As with most traditions, the university’s first powwow started with a conversation. Now an annual event attended by thousands, it has a long, storied history dating back nearly 30 years.

Rewind to fall 1987, when Tyrone Tootoosis was chatting with some fellow students about the absence of Aboriginal culture at the U of S. “We were talking about the lack of a First Nations presence on campus,” recalled Tootoosis, who also served as a member of the Indigenous Students’ Council. Prior to this, he was involved in organizing other social ceremonies, so “it was a given that I would be asked by the students to chair and co-ordinate the powwow committee that was struck up and composed of First Nation and Métis students.”

That conversation was enough to get the ball rolling. Tootoosis, a group leader for Great Plains, a First Nations dance company, tapped into his connections and started planning. “I thought, perhaps, the singers and dancers would be willing to come and dance and sing at the inaugural event since we had absolutely no money to work with,” he said. From that point, other details started to come together. A few drum groups and about 50 to 60 dancers agreed to show up, and the first grand entry ceremony was led by Cree Elder Henry Beaudry, a veteran of the Second World War as well as a former prisoner of war.

Some aspects of organizing the powwow were challenging, Tootoosis explained. He had to get approval for everything—from using the Bowl, to finding, transporting and setting up tipis, to co-ordinating logistical details such as the sound system, parking and change rooms for the dancers. He even had to apply for a special permit to dig a small hole in the ground and make a ceremonial fire. Along with trying to accommodate the traditional protocol, the organizers also had to comply with campus regulations and policies—which was not always easy, admitted Tootoosis.

It was all worth it, though, when in the spring of 1988, the first powwow was held in the Bowl. “Being part of the process was a lot of fun as it took several months of volunteer work by many students,” he said. That experience also came in handy a year later when a new group of volunteers was organizing the next powwow. Tootoosis kept track of the work involved and the necessary protocols that would have to be followed by the organizing committee. Those notes became, “in essence, a small manual for incoming students to read if they were going to help organize...”
Born in the USA
Legal historian joins College of Law as visiting chair in human rights

Paul Finkelman, Ariel Sallows Chair in Human Rights
U.S., but also very different. I am particularly interested in learning how Canada balanced freedom of speech and freedom of religion in a democratic political culture within its Charter of Rights—something quite different from what the U.S. has.”

One of the main differences between the U.S. and Canada, he was told, would be the weather. “The first thing I did was buy a warmer pair of gloves,” he said with a laugh.

Lucky for Finkelman, it was a mild winter in Saskatoon. He was more surprised by the complexity of the university’s underground walkways. “Having been to the U of S before, I knew the campus was impressive and at the same time, compact enough to be user friendly. On the other hand, I found, and still find, the tunnel system to be a challenge,” he said with a chuckle.

Since arriving at the College of Law, Finkelman has been full-stem ahead, completing a revision of his book Dred Scott v. Sanford: A Brief History, and a fifth edition of his casebook American Legal History. The rest of his time will be devoted to writing a book on the history of how the U.S. Supreme Court adjudicated cases involving slavery, creating a legal history of Jews in the U.S. and writing an article on the way the early American Supreme Court treated American Indians.

In September, Finkelman will host a conference in honour of the Honourable Irwin Cotler, PC, entitled “Human Rights Law in the Twenty-First Century.” The event will cover a variety of issues that are of interest to the international human rights community including rights of the disabled, human trafficking, the conditions of prisons and how education is a human rights issue.

Joseph added that the importance of the event has grown from a celebration of culture to one of academic achievement. “We have Aboriginal high school and university students who are graduating and what we want to do is ensure we celebrate their success and show people that these students are going to be leaders—not only within their own communities, but across the city and across Saskatchewan.”

Almost three decades after that initial conversation on campus, Tootoosis is fortunate enough to continue working alongside many First Nations and Métis staff and students at the U of S.

“It feels good knowing that the university continues to support the powwow along with the hundreds of First Nations and Métis students who have worked tirelessly every year to make it possible.”

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In a way, Iain Rose encourages his students to pick fights with one another.

Rose teaches a second-year stage combat class in the Department of Drama, giving students a taste of what they may have to do if they are cast in a play where some type of fight or physical combat is required.

But there is more to it than wild swinging and clanging weapons. Rose teaches the methodologies of combat relative to its place in history, as well as the proper choreography involved, to make a fight scene look realistic on stage.

“Our purpose is to help the actor make sense of their character and to facilitate the action so that the story is told seamlessly,” said Rose, who has been teaching the class since 2001. “Hopefully there will be an exciting fight as well.”

It was an interest in martial arts that roped him into the world of theatrical combat. After he finished high school, he promptly started taking martial arts classes. He started with karate and a Chinese martial art called wushu, which helped him understand the esthetics of the practice. “It’s very showy in its presentation,” said Rose, who is also the technical director in the department. “Through doing that, I was able to get a good eye for what looked good.”

He pursued other forms of the sport—including tai chi chuan, aikido and hapkido—becoming broadly proficient in each of them.

In 1994, he saw an advertisement for Fight Directors Canada (FDC), an organization and certification body for combat artists. The ad, which featured “a swashbuckling gentleman with a musketeer hat holding a cloak and a rapier and a dagger,” was promoting a stage combat workshop. He attended, finding another outlet for his extensive martial arts experience.

Since then, he has gone on to do more training with FDC and become a certified instructor of unarmed combat, single weapon, and foundation, particularly in sword combat. Rose focuses on European-region martial arts in the class—though not as well-known as its Asian counterpart, it carries the same legitimacy and foundation, in particular in sword combat.

“Before gunpowder became mainstream and projectile weapons made edged weapons almost obsolete, the sword was king,” he said. “Whoever had the better sword technology, would have the better edge. And whoever had the better weapons would dominate the battlefield.”

Students can practice with replica swords, many of which Rose made himself or had made for the class. These range from the xiphos, a short, thrusting sword popular in ancient Greece, to the rapier, a long, elegant piercing sword from 16th century Italy, to variations of fencing swords used by competitors in the sport.

The art of putting on a compelling fight has come a long way, Rose explained. Before stage combat was taught as a useful skill, stage directors would bring in a fencing instructor or boxing coach to teach the dynamics of fighting, or seek out audience members with fighting experience. “Or worse,” he recalled, “the director—who would have no training in martial combat—would try to choreograph a fight, usually with questionable consequences.”

So while there is an urge to be exceedingly violent in a fight, that is simply not how it is done in a dramatic play scene. He used two actors in a sword fight as example of maintaining a safe distance from each other to make the scene look realistic.

“If you’re within distance, then I can hit you. If you’re maintaining a safe distance, even if I make a mistake, I’m never going to hit you,” he said. “Safe distance is determined by correct and proper footwork. This is why it takes a lot of rehearsal to be able to discipline your feet to be able to keep that consistent, safe distance.”

Additionally, many plays that have fights in them often lack the choreography needed to make it look realistic. “Where people like myself come in is, we fill in that blank: ‘Ok, how do we do it to meet that end and carry the story on?’”

Our purpose is to help the actor make sense of their character and to facilitate the action so that the story is told seamlessly.

Iain Rose

GETTING SOCIAL WITH MEDIA

Some of the top tweets, posts and pics from the U of S
The fate of the world’s richest biodiversity of salamanders and newts is in the hands of pet owners across North America, said Natacha Hogan, an environmental toxicologist specializing in amphibians at the University of Saskatchewan.

At issue is salamander chytrid disease, caused by a fungus that infects both salamanders and newts with near total lethality. The fungus, known as *B. sal*, infects the skin, causing wasting the lesions. As the disease progresses, the animal stops eating, becomes lethargic, loses control of its body movements and eventually dies.

Originally from Asia, the disease soon completely wiped out wild populations where it has appeared in Europe and the U.K., said Hogan. “It’s basically the pet trade,” she said. “It’s when you start moving salamanders, this is what this spread has been attributed to. There have been millions of salamanders imported—how many kids own fire belly newts from a pet store?”

While the fungus has not yet been spotted in Canada, she said the U.S. has already instituted strict regulations on trade in salamanders and newts. The Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) is leading efforts to raise the alarm, urging educational action. The group compares the threat to a similar invasive fungal disease that has wiped out entire species of frogs in South and Central America, and white nose disease, which has killed entire colonies of bats—millions of animals—across North America, including Canada.

While Canada has only two species of newt—both in Ontario—salamanders are wide spread, Hogan said, with about 15 species across the country. Some of these have a small geographic range, but others, such as the two species of tiger salamander found in Saskatchewan, can be found right across the Prairie provinces.

The rest of North America is even more richly endowed. “The U.S. has among the greatest biodiversity of amphibians in the world, so this is also true of salamanders and newts,” Hogan said.

The CWHC emphasizes first line of defense starts at home to help safeguard this rich natural heritage, and offers online resources for both pet owners and veterinarians.

“If you must keep salamanders or newts as pets, ensure they are from locations where (the fungus) is not present and only buy from reputable suppliers,” the group urged in a release. “Make sure any water or cage wastes are properly disinfected with bleach before discarding them. Always seek appropriate veterinary care for sick pet salamanders and newts.”

Bleach is the disinfectant of choice for biologists in the field and lab, explained Hogan. She did field work on a similar fungal disease in native frogs while at the University of Prince Edward Island. Whenever she and her colleagues left one pond to go to another, all their gear—including gloves, boots and sampling equipment—got doused in a 10 per cent bleach solution. They even sprayed down the tires of their vehicles as they were leaving to avoid bringing any trace of contaminated soil to the next pond.

The fungus makes these little zoospores that can even swim on their own a short distance,” she explained. “They can live in water, in mud, so movement of those materials as you go from one wetland to another and you haven’t cleaned your boots…”

**Amphibians are key components within the food web. A decline or elimination of even one species will have some impact, a trickle-down effect on other species within that food web.**

Natacha Hogan

The CWHC emphasizes first line of defense starts at home to help safeguard this rich natural biodiversity.

Natacha Hogan

**Stepping closer to a university-wide vision**

**Jennifer Robertson**

The university is one step closer to a new vision, mission and values statement, with a first draft scheduled for release by mid-June.

“We’ve been hard at work since February, meeting with close to 1,500 people internal and external to the university, and reviewing over 4,000 responses to two separate surveys,” said visioning committee co-chair, Liz Harrison. “Based on the information collected through consultation, and reviewing several institutional documents, the committee has started to put pen to paper to attempt to capture the essence of what we are hearing and reading.”

Harrison and her co-chair, Brent Cotter, indicated some of the prominent themes identified in consultations highlight the importance of the university’s relationship with the Indigenous community, remaining grounded in our over 100 year history, ensuring we are recognized for making an impact locally and globally in areas of relevance to the needs and aspirations of the people of Saskatchewan, and the importance of fostering a supportive teaching and learning environment.

Many of those with whom the committee has met are also challenging the committee to be bold in reimagining how we respond to a new university’s distinctiveness.

“Our greatest challenge will be condensing all the valuable information collected into a two-page statement about the university today and in the future that is accurate, meaningful and inspirational,” said Cotter. “At the end of the day, we hope most, if not all, of our students, faculty and staff can see themselves represented in this document in some way.”

Once the draft is released in mid-June, the visioning committee will continue to consult and invite feedback to ensure the final version is representative of the university and its aspirations. In October, the committee will present a document to all three governing bodies—University Council, Board of Governors and University Senate—for final approval.

For more information, and to read the draft once released, please visit usask.ca/ourvision.

Jennifer Robertson is a special projects officer with the Office of the University Secretary.
Building better relationships
Technology to improve communication with students and alumni

KRIS FOSTER

Data will be the difference in how the university interacts with its prospective students, current students and graduates with the introduction of a new Relationship Management System (RMS).

With the phased-in implementation of the RMS—think standard of practice, strategy and technology used to manage constituent interactions and data—how the university communicates with current and future students, alumni and donors will become more effective than ever, said Patti McDougall, vice-provost, teaching and learning.

This is a tool that opens the possibility for better communication and relationship development through the entire lifecycle, from prospective student to alumni,” said McDougall.

Designed specifically for post-secondary institutions, the new system consists of three applications and will be implemented in three stages: recruitment, student retention and success, and a module dedicated to university alumni and donors.

Information collected—ranging from general personal and academic information to details about services used, preferences, and how, when and by whom an individual was contacted—will help provide complete individual pictures for front-line staff, McDougall explained, adding that “privacy of information is of utmost importance and there will be many protocols around who has access.”

While this sort of information is collected in pockets across campus, the proposed RMS will gather and coordinate this information in one centralized system, reducing reliance on duplicate systems across campus that each require significant resources—time and money—to operate.

Additionally, McDougall continued, because of the fragmented nature in how data is currently compiled and stored, data is duplicated, sometimes incorrect or out of date, and not easily accessible to those who require it in a timely manner.

In contrast, RMS will eliminate those issues and create a common practice in the way the university—from small departments to major colleges—collects, stores, shares and uses this valuable relationship-building information.

“Students entering a relationship with a post-secondary education institute have expectations on what we deliver and how we interact with them; that’s driven by technology,” said McDougall.

RMS, McDougall continued, will allow for “timely, personalized and relevant information that will help us develop relationships. People don’t want to come to a place where they are just a number.”

McDougall said that because of this detailed information, university employees will be better able to manage the needs of our prospects, students and graduates using well-defined steps and processes with clear communications supporting each step.

“From a student perspective, we will offer seamless interaction with its prospective students, current students and graduates with the introduction of a new Relationship Management System (RMS).

The first phase of the system implementation, focused on recruitment, will begin this spring with a price tag of $1.1 million. The application covering alumni, donors and friends of the university, will be the second phase and will proceed—pending board approval—in late 2017, with the final module, on student success and retention, slated for early 2018. The expected cost for the entire system is $3.6 million.

McDougall said this is a campus-wide project involving more than 100 people from colleges, schools and admin units serving on an advisory committee. The cost, both in terms of money and time, she continued, will be well worth it.

“Universities have been slow to adapt processes and communication practices to meet the changing expectations of potential students,” she said. “Post-secondary education is competitive and institutions that can deliver timely, personalized and relevant information have the opportunity to differentiate themselves from their competition by fostering deeper and more mutually beneficial relationships.”

This is a tool that opens the possibility for better communication and relationship development through the entire lifecycle from prospective student to alumni.

Patti McDougall

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Rajat Nag didn’t really know what he was in for when he came to the University of Saskatchewan back in the summer of ’69. But with apologies to Canadian rock icon Bryan Adams, it turned out to be some of the best days of his life.

From southern Asia to southern Saskatchewan, moving from a major metropolitan megalcity in densely-populated Delhi to the slower pace of Prairie life in Saskatoon proved quite the culture shock. The stark change in climate from sub-tropical India to experiencing snow were exciting and exhilarating, said Nag, who will be the first of six individuals to receive honorary degrees from the U of S during this year’s Spring Convocation.

“It was fun. I still recall my wonder at the first snowfall I experienced and my inability to comprehend what -40 degree cold really meant, until my ears and nose almost froze over.

“I also found to my great delight that the usual Prairies hospitality is even more generous in the winter. Whenever my car broke down—and it broke down often in the sub-freezing temperatures—I was most touched at how soon a Good Samaritan would stop to help and even invite me to sit in his car to warm myself while he tried to fix mine. Amazing hospitality.”

Nag went on to earn a pair of graduate degrees at the U of S—Master of Science and Master of Saskatchewan soprano Katya Khartova has been proud to sing O Canada at University of Saskatchewan convocation ceremonies for the past two years.

“But this year, it will be her turn to beserenaded with the national anthem when she steps on stage and graduates with a Bachelor of Music from the U of S. It will be a memorable moment for Khartova and something she could have only dreamed about, growing up back in Ukraine.

“It’s very personal to me,” said Khartova, who became a Canadian citizen five years ago. Every time I have to sing ‘Our home and native land’ I feel a part of that because Canada is a country that welcomes immigrants and I am one of them and I hope to have my own contributions to pass on to other generations.

The 27-year-old Khartova hopes to be a part of the next generation of Canadian singing sensations after winning back-to-back provincial music festival competitions, posting the highest grade (88 per cent) earned in vocal studies in the past six years at the U of S, and serving as the featured soloist in the university’s Music Theatre Ensemble.

“There is no question that Katya Khartova is one of the most talented singers with whom I have worked in my 22 years at the U of S,” said Garry Gable, associate professor in the Department of Music and the director of the Music Theatre Ensemble.

“She has the potential to do well in the singing world, but it is a very competitive world, especially for sopranos. Much rides on good fortune and hard work. Katya will have to continue to study for years to come to be successful. Her talent, dedication and work to this point have given her a very strong advantage.”

Another major advantage for Khartova was moving from the Ukraine to Canada at the age of 18 with her family—mother Marina, father Henry and brother Sergei—in search of a better life that they have found in Saskatchewan. Khartova didn’t speak English when she first arrived in the small town of Drake, but worked hard to master the language with the help of her teachers, before moving on to work full-time in Saskatoon to save money for tuition. After a year of arts courses, she began music studies at the age of 21, having had no formal training.

“Canada has given me things that I could never dream of back in Ukraine and pursuing music would not have been possible,” she said.

“In countries like the Ukraine, honestly nobody would have even looked at me, I would have been too old to even start. And here people said if that is what you want to do, we will develop you as much as we can.”

Spring Convocation

The word convocation arises from the Latin con meaning together and vocare meaning to call. The convocation ceremony is a calling together of new graduates.

The university’s Spring Convocation will take place May 30-June 2. In addition to awarding thousands of degrees to students, a number of honorary degrees and awards will be presented to deserving individuals.

Home away from home

Rajat Nag to receive honorary degree

See Campus, Page 9

Hitting all the right notes

Katya Khartova

Rajat Nag

Michael Blackstock

Cindy Blackstock

Eric Grimson

Keith Martell

See Talking, Page 8

MAY 27, 2016
There may be nobody more proud to step on stage at TCU Place this month than Michelle Martin.

Especially when you consider that just a few years ago, doctors told her that she never, ever thought it would happen,” said Martin, who will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. “MS alone is a big struggle because the fatigue kills you. So for me, university was something that I didn’t think I was going to finish and many times I wanted to give up. But I had such strong support.”

Battling MS was one of the many roadblocks that she has navigated on her path in life. Born of Metis heritage in the small town of St. Benedict, 110 kilometres northeast of Saskatoon, Martin dropped out of high school in 1986, the year she became pregnant with her son Kyle. She finished Grade 12 in Saskatoon in a program designed for single mothers and then spent the next 15 years working as a hairdresser and raising her son and her daughter Mikayla on her own.

Determined to go back to school one day, Martin did just that in 2001 when she attended St. Peter’s College for two years as a mature student. But juggling school, work, and parenting proved to be overwhelming.

“I was a single mom at the time and it was just too hard to keep up with school and with two young children and having to work at the same time,” said Martin. “So I left school, but I always said that when my kids were grown, I would go back. So I did.”

But life had another turn in a whole new direction when he went from cultivating new fields of research to cultivating young minds.

A 45-year-old former assistant professor at the University of the Philippines, Siaotong secured a scholarship to the U of S where he earned a master’s degree, served as a sessional lecturer and pursued his PhD. But more than halfway through his PhD in bioprocessing engineering, he changed course completely to pursue his passion to teach schoolchildren.

“Teaching math and music is my passion and that’s the explanation for leaving my PhD,” said Siaotong, a former U of S Dean’s Scholarship researcher who will graduate with an impressive 86.08 per cent cumulative average in his education courses. “A lot of people wondered why I had to leave my PhD after four years of doing it … but I just felt that I am more called towards teaching in the younger years in elementary and high school, so that I can affect them more. I am a teacher at heart.”

Working as a private music teacher on the side to help pay for tuition, Siaotong knew he had made the right decision during his internship at St. Peter’s University of Saskatchewan.”

Finding his true calling at the U of S

JAMES SHEWAGA

Anton Siaotong came halfway around the world to find his calling in Canada.

The international student from the Philippines will graduate with his second University of Saskatchewan degree when he is awarded a Bachelor of Education at the Spring Convocation ceremonies at TCU Place next week.

“The Canadian experience made me achieve my dream,” said Siaotong. “I would not have fulfilled it if I had stayed in the Philippines.”

After travelling from the Far East to study science and engineering in Saskatchewan, Siaotong’s academic journey has turned in a whole new direction when he went from cultivating new fields of research to cultivating young minds.

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HUGO COTA-SANCHEZ

Master Teacher Award

Hugo Cota-Sanchez, associate professor, has earned a reputation as one of our university’s most esteemed teacher-scholars since joining the Department of Biology in 2000. Cota-Sanchez employs interactive and engaging teaching methods and continually assesses and adjusts his teaching, allowing him to genuinely connect with students. Don’t be surprised to see him in a suit made of burlap to demonstrate the versatility of plants, or to go on a “supermarket safari” to learn how various foods and cosmetic products are connected to plants. As curator of the W.P. Fraser Herbarium, Cota-Sanchez leads outreach initiatives that introduce students to the world of botany.

JOSEPH GARCEA

Award for Distinction in Outreach and Public Service

For nearly three decades, Joseph Garcea, associate professor, Department of Political Studies, has contributed to the university’s outreach mission. A trusted source of professional opinion on governance and political matters, Garcea has given over 500 interviews and commentaries to media. Some of his most significant contributions to community engagement have come through his commitment to the Career Internship Program, which provides students opportunities to work with governmental or community-based agencies. Garcea has contributed to improved governance and public management through work for provincial commissions and task forces.

JOHN GIESY

Distinguished Researcher Award

John Giesy, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Toxicology, has devoted his life to researching some of the most ubiquitous and dangerous chemicals found in the environment. His work has greatly improved the health of our planet, as well as the people and wildlife living on it. Giesy is one of the world’s most prominent environmental toxicologists and has authored more than 100 works and publications and is the most cited author in the world in the combined fields of ecology and environmental science. Also highly regarded teacher and mentor, Giesy has trained hundreds of students, many of whom are now scientific leaders.

VIVIAN RAMSDEN

Award for Distinction in Community Engaged Teaching and Scholarship

Vivian Ramsden, professor, College of Medicine, is recognized within the North American health research community as one of the foremost champions of community-based participatory research. Ramsden strives for inclusivity in the majority of her research projects. Many routinely participate in her research, and are often cited as authors. Colleagues, students and community partners note her consistency of practice, ethics, willingness to mentor, and the respect the scholarly community and public have for her work. Her principles of engagement have resulted in partnerships around the world.

CANDACE WASACASE-LAFFERTY

President’s Service Award

Since arriving at the University of Saskatchewan 15 years ago, Candace Wasacase-Lafferty has been a dedicated team player, a role model for colleagues, a cultural leader and an advocate for students. As director of Aboriginal initiatives, Wasacase-Lafferty simply works to make the U of S the best place it can be for Aboriginal peoples and their communities. But simple work, it is not. She is a bridge between the university and Aboriginal communities throughout Saskatchewan and beyond. With optimism, creativity and dedication, Wasacase-Lafferty balances competing interests and brings communities together to achieve goals around Indigenous education and engagement.
Her rapid development will be on full display next year when she serves as the featured soprano soloist in the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra’s production of *The Golden Harvest* by composer Larysa Kuzmenko, which celebrates the 125th anniversary of immigration of Ukrainians to Canada.

“I am very excited to take part,” said Khartova. “Next year will also be 10 years since my immigration to Canada, so it’s big for me, too. When I first came here, I couldn’t even have even dreamed about it, to be on the stage at TCU Place … and now I will be on the stage myself!”

The next stage in Khartova’s development will be pursuing her master’s degree, likely elsewhere in Canada or overseas in Europe, as she works towards her dream of becoming an opera singer.

“I will probably go take a master’s in a different city, mainly because that is what the business requires,” she said. “They like to see that you have studied with different people and have had different kinds of experiences.

“But I want to find a teacher that I can connect with, just as I have connected with my teachers here at the U of S. I’m having a very hard time leaving them because they became my second parents. They were more than professors, they were so supportive on all levels. I will miss them all.”

### Teaching a passion and mission for Siaotong

School in Saskatoon last fall and has relished returning to the classroom this spring as a substitute teacher. A devout Catholic who has conducted choirs since 2003, Siaotong has felt right at home working in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools division.

“My faith is very much a part of my life,” said Siaotong, who currently sings with the Filipino choir. “My dad emphasized education and my mom emphasized faith, and the combination of such is my reason for being in the Catholic school division right now.”

Like most of the members of his graduating class, Martin is now searching for full-time work as a teacher and is unsure of his next step and whether it involves securing his Canadian citizenship or returning home to the Philippines. But one thing he knows for sure is that his future lies in the classroom.

“I think my mission is to be able to teach and that is why I pursued the Bachelor of Education,” said Siaotong. “I really want to teach math and music … and I am enjoying being a substitute teacher where I go around to different schools. I don’t know if I am called to be in a certain country, but I know that I am called to be a teacher of math and music. And wherever I am most needed, there I will be.”

### Sociology student supported by campus community

From Page 7

major challenge ahead of her before coming to campus. First diagnosed with MS in the 1990s, Martin’s condition took a turn for the worse, and she was put on a regime of immunosuppressants in 1998. But the side effects of the drugs were so severe at the time that she was unable to work as a teacher and is unsure of his next step and whether it involves securing his Canadian citizenship or returning home to the Philippines. But one thing he knows for sure is that his future lies in the classroom.

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“I think my mission is to be able to teach and that is why I pursued the Bachelor of Education,” said Siaotong. “I really want to teach math and music … and I am enjoying being a substitute teacher where I go around to different schools. I don’t know if I am called to be in a certain country, but I know that I am called to be a teacher of math and music. And wherever I am most needed, there I will be.”

### Teaching a passion and mission for Siaotong

School in Saskatoon last fall and has relished returning to the classroom this spring as a substitute teacher. A devout Catholic who has conducted choirs since 2003, Siaotong has felt right at home working in the Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools division.

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Professor’s radio show show a labour of love

JAMES SHEWAGA

He is one of the country’s most highly regarded public policy professors and a respected regular contributor for national media like CTV and CBC. He has published more than a dozen books and a hundred peer-reviewed journal articles, holds a Canada Research Chair in Public Policy and has filled visiting fellowships overseas in Denmark and Finland as well as at world-class U.S. schools like Harvard and George Washington University.

But it was while working part-time at McDonald’s, of all places, that University of Saskatchewan (U of S) political sociologist Daniel Béland first discovered his passion. Just to be clear, we are talking Brahms, not burgers, as classical music quickly became a feast for the ears for Béland.

“It started when I was a teenager (17 years old) when I met someone when I was working for McDonald’s and he was later a classical music enthusiast during his breaks and he started to tell me about it and I started to buy some recordings,” said Béland, who grew up in Quebec and moved to Saskatoon back in 2008 to teach at the U of S. “So that’s how it started.”

Béland’s taste for classical music continues to this day, as he cooks up a smorgasbord of symphonic delights on his weekly live local radio show that he has hosted every Monday night for the past seven years.

“I do have the passion for it,” yes,” said Béland, whose 90-minute classical music show Classical Discoveries is broadcast Monday evenings from 7:30 on CFRC 90.5 FM and also carried live on the internet.

“In addition to the very solid academic training that the University has to offer, the academics, as very important for the student on campus at the U of S, that University of Saskatchewan … that University of Saskatoon … that University of Edmonton … that University of Alberta … that University of British Columbia,” Béland said.

“I have been back several times over the years and has a great homecoming; a great trip down memory lane. I still have lifelong friends here in the city and on campus. Nag will return again later this month when he is awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws during the first ceremony of U of S Spring Convocation on Monday, May 30, when the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, as well as Engineering, take centre stage at TCU Place.

“I am currently working to enhance regional co-operation and integration in Asia and beyond, and bridging the gap between the region’s thriving economies and the millions of poor being left behind,” said Nag. “Income inequality is increasing beyond, and bridging the gap between the region’s thriving economies and the millions of poor being left behind,” said Nag. “Income inequality is increasing in most of Asia,” he added. “Progress on other issues such as justice and rights varies across the region, but in almost all cases much remains to be done.”

“I like to discover new repertoire. Every week I discover new compositions and new recordings and I try to feature that on my show. And of course I play the great classics as well, but always alongside new discoveries, and this includes quite a bit of contemporary or modern music, including Canadian music.”

“Each show has a specific theme or a focus on an instrument or an era or a specific genre, so it is really diverse,” said Béland. “I select the repertoire and the theme and what pieces I will play, and then I have to write notes to introduce each piece. And from a local aspect, I promote and talk about the classical music concerts and music activities in town, and sometimes the lectures at the University here … It is quite a bit of work, but I really enjoy it.”

Campus visit trip down memory lane

From Page 6

Business Administration—and later moved on to the London School of Economics before beginning a successful career in international banking and as a global leader in development in Asia and the Pacific. His experience as an international student on campus at the U of S was about so much more than lectures and labs.

“I think about the very solid academic training that the university imparts, I have always felt that the U of S also gave me a sense of good grounding in reality,” said Nag. “Maybe it’s the Prairie setting, maybe it’s the human scale of things here, maybe it’s the sense of values in a place like Saskatchewan, and perhaps it’s a combination of all the above. But I felt that the U of S gave me a complete education, going beyond just the books and the academics, as very important of course as they are.”

Those Canadian values mirrored his own, and Nag has spent his working life dedicated to balancing economic development with a commitment to education and the environment. After beginning his career as an economist with the Bank of Canada, Nag served as the managing director of the Asian Development Bank, building business opportunities and infrastructure in Asia and the Pacific. But equally important to Nag has been his commitment to equality, justice and human rights, particularly gender-related issues.

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music is the Double Concerto for Two String Orchestras, Piano and Timpani by Czech composer Bohuslav Martinu (1890-1959). But Béland is also a big backer of the local music scene, from the Elxir Ensemble and the U of S Wind Orchestra to U of S music professor and Hungarian composer Gyula Csupó, who has been a guest on Béland’s show Béland and his wife Angela Kempf—who previously worked in alumni relations and development at the U of S and is now director of development at the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra (SSO)—are also strong supporters and donors to the SSO.

His show serves as a perfect platform for promoting local music and for Béland to celebrate classical composers from around the world.

“That show is devoted to, and the focus is on, lesser-known composers or lesser-known works by well-known composers,” said Béland, who estimates he has at least 4,000 albums in his extensive classical music collection. “I like to discover new repertoire. Every week I discover new compositions and new recordings and I try to feature that on my show. And of course I play the great classics as well, but always alongside new discoveries, and this includes quite a bit of contemporary or modern music, including Canadian music.”

Personally, Béland’s most beloved composer is German Johannes Brahms (1833-1897), while his favourite piece of

20TH ANNUAL U OF S APPRECIATION PICNIC

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016

Bring your family and join us for treats and activities in the Bowl between 11am and 2pm. Students are welcome to join in the fun with the faculty and staff.

Students are welcome to join in the fun with the faculty and staff.

Bring your reusable water bottle.

2 for $3

Hot dog combo

Burger or veggie burger combo

All combos include a beverage and dessert.

Bring your reusable water bottle.

If it rains, the event will be on Wednesday, June 15.

If you’re a shift worker, you can also pack your own lunch.

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There will be photographs taken.

You can also take your own. Be sure to tag #usask.
4th Annual FSFAm Symposium

The PBRM Research Centre is hosting the fourth annual FSFAm (Protein Structure Function and Malfunction) Symposium. June 22-24, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. 106 Biology Building. Registration is free. Website: http://cmcl.lightsource.ca/pbrm.

Courses/Workshops

ESL Classes at the Language Centre
April 3-May 30, part-time program, spring term. Classes will cover writing and applied grammar, pronunciation, graduate-level writing, reading, or listening and speaking skills in English. For more information or to register contact 306-966-4301 or visit pli.usask.ca.

Summer ESL Classes
July-August, writing, speaking, pronunciation, reading, listening. Contact the Language Centre, 306-966-4301, or visit pli.usask.ca.

Spring Session Multilingual Conversational Language Classes
Classes from April 18 to June 12, 2016
• French levels 1 to 6: $125 (GST exempt)
• Spanish levels 1 to 4: $225.75 (GST included)
• Japanese levels 1 and 2: $225.75 (GST included)
• Italian levels 1, 2 and 4: $225.75 (GST included)
• German levels 1, 2 and 4: $225.75 (GST included)
• Cree level 1: $225 (materials and GST included)

Textbooks and workbooks are extra unless otherwise indicated. For more information, visit learnlanguages.usask.ca or call 306-966-4301 or 539.

Realist Methods and Realist Synthesis Training Workshop
June 13-17. This five-day free-workshop will guide participants through advanced skills in realist methodologies led by Gary Weisskopf, an internationally recognized specialist and realist methodologist. Each day of the workshop will have a different focus and will include provision of advanced skills lectures/lectures in realist methods. 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 realist design and methodologies. University of Saskatchewan registrants: $500. Students: $250. External registrants: $1,000. 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: realistworkshop@usask.ca or visit usask.ca.

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 fun or interest or work toward a certificate. For more information, visit cbc.usask.ca/art. Register online or call 306-966-539.

Sustainability
Two-day symposium, Thursday, May 26, 2016, from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. University of Saskatchewan, Acceleration Centre, and the Centre for Environment and Community Action (CECA). Registration is $50. Website: http://ceca.usask.ca.

Seminars/Lectures

Conference
Connecting Education and Environment: Mobilizing Student-Driven 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 a.m.-5 p.m. 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.

Sustainable Energy Options for Saskatchewan Conference
May 27-28, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 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 seri.usask.ca. For tickets, visit ictvus.com/conference/sustain.

Sustain the Gains: Sustainability and Global Health
Oct. 1, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Edwards School of Business. The Global Health Conference is dedicated to raising awareness about global health issues. This will be a forum to discuss and analyze practices and policies that move us towards sustainability and health equity. One-day conference is an opportunity for researchers, students, educators, and community members involved and interested in global health to network and discuss existing research, programs, and projects in the field. Participants will be inspired to work collaboratively toward sustainability in global health. Visit usask.ca/global-health-conference/ for more information.

Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education National Conference
The Conference, “The Creative Journey: Bridging Where We Are to Where We Want To Be” will be held June 10-11 in Saskatoon. Hosted by The U of S, Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the University of Regina, the conference promises sessions on today’s trends and tomorrow’s breakthroughs in advancement services, alumni communications, marketing, and development. Join us for three dynamic keynote presentations from W. Brett Wilson, entrepreneur, philanthropist and former fan favourite on Dragon’s Den, Janet Kuntz and Nancy Vinyke, the creative duo behind Westron’s Campaign for Real Beauty, and Kim Coates, U of S alumnus and actor on the hit TV series Sons of Anarchy. Learn more and register at canadawca.org/or call Sandy Lasue at 306-990-710 or Kris Brown 306-966-7636.

Miscellany

Kids Summer Art Camps
Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave. N. Monday-Thursday, July 4-Aug 26, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. 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://ccode.usask.ca/wells-art/summer-young-artists-program.

Community Eco-Tours
Polar Bear Ecology Tour to Churchill, MB, Nov 7-9 or 10-12, 2016. 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 seals. Public information nights will be held on June 9 and 22, 7-8:30 p.m. in Room 224/225 Williams Building, 221 Cumberland Ave N. Call 306-966-6444 for more information or 306-966-5539 to register.

Here’s Looking At You: Memory, Portrait, and Biography On view in the Murray Library, Link Cumberland Ave N. Call 306-966-5484 for more information or 306-966-5539 to register.

The Sustainability Education Research Institute (SERI) explores themes of memory, portrait, and the photographic, the artifactual and beyond. The range from the textual, to the graphic, the photographic, and the artificial. This allows viewers to contemplate the multifaceted ways in which human beings capture the essence of themselves and others, as well as the often whimsical ways in which memory is preserved.

Open House Tour, CSL Guest Residence at Ogle Hall
Join us for refreshments and a chance to tour the CSL Guest Residence at Ogle Hall on June 8 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Our location is 113 Seminary Crescent, Saskatoon. With its beautiful location along the riverbank and proximity to campus, Ogle Hall is the perfect accommodation for visitors to the University of Saskatchewan and innovation Place. Booking information is available on the CSL website: lightsource.ca/pages/accommodations.

On Campus News
is done for the year and will resume publishing towards the end of summer. University news can be found online at news.usask.ca. If you have stories to share, email news@usask.ca.

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On the campus of the University of Saskatchewan, nestled in the heart of Saskatoon, is the CSL Guest Residence at Ogle Hall. This residence is the perfect accommodation for visitors to the University of Saskatchewan and Innovation Place. Booking information is available on the CSL website: lightsourc...
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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

May 27, 2016

Howling for Huskies!

A natural team player, Howler the Huskie brings joy to everyone he meets.

"I like to encourage others, whether it’s welcoming new students during Orientation, dancing on the sidelines at football games, or cheering courtside for our national champion women’s basketball team,” said the mascot for the University of Saskatchewan’s Huskie Athletics.

For four days next week, Howler will bring his enthusiasm and zest for life to a new location—at the Spring Convocation ceremonies at TCU Place in downtown Saskatoon. While it is a bit more formal than his usual appearances, he sees no reason not to celebrate the occasion.

“People commit a significant part of their life to their education,” he said. “Now they’re done—what an accomplishment! This is my first time at convocation and I’m honoured to be a part of it.”

Howler has humble beginnings, growing up on a farm just outside of Nipawin, Sask. alongside many brothers and sisters. As a young pup, he loved the wide open space and helping his humans on the farm. However, he always knew he was destined for the city—and for the U of S.

“I come from a long line of hard-working mascot dogs,” he exclaimed proudly. Besides being a tireless sled dog, his grandpa Duke is emblazoned as a bronze statue outside of Griffiths Stadium in PotashCorp Park. His father, Hymie, spent some time at early Huskies hockey games, while his uncle can be seen as the skating dog on the men’s hockey jerseys.

Howler hopes to keep his family pride alive while bringing Huskie Athletics fans to their feet.

“I’m a big sports fan and am full of spirit for the U of S Huskies. Oh, and I can walk quite easily on my hind legs, which is a great skill to have.”