he called “the crazy year.”

At the time, the GSA’s goal was to rebuild trust among its members, and “to some extent, we did succeed,” he said. The executive also began further planning for some longer-term strategic goals, which appealed to Ghaith.

“At the end of the year I realized there were still quite a few things that I hadn’t yet achieved,” he said. And so he set his eyes on the presidency, and ran uncontested in the April election.

One of those initiatives he is looking forward to involves increasing the number of graduate students within university governance.

“Graduate students are quite popular, and I’ve been contacted several times by veterinarians in different places in Canada with questions,” she said. “There are definitely a lot of concerns with feeding raw diets and a lot of veterinarians feel ill-equipped to deal with that.”

From Page 1

revitalization, and transformation of library collections, services and facilities.

“Overall, we are looking at how prime real estate should be used so that it is active space for learning, research and study,” said Sorensen, adding that some examples of how space could be used include maker-space (creative, DIY space where people can gather to create, invent and learn), research commons for debate, discussion and collaboration, display and exhibit spaces, and quiet space to study and reflect.

University Archives and Special Collections, currently tucked away on the third floor of the Murray Library, could, for example, see its space improved not only in terms of size with the addition of a digitization centre, but also in terms of access to rare and unique materials and appropriate environmental conditions for the collection.

Naturally, the library collection will change as well.

“It’s very challenging, but when you have a passion towards something, everything is doable,” Ghaith said.

Ziad Ghaith, president of the Graduate Students’ Association (GSA).

Planning set to begin

“The creation of some fantastic spaces we do need to do some planning around the collection in advance.”

“To create these fantastic spaces we need to do some planning around the collection in advance.”

“This is about moving all libraries in chorus,” said Sorensen. “But we aren’t going to do this unilaterally. We want people from all across campus involved because we know that the process and final outcome will be better with more input.”

To that end, from May to October “we will be gathering information from the campus community in a variety of ways,” Sorensen said. “There will be online surveys, open houses and pop-up consultations all around campus with student consultations starting when they return in the fall.”

Additionally, a core stakeholder group, consisting of about 40 members from a range of colleges, schools, student groups and administrative units, has been created to ensure all pockets on campus have a voice in the process.

Sorensen said that because libraries are for everyone on campus, she hopes everyone will get involved in the process.

“There will be so much positive coming from this. This is really exciting.”
The science behind classroom engagement
Outreach program builds community connections

MICHAEL ROBIN

Kamskénow, an award-winning U of S outreach program that brings engaging science and math education to community schools in Saskatoon, has just received renewed funding through PromoScience, a program of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

“NSERC funds are fabulous because we certainly have the demand, and to have the three-year funding, that’s just a dream,” said Lana Elias, director of science outreach with the College of Arts and Science at the University of Saskatchewan. “It allows us to do some forward planning which is such a blessing.”

The program, which started with only one classroom in 2009, just finished its seventh year. It is also supported through a number of organizations including its title sponsor, PotashCorp.

The name of the program, Kamskénow (gum-SKAY-noh), which means “to find, to learn, together” in the Cree language, was bestowed by local Elder Katie Poundmaker.

Last year, Kamskénow put science outreach instructors into 42 classrooms at 14 schools in the Saskatoon area, for 90 minutes once a week for 13 weeks. The program culminates with the students visiting the U of S campus for further activities in actual university classrooms and labs.

“Howler came to give high fives to the kids as they came off the bus,” Elias said, describing the welcome to campus by the U of S Huskies mascot.

Elias explained that Kamskénow also creates opportunity for U of S students to share knowledge and serve as role models of people pursuing careers in natural sciences, education, engineering and health sciences. Last year, the outreach team employed two undergraduate and 11 graduate students, including one Aboriginal student.

Kamskénow’s goal is to get more Aboriginal children interested in science, and according to the stats, it is succeeding. When surveyed at the program’s end, students nearly unanimously gave it a good or very good rating, and most reported they liked science more.

“I think the most impressive thing is that after participating in the program 69 per cent of students said they are likely to choose a career that involves math or science.”

Elias explained that Kamskénow offers six levels of programming, with about 100 different presentations comprising about 300 different activities.

“We’ve developed quite a lot of material,” she said. “Someone that’s in the Grade 4 program can do the Grade 5 program in the next year and not repeat anything.”

Kamskénow’s popularity is such that it would have to more than double in size to meet demand. Elias said about 60 teachers were on the waiting list to have their classrooms participate this year. Its quality has also been recognized internationally, with two Global Best Awards in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) category through the International Education Business Partnership Network, affiliated with the Conference Board of Canada.
Growing up on a mixed farm outside of Regina, Sask., inspired Moats’ interest in animal nutrition. Seeing her family to obtain an agricultural presence on an international scale.

**WHAT GOES ON IN AN ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL?**

**Friday May 27, 2016**

3:30 to 5 pm

Room 133, Arts Building

9 Campus Drive

University of Saskatchewan

Saskatoon

Glenn Cheater is the owner of High Bluff Media in Winnipeg and Edmonton.
• Cree level 1 (materials and GST included)

Textbooks and workbooks are extra unless otherwise indicated. For more information, visit learnlanguages.usask.ca.

To order textbooks and workbooks, time for researchers or research teams to work on, or develop their own projects, and sessions in which researchers present their work in progress, receive feedback and discuss issues and strategies in realistic design and methodologies. University of Saskatchewan registrants: $250. Students: $250. External registrants: $3,000. Team rates available at the rate of 10 per cent off for teams of three to five, and 25 per cent off for teams of six or more.

Email: researchworkshop@usask.ca for registration information.

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 cca.usask.ca/arts. Register online or call 306-966-5399.

College of Agriculture and Bioresources and National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association National Conference This national conference takes place May 31, June 1 and 2 in Saskatoon. To register, visit: nalma.ca/events/event/national-conference. Deadline is May 20. Registration fee: $150. Lunch provided each day of the conference. For more information, contact Melanie Jacobs-Douglas mjacobs@usask.ca, 795-673-7680 (call 1-877-224-8613). Sustainable Energy Options for Saskatchewan Conference May 27, 8 am-5 pm. Saskatchewan’s electricity sector is currently entering a unique transitional period that presents opportunities for new innovations and pathways forward. Join decision-makers and experts to discuss the options. Registration includes access to the day’s events, including morning and afternoon keynote presentations, the Pathways to Zero workshop, and concurrent breakout sessions. Snacks and lunch are also included. Registration closes on May 19. Questions? Email us at sens_energy-conference@usask.ca. For more information, visit: picatic.com/sensenergyconference.

Connecting Education and Environment: Mobilizing Sustainability in Education Policy, Practice, and Research Conference The Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI), Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN) and partners invite you to take part in a unique opportunity to engage with internationally recognized researchers, educators, and policy makers working in the area of education and environment. Location: College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. June 10-11, 8 am-5 pm. Interactive panels in five strands: K-12 Education, Higher Education, Community Education, Indigenous Education, Education Theory. The event will be a valuable resource to educators, administrators, policy makers, students, sustainability staff, organizations, communities, and researchers. For more information and to register, please visit the SERI website at seri.usask.ca.

Miscellany

Kids Summer Art Camps Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave. N. Monday-Friday, July 4-Aug 29, 9 am-4 pm. Week-long camps in a fun hands-on learning environment where children experiment with many different art mediums. Structured outdoor activity is part of the daily schedule. Each camp finishes with a group art exhibition for family and friends. Website: https://esclu.usask.ca/kids-art/summer-young-artists-program.

Register now! Volunteer at Graduation Powwow 2016 A great opportunity to get involved! Volunteer at the Graduation Powwow on Wednesday, May 25 at the U of S Bowl. Many volunteers are needed to make this celebration a success. Sign up for a shift, take a few hours away from your regular routine and enjoy the celebrations, inside your coworkers. Visit: students.usask.ca/events/powwow.php.

Community Eco-Tours Polar Bear Ecology Tour to Churchill, N.B. Nov 7 or 10-16. After much demand we are running a three-day fly-in tour and the eight-day train tour to Churchill! To learn about and observe polar bears waiting on the edge of Hudson’s Bay for the ice to freeze. It is there where they hunt. Public information nights will be held on June 8 and 22, 7-8:30 pm in Room 224/225 Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave N. Call 306-966-1840 for more information at 306-966-5539 to register.

GSA executive

Joining GSA president Ziad Ghaith on the executive are:

Nafisa Absher Kusum Sharma Shaliza Sapat Ali Kiani Carolyn Gaspar

vice-president student affairs vice-president finance vice-president academic vice-president external

U of S.

When it comes to the delicate balancing act of serving the graduate student body and completing his degrees, Ghaith remains focused and organized. “I try to work during the day on my academics, and start my

Balancing service and study

From Page 4

GSA work around 2 pm or 3 pm every day,” he said. This is hard work, but he would not have it any other way. “It’s very challenging,” admitted Ghaith, “but when you have a passion towards something, everything is doable. 

GSA conferences

College of Agriculture and Bioresources and National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association National Conference This national conference takes place May 31, June 1 and 2 in Saskatoon. To register, visit: nalma.ca/events/event/national-conference. Deadline is May 20. Registration fee: $150. Lunch provided each day of the conference. For more information, contact Melanie Jacobs-Douglas mjacobs@usask.ca, 795-673-7680 (call 1-877-224-8613). Sustainable Energy Options for Saskatchewan Conference May 27, 8 am-5 pm. Saskatchewan’s electricity sector is currently entering a unique transitional period that presents opportunities for new innovations and pathways forward. Join decision-makers and experts to discuss the options. Registration includes access to the day’s events, including morning and afternoon keynote presentations, the Pathways to Zero workshop, and concurrent breakout sessions. Snacks and lunch are also included. Registration closes on May 19. Questions? Email us at sens_energy-conference@usask.ca. For more information, visit: picatic.com/sensenergyconference. Connecting Education and Environment: Mobilizing Sustainability in Education Policy, Practice, and Research Conference The Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI), Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN) and partners invite you to take part in a unique opportunity to engage with internationally recognized researchers, educators, and policy makers working in the area of education and environment. Location: College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. June 10-11, 8 am-5 pm. Interactive panels in five strands: K-12 Education, Higher Education, Community Education, Indigenous Education, Education Theory. The event will be a valuable resource to educators, administrators, policy makers, students, sustainability staff, organizations, communities, and researchers. For more information and to register, please visit the SERI website at seri.usask.ca.

Conference

College of Agriculture and Bioresources and National Aboriginal Lands Managers Association National Conference This national conference takes place May 31, June 1 and 2 in Saskatoon. To register, visit: nalma.ca/events/event/national-conference. Deadline is May 20. Registration fee: $150. Lunch provided each day of the conference. For more information, contact Melanie Jacobs-Douglas mjacobs@usask.ca, 795-673-7680 (call 1-877-224-8613). Sustainable Energy Options for Saskatchewan Conference May 27, 8 am-5 pm. Saskatchewan’s electricity sector is currently entering a unique transitional period that presents opportunities for new innovations and pathways forward. Join decision-makers and experts to discuss the options. Registration includes access to the day’s events, including morning and afternoon keynote presentations, the Pathways to Zero workshop, and concurrent breakout sessions. Snacks and lunch are also included. Registration closes on May 19. Questions? Email us at sens_energy-conference@usask.ca. For more information, visit: picatic.com/sensenergyconference. Connecting Education and Environment: Mobilizing Sustainability in Education Policy, Practice, and Research Conference The Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI), Sustainability and Education Policy Network (SEPN) and partners invite you to take part in a unique opportunity to engage with internationally recognized researchers, educators, and policy makers working in the area of education and environment. Location: College of Education, University of Saskatchewan. June 10-11, 8 am-5 pm. Interactive panels in five strands: K-12 Education, Higher Education, Community Education, Indigenous Education, Education Theory. The event will be a valuable resource to educators, administrators, policy makers, students, sustainability staff, organizations, communities, and researchers. For more information and to register, please visit the SERI website at seri.usask.ca.

Miscellany

Kids Summer Art Camps Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave. N. Monday-Friday, July 4-Aug 29, 9 am-4 pm. Week-long camps in a fun hands-on learning environment where children experiment with many different art mediums. Structured outdoor activity is part of the daily schedule. Each camp finishes with a group art exhibition for family and friends. Website: https://esclu.usask.ca/kids-art/summer-young-artists-program.

Register now! Volunteer at Graduation Powwow 2016 A great opportunity to get involved! Volunteer at the Graduation Powwow on Wednesday, May 25 at the U of S Bowl. Many volunteers are needed to make this celebration a success. Sign up for a shift, take a few hours away from your regular routine and enjoy the celebrations, inside your coworkers. Visit: students.usask.ca/events/powwow.php.

Community Eco-Tours Polar Bear Ecology Tour to Churchill, N.B. Nov 7 or 10-16. After much demand we are running a three-day fly-in tour and the eight-day train tour to Churchill! To learn about and observe polar bears waiting on the edge of Hudson’s Bay for the ice to freeze. It is there where they hunt. Public information nights will be held on June 8 and 22, 7-8:30 pm in Room 224/225 Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave N. Call 306-966-1840 for more information at 306-966-5539 to register.
The University of Saskatchewan deals in knowledge; it’s in every lab, classroom, facility and office on campus. This year’s back page feature is searching for that specialized knowledge that creates beautiful results and helps make the U of S a wonderful place to work and study.

Share your knowledge at ocn@usask.ca

**Idea incubator**

Stephanie Yong is all about ideas. More importantly, the director of the Edwards School of Business’ Wilson Centre (formerly the W. Brett Wilson Centre for Entrepreneurial Excellence) loves to take those ideas and build things from scratch.

“A lot of people are great at taking something mid-way through and running with it—not me," said Yong, who has been in the role since 2011. “I love to start at the beginning of something and get to see how it progresses—even when it’s not great, it’s still fun and exciting to be a part of.”

The centre was launched in 2007, when alum (and notable dragon) Brett Wilson expressed an interest in giving back to the university. Initially a business hub that offered coaching and support in financial literacy, its focus has since shifted to ideation—that is, the brainstorming and problem-solving process that sets the foundation for a new business. Yong and her colleagues use a technique called design thinking, which is focused on human beings and how they function. “We observe human behaviour patterns, human functionality, human decision-making and the human psyche to pinpoint problems that already exist, and then come up with a solution for it,” she said.

Last summer, the centre moved from its campus location to new digs—a sprawling, 4,200 square-foot space at Innovation Place—where students, local entrepreneurs and members of the business community can test the waters in the Idea Lab, “a space for people to be able to think very creatively and freely,” explained Yong. They can even build low-fidelity prototypes (think Popsicle sticks, yarn and sequins) of their idea.

The Wilson Centre boasts some notable alumni, including 3Twenty Modular, a company that converts old shipping containers into modular housing and office structures; Thrive Juice Co., Saskatoon’s own cold-pressed juice makers; and Magnoplug, a new take on the three-pronged block heater plug that snaps into place with magnets.

An Edwards MBA graduate and former business owner herself, Yong is passionate about fostering the creative side of people. “I jumped at the opportunity to be able to share some of the knowledge that I had learned from being an entrepreneur myself and applying it to a centre that teaches start-ups.”