FINDING GLOBAL SOLUTIONS
CANADA MAKES UNPRECEDENTED INVESTMENT IN U OF S FOOD AND WATER RESEARCH

U of S researchers are helping to solve global problems related to food and water security. Backed by major grants through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF), the U of S is gaining momentum in feeding a hungry world and leading the way in protecting and predicting water resources.

The U of S is the only Canadian university with two CFREF grants, speaking volumes about our signature areas examining food and water security.

Read about U of S food and water research on Pages 6 and 7.
The summer of Pokémon

LESLEY PORTER (LEVEL 10 POKÉMON GO PLAYER)

Regan Mandryk, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science.

If you spent any time at the university this summer, you probably saw it: people of all ages walking around campus (especially the Bowl), smartphone screens aglow as they threw virtual balls at odd looking monsters in an attempt to catch them all.

Since officially launching in Canada July 17, Pokémon Go spread meteorically, leaping to the top of download charts while engaging millions of gamers around the world and changing the gaming landscape as we know it.

The game, which uses GPS and augmented reality to help users locate, capture and train virtual critters, was of particular interest to Regan Mandryk, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and an expert in human-computer interaction.

“It’s been an interesting summer watching what’s been going on right out my window and seeing how it has changed people’s interactions,” said Mandryk, whose research looks at how video games can be used to promote active lifestyles.

Others have taken notice, too. Given the density of Pokéstops and gyms (see side bar), the U of S has become a hot spot for Pokémon Go players of all levels.

“People come here to play—not just students here are playing—but people come to campus to play at lunch, because it’s a good place to do it: people of all ages walking around campus (especially the Bowl), smartphone screens aglow as they throw virtual balls at odd looking monsters in an attempt to catch them all.

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Indigenous language holds the key to cultural preservation

Historic Wanuskewin Heritage Park was the perfect place for Joan Greyeyes to take the new class of graduate students in Indigenous Language Revitalization for a welcoming ceremony to begin their master’s program this summer.

The Wanuskewin National Historic Site celebrates more than 6,000 years of cultural heritage and history of the Northern Plains Indigenous peoples, pre-dating the building of the Egyptian pyramids.

It is precisely that Indigenous culture and tradition that Greyeyes—the director of First Nations and Métis relations at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S)—is passionate about protecting and promoting. And the key to preserving any culture is ensuring that languages and dialects not only survive, but thrive.

“Language is so important,” said Greyeyes. “You need to have the basis of language and we are very lucky here in Saskatchewan. Our communities still have Indigenous language speakers, but there are other parts of Canada where they have lost that and we never want that to happen in Saskatchewan.

“I’ve always been an advocate for the revitalization of Indigenous languages and when I say that, I don’t mean just the ability to speak the language. When you revitalize the language, it also helps people retain and regain their culture, their customs and their traditions and that’s really important. That’s the basis of language.”

Without a current master’s program of our own at the U of S, Greyeyes and her staff partnered with the University of Victoria (UVic) to bring its master’s in Indigenous Language Revitalization program here this year. UVic’s program is the only one of its kind in the country, something Greyeyes hopes to change in the future.

“That is the ultimate goal here,” said Greyeyes. “We want to see the University of Saskatchewan have its own program and that’s the reason we are doing this. We may not follow everything the same as the University of Victoria when we develop our program, because we may develop a program that is more unique for our territory for the Great Plains, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba … We have so many great programs, but this is another area that we need to build.”

For their part, UVic officials were pleased to partner with the U of S to bring the course to Saskatoon, the first time the program has been offered outside of Victoria.

“I was excited when the University of Saskatchewan first approached us about this possibility,” said Onowa McIvor, director of Indigenous Education at UVic. “Our vision is to work together with our university partner and the group of students who are already leaders in language revitalization who are now training to become ambassadors and visionaries and to truly lead the charge of the language revitalization movement in Saskatchewan.

In the wake of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s findings in 2015, this program is part of a larger movement of language revitalization activities across the country.”

Greyeyes said the program perfectly fits with the U of S commitment to indigenization, to promoting Aboriginal achievement and to implementing the TRC calls to action for post-secondary institutions.

“This is definitely right in line,” said Greyeyes. “And what is so important when we talk about the revitalization of Indigenous languages, we’re talking about the revitalization of Canada’s heritage languages. And when it comes to our Indigenous languages, everyone in Canada should be concerned about that.”

The majority of the 18 students that started this summer’s master’s program at the U of S off-campus English River site are from Saskatchewan, with others coming from Alberta, the Northwest Territories and as far away as California. Greyeyes said this cohort will train a terrific talent pool of homegrown experts who can help the U of S establish its own master’s program in the coming years.

“It will give the University of Saskatchewan a group of First Nations and Métis people who will have a master’s in Indigenous language revitalization who we can hire to become faculty or staff,” said Greyeyes. “We will have a good group of students who can also assist us in developing our program once we get to that point.”

Update on the provost search

On September 30, 2016, Ernie Barber will step down as interim provost and vice-president academic.

“Ernie Barber stepped into the interim position in July 2014 and has gone above and beyond in his service to his role and to the institution,” said Peter Stoicheff, U of S president, adding that Barber will begin an administrative leave.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2016, Stoicheff said Michael Atkinson, professor, Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, will assume the role of interim provost and vice-president academic.

“Michael, too, like Ernie, has an exceptional record of service to the U of S. I am confident that he will provide exceptional guidance and continuity in the interim provost role as we continue our search,” said Stoicheff, adding that Atkinson first arrived at the U of S in 1997 as the university’s first provost and vice-president academic.

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“I want to offer my deepest gratitude to Ernie for all that he has done for our university, not just in his most recent role as interim provost, but for his unwavering willingness to step into many leadership roles over his long career at the U of S,” the president said.

Since arriving at the U of S in 1981 as a professor in the College of Engineering, Barber has served the university as dean of the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, acting provost and vice-president academic, vice-provost teaching and learning, interim dean of the College of Engineering, managing director of the Global Institute for Food Security and interim provost for a second time.

For further updates on the search for the next provost and vice-president academic, visit usask.ca/leadershipteam/president/provost-search.php.
Federal funding fosters U of S research

JAMES SHEWAGA

From addressing climate change to feeding the world, new federal funding will help the University of Saskatchewan tackle major research projects in a state-of-the-art facility. Plans for the university’s new $63-million Collaborative Science Research Building were unveiled on Aug. 19, bolstered by a $30-million grant from the Government of Canada. U of S President Peter Stoicheff said the federal government’s investment in infrastructure will significantly advance research and training on campus and across the province and country.

“It will spur innovative and collaborative research to help Canada address climate change and global challenges in food, water and energy security,” said Stoicheff. “Global problems like these are far too big for individual scientists to tackle working in individual disciplines.” Stoicheff noted that the research building project will also create 600 construction jobs, $67 million in economic impact for Saskatchewan and $127 million in impact for Canada.

“This is a really important point: Where big science is headed and federal programs like the Canada First Research Excellence Fund recognize this, is multi-disciplinary teams of researchers working closely together, bringing a variety of perspectives to bear on the big questions that affect our society, our environment and our quality of life.” Stoicheff noted that the research building project will also create 600 construction jobs, $67 million in economic impact for Saskatchewan and $127 million in impact for Canada.

“This new building, with its rooftop greenhouses and specially equipped labs, will ultimately be home to researchers working together from diverse areas such as agriculture, biology, environmental sciences and food and water security, creating a paradigm shift in how we do research,” he said.

The U of S received $30.1 million from the federal Post-Secondary Institutions Strategic Investment Fund for construction of the new research facility—matched by $33 million from the university’s capital renewal and maintenance funds.

Convocation Hall
U of S Campus
1:30 – 2:30 pm:
Climate change discussion
2:30 – 3 pm:
Book signing

A rendering of the Collaborative Science Research Building.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A lot happens at the U of S during the weeks when On Campus News isn’t published. Here are a few of the top stories from news.usask.ca:

Veterinarians in the North
Students from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine—along with their supervisors and volunteers from across Saskatchewan—spent a weekend in La Ronge, Sask., conducting wellness clinics and spaying and neutering pets in the community.

Rio roundup for Huskies’ Olympic connections
The run in Rio has wrapped up for our contingent of University of Saskatchewan Huskies alumni and coaches at the Summer Olympic Games in Brazil.

Debra Pozega Osburn joins U of S leadership team
On July 8, Debra Pozega Osburn was introduced as the new vice-president of university relations, joining the U of S after serving the past six years in a similar position at the University of Alberta (U of A).
Make no mistake, Martin Phillipson loves the law. But the truth is, it wasn’t exactly his first passion.

“Soccer and playing the drums were my two first loves and law was a distant third, but the other two weren’t going to pay the bills with my talent!” said Phillipson, the new dean of the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan.

While he couldn’t make a case for a career as an athlete or as a musician, the verdict is certainly in on Phillipson’s commitment to the classroom and enthusiasm for education in a lifetime in law. His talent for teaching and love of lecturing has taken him around the world and back to the place where it all began, some 27 years ago at the U of S.

“I am really passionate and enthusiastic about lots of things, but I am really passionate about this place,” said Phillipson, who has held multiple positions since first joining the faculty at the U of S back in 1999, including overseeing the recent organizational restructuring in the College of Medicine.

“The U of S gave me my start and my first teaching experience, so I firmly believe that I owe them pretty much everything and I am just thrilled that I get the chance to help the university. And hopefully that passion comes across with the students and faculty and others, because it is a fantastic law school and I couldn’t be happier.”

Phillipson’s association with the U of S College of Law began in 1989 when he first came to Canada as a graduate student. So how did a young man from northern England find his way to the Paris of the Prairies?

“It’s an interesting story,” he said. “We had a high school geography teacher who was obsessed with the Canadian Prairies and we studied Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, so I knew where it was. And then my (course) advisor said we sent a guy to do a grad degree in Saskatchewan and he just raved about the place. So I applied and the U of S came up with a generous scholarship for me and I haven’t looked back since.”

Phillipson grew up in the historic English city of Newcastle—home of beloved British soccer star Alan Shearer—where his love of the beautiful game began at an early age and continues to this day.

“In England it’s genetic. I think I started playing soccer when I was four, so it has been 44 years,” he said. “I still play on a men’s masters team in town. We are old and slow and a little rounder these days, but it is still fun and still a game that I love.”

Newcastle is also home to the likes of noted musicians Sting, Mark Knopfler of Dire Straits and Brian Johnson of AC/DC, fostering Phillipson’s early fascination with rock and roll and playing the drums. Hearing Canadian classic rock legends Rush play The Spirit of Radio—on the radio, of course—37 years ago also began a lifelong fascination with his favourite band that he has seen play live 17 times on both sides of the ocean.

“They were the perfect combination of rock and musical talent and complexity and intelligent lyrics,” he said.

“What I really admire the most is they have never compromised. They just play the music that they want to play. They stayed true to their principles and never followed fashion or anything and just worked really hard … and those are all things law students can learn from.”

From Australia to New Zealand to Canada—including a faculty position at historic Osgoode Hall in Toronto before returning to Saskatoon—Phillipson has taught at some of the most prestigious law schools in the world. But make no mistake, it’s family first for Phillipson—spending time with his wife and three children—and he has always made sure to balance his love for law with a wide variety of outside interests.

“Law school is very intense and it is high pressure and you need...
A thirst for solutions
Federal funding gives major boost to U of S-led water research

KRIS FOSTER

On Sept. 6, the Government of Canada announced that U of S researchers were successful in their bid for funding through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) to the tune of $77.8 million—the largest federal research grant ever awarded to the university. Further contributions from international partners, industry, the U of S, and its three partner universities—the University of Waterloo, McMaster University and Wilfrid Laurier University—bring the project budget to $143.7 million, making it the largest university-led water research program in the world.

“This unprecedented investment will take our water research to new levels of national and global leadership, while providing exciting opportunities for our faculty and students in a wide range of disciplines,” said Karen Chad, vice-president research. “It is a tremendous testament to the outstanding talent in our research community that we have won two CFREFs—the only university in the country to achieve this.”

The U of S-led water research network will bring together more than 380 Canadian university researchers at 18 universities, 19 federal and provincial agencies, seven Indigenous communities and governments, 39 industrial collaborators, 15 non-governmental agencies, and 45 international research institutes. It will engage international institutions such as UNESCO, the World Climate Research Program and Future Earth, to develop the tools, computer simulations and governance models to mitigate water disasters, protect the environment and take advantage of economic opportunities.

“No institution nationally or internationally has assembled such a large-scale and multi-disciplinary water research initiative of this kind,” said Howard Wheater, Canada Excellence Research Chair in Water Security and director of the U of S Global Institute for Water Security (GIWS), who will lead the CFREF-funded “Global Water Futures” program.

John Pomeroy, Canada Research Chair in Water Resources and Climate Change.

On August 29, the U of S marked the official launch of its unique Plant Phenotyping and Imaging Research Centre (P2IRC) with an international symposium and demonstration of new drone technology to be used in novel crop development approaches.

The creation of the P2IRC stems from a $37.2-million award over seven years from the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF) for the innovative research program “Designing Crops for Global Food Security.”

For more information, visit P2IRC.usask.ca

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Solving food issues in the Arctic
Wild food could help solve food insecurity in the North

Across the Arctic there is a food crisis. The hope of getting anything fresh is remote. If a shipment of food from the South is delayed, food prices steadily rise day after day—a can of tuna can sell for as much as eight dollars. For all the beauty found in the Arctic, the food crisis certainly paints an ugly picture.

“For me, as a visiting researcher this is an inconvenience but these conditions are tragic for northern residents who have become increasingly food insecure,” said David Natcher, professor in the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics.

Because of cost, quality or availability, “it is nearly impossible for northerners to purchase a healthy food basket from commercial outlets,” said Natcher, a research chair at the Global Institute for Food Security. “When Inuit elders are forced to scavenge in the Iqaluit dump, you know there is a problem.”

A PLATE FULL OF PROBLEMS

Food insecurity in the North is an issue Natcher has been looking at for a number of years. Back in 2014, he was part of an expert panel commissioned through Health Canada, which explored the issues of food security to determine the scope of the problem in the North.

Natcher said the panel’s report revealed a dire situation.

“Some of the starker findings include that Aboriginal households in Canada are considered food insecure.”

The Inuit population in Nunavut has the highest food insecurity rate for any Aboriginal population in a developed country—90 per cent of Inuit children regularly going an entire day without eating, Natcher said.

“The health implications stemming from these conditions include increased rates in anaemia and delayed physical and social development, high prevalence of diabetes, and increasing rates of obesity.”

The report also noted that access to wild foods by Aboriginal peoples can help in significant ways to mitigate these conditions, while providing for the nutritional, social and psychological needs of the Indigenous population.

“We found that those households that have regular access to wild foods are significantly less vulnerable to food insecurity and health related illness. Unfortunately, Aboriginal access to wild foods is not being achieved by all households in the North,” he said.

There are myriad reasons for this, including changing dietary preferences within Aboriginal populations, changes in the physical environment, cost and limited household incomes, changing employment patterns, resource extraction, and climate change.

“While the factors limiting Aboriginal access to wild foods are complex and don’t have simplistic causation, Canada has the resources to fix this problem... But it will take political, public and local will to make the positive changes that are necessary.”

INTO THE WILD

Natcher believes the commercialization of wild food represents a partial solution to food insecurity in the North.

More attention needs to be paid to the localization of country food such as caribou, seal, char, duck, muskox and other northern agriculture, he said. “This could lessen reliance on food from the South,” which is a big part of the food insecurity problem in the North to begin with.

In March 2016, Natcher was asked by the Arctic Council–Sustainable Development Working Group to lead an international research project on the opportunities and constraints to the commercialization of wild foods in the Arctic.

The project will assess the
Water challenges being addressed

Howard Wheater, CERC in Water Security.

FROM PAGE 6

is becoming more difficult every year due to changing climate and an expanding economy ever-more reliant on water. Half the world’s population and all of Canada depend on water from cold regions.

“Think areas that are covered by snow and ice for part or all of the year,” explained Pomeroy. “These areas are under more stress than ever before.”

Canada is witnessing unprecedented flood, drought and poor water quality incidents. “From Confederation (1867) to 2000, flood damages cost about $1 billion in total, and since 2000, they are costing about $1 billion annually,” he said.

“Drought, forest fires and floods in Western Canada are increasingly frequent and severe,” he said, pointing to exceptionally severe forest fires, low river flows and high temperatures in the Prairie provinces that made rivers “so warm and low in 2015 that trout were dying.”

But Canadian water challenges go beyond floods, fires and droughts. “Problems of excessive nutrients and algae growth in Lake Erie have returned and have spread to Lake Winnipeg and other large water bodies that supply our drinking water, industry and fisheries,” Pomeroy said. “The oil spill on the North Saskatchewan River this summer, poor water reservoir quality in Ontario due to exceptional heat, and endemic boil water advisories and toxicity problems in many First Nations drinking waters show how vulnerable our water supplies are.

“We are measuring record melting of glaciers this year,” he said. “Glaciers in the Rockies are losing two metres of ice per month compared to last year when it was five metres all summer, or 40 years ago when many glaciers were not in rapid retreat.”

He said the research will be critical for Canada and in global cold regions such as the Himalayas, Andes and Alps.

“We are developing the science, technology and policy tools for measuring, forecasting, managing and protecting water in cold regions,” he said.

“Already we are developing new scientific instruments to measure snow, ice and water and deploying these on watershed observatories. And we are showing how water equity can be implemented between rich upstream jurisdictions and less powerful downstream water users, and how communities can be empowered by water knowledge—these concepts and devices can be exported to the world.”

The research will help nations, communities and industries make informed decisions in a changing climate to better safeguard the environment. “New simulation models and policy tools will enable communities to predict the timing, extent and severity of extreme events and suggest how they can reduce their risks,” he said.

“When this project is done in seven years, we will have designed and helped to implement a national water system to measure and forecast floods, droughts, water quality and water-related health problems and we will have shown how water governance can be improved and informed by a new comprehensive understanding of water,” said Pomeroy.

“This program will help to vastly improve Canada’s source water protection and will better predict where water will be, how much will be there and how safe it is,” he said, adding the program will build on relationships with Aboriginal communities in Canada’s North and along the major rivers and lakes to help solve the exceptional water challenges in those areas.

“Canada has long been known as the water country, and now we will be known as the water solutions country. That’s exactly what we want to be.”

For more information, visit usask.ca/gwf.

Setting the table for sustainability

FROM PAGE 7

potential for increased production and added value of food from the Arctic, with the overarching aim of improving food security and enhancing the social and economic conditions of communities in the North.

“The top priorities of this project are food security and local economic development,” said Natcher. “At the end of three years we hope to have a plan in place that will lead to more sustainable and culturally appropriate food systems for northern communities that help to lessen their reliance on food from the South.”

Natcher, a cultural anthropologist by training, will collaborate with colleagues in the Colleges of Agriculture and Bioresources, Law, and the Edwards School of Business to address these complex challenges from a multidisciplinary perspective.

“Food producers in the Arctic regions are often faced with challenging environmental conditions, poor or costly infrastructure, limited entrepreneurial capacity, and long distances to export markets. Climate change is also creating additional uncertainties for commercial and wild food production systems,” said Natcher.

FULL MEAL DEAL

Natcher believes that this project could partly address issues of food insecurity, and also bolster local economic development in some northern communities. “Once we can enhance food production in the North for the North, then we can look at creating links for North to South food production.”

However, Natcher said the group is aware how culture can affect the project’s success and will pay special attention to the unique situations and priorities in different regions of the Arctic.

“It will be necessary to consider whether new and commercially based food-producing markets are compatible with the cultural values of northern Indigenous peoples,” he said. “If they are not, commercial opportunities stand little chance of success—regardless of market demand. This can’t be another project where solutions are devised in the South and imposed in the North.”

Natcher acknowledged that the idea of commercializing wild foods in the Arctic is not new. Others have recognized the potential for making wild foods more readily available in northern commercial outlets. However, Natcher noted that a limitation of these past efforts has been the scale at which the issue has been addressed.

What sets this project apart, he said, “is the level of involvement from the local to the international levels.” This includes all major Arctic Indigenous Peoples’ organizations—Inuit Circumpolar Council, Gwich’in Council International, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Saami Council, Aleut International Association and Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North—and all Arctic member states—Canada, United States, Russia, Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Iceland.

Through this level of involvement Natcher believes that the commercialization of wild foods can help to overcome the serious conditions that many northerners experience in gaining access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate foods.

The project is expected to be finished by March 2019. ■
Kathleen Bilodeau wants students’ first day of university to be magical, figuratively and literally.

“It is their first experience of the university,” said Bilodeau, the events officer in Student Recruitment who worked with a team to plan student activities at Orientation. “You want it to be something exciting and you want them to continue to go to the events that we hold on campus, whether it be in their third or fourth year.”

That’s why Bilodeau hired a magician to spread a little cheer during the university’s annual event to welcome new students to campus.

While there has been a magician at Orientation before, “it was more a production, from what I gathered,” she explained. “It was on a stage, so it was a little bit different.”

The magician hired this time around, Andrew Kinakin, specializes in up-close magic, “so he’ll walk around the check-in line while students are standing there. He can make conversation and show them some real cool tricks up close.”

The magician was just one of the draws for another exciting Orientation, which also included college information sessions, guest speakers, a visit from the U of S Cheer Team, a noon-hour performance from the Glee Club, sign-making for the Huskie football game, a selfie tour (pinpointing notable campus landmarks) and a photo booth. And of course, it wouldn’t be a tried-and-true student event without prizes and swag.

With her first Orientation under her belt, Bilodeau—who graduated from the College of Kinesiology this past spring—is already thinking about next year. Student feedback will play a part in this.

“This year we’re going to do some assessment and take student feedback into consideration for next year,” she said.

Bilodeau admits that planning and facilitating an event so large with so many stakeholders can be stressful, but like most things in life, it is all worth it.

“The best part is definitely seeing the outcome of it, to see how it all comes together,” she said. “It’s a lot of work, especially during summer—people are on holidays—but it happens. It works.”
WIN, WIN, WIN. When local hosts hold events in Saskatoon, everyone wins.

This year, meet up at HOME. Showcase your city with the Tourism Saskatoon Ambassador Program.

Be a host to the best in your industry and show the world what makes Saskatoon a spectacular destination for conferences and trade shows big and small. With the Ambassador Program, Tourism Saskatoon makes it easy to host your industry’s next event.

BECOME A LOCAL AMBASSADOR

What is a Local Ambassador?
An ambassador is a promoter of Saskatoon, someone who is enthusiastic about bidding for and hosting a conference in our city.

Why become a Local Ambassador?
- Showcase regional advancements, achievements and expertise to the world.
- Raise your profile locally, nationally and internationally.
- Gain recognition for your efforts by the local community, organisations and government.
- Create public awareness for your field of expertise.
- Potential to generate income for your research, department and/or association.
- Attract leaders in your field to your city.
- Assist in creating jobs in the region through direct and indirect required services.

How Tourism Saskatoon supports Local Ambassadors: (FREE OF CHARGE)

Bid Assistance
- Assist in preparing a comprehensive bid document including letters of support.
- Provide incentives to qualified events.

Convention Planning
- Contact hotels and venues regarding price and availability.
- Provide funding for administration support if required.
- Fund and coordinate site visits for key decision makers.
- Assist with introductions to Professional Conference Organisers (PCOs).
- Provide guidance for funding options to help support your conference.

Marketing support
- Provide promotional materials and support towards the marketing of your conference.
- Attend the prior year conference to generate delegate interest.

Does the Ambassador Program sound like something you want to be a part of?

When local hosts hold events in Saskatoon, everyone wins
Hosting an event in Saskatoon benefits the local economy, bringing additional exposure of our city as not only a business destination, but a center of excellence.
Providing services for students with disabilities

Kris Foster

More students with self-identified disabilities are attending the U of S this year than ever before.

Ensuring those students are on a level academic playing field falls to the Disability Services for Students (DSS) unit, explained Maxine Kinakin, manager and associate registrar (accommodation).

“Our role is to assist the U of S in meeting Saskatchewan Human Rights legislation to accommodate people with disabilities,” said Kinakin, adding that DSS has been at the U of S for about 20 years and has seen student registration increase year after year.

“More than 1,500 students have registered with DSS for the upcoming academic year,” said Kinakin, who has been with DSS for 15 years, 14 as manager. “Students are in all years, all colleges and all programs.”

Other than the increase in the number of students registering through DSS—from 2011 to 2016 there has been a 105 per cent overall increase in students registering for accommodation—one of the biggest changes Kinakin has witnessed in her time at the U of S is a change you can’t actually see.

“Of that total number of students, about 70 per cent have invisible or hidden disabilities, like mental illness, a learning disability or attention deficit disorder,” she explained, adding that the other 30 per cent have visible disabilities, such as physical disabilities.

So Kinakin and her staff of 10—featuring a range of skills from clinical psychology, social work and special education—meet with disabled students to assess their medical documentation and determine what kind of individual accommodations are required to support his or her success.

DSS does not share a students’ disability because “the diagnosis doesn’t matter as much as the functional limitations caused by the disability because we can implement an accommodation plan that levels the playing field,” said Kinakin.

Most common accommodations, she continued, include allowing more time to write exams, quiet space for writing exams, a reader or scribe during an exam, volunteer note taker, extensions on assignments, or some leeway for absenteeism.

“Some students need to miss class because of dialysis, radiation or medical appointments. In these cases, we need to adjust attendance requirements,” she said.

Kinakin is clear, however, that this is not an advantage for disabled students.

“It is important to recognize that we work with students who have gotten into university on academic merit. Without accommodation, these students couldn’t accurately reflect their abilities and knowledge.”

More than ever before, students are being “diagnosed and treated as they move through elementary and high school. We see these plans and then adapt them for the post-secondary environment.”

DSS also develops accommodation plans for clinical settings in health science disciplines.

“We work with a team that looks at the essential skills and requirements of the profession and what accommodations would benefit the students. This shows the students what’s possible and how they can be accommodated to succeed,” she said.

One other major change Kinakin has witnessed in her time at the U of S is that there is more understanding of disabilities and the need to accommodate students.

“We work with faculty and staff so they understand this. Students don’t feel like they have to hide their disabilities because there is an understanding and less of a stigma,” Kinakin said.

For Kinakin, the results speak volumes of the work of DSS. “Every year, disabled students graduate from every college. That’s a level playing field.”

ConnectionPoint launches travel and expense services

Jennifer Robertson

On August 29, ConnectionPoint officially opened its doors, phone lines, email and online resources, an effort that has been almost two years in the making at the U of S.

“I’ve reflected a lot in the past month on what it has taken to get here,” said Wade Epp, director of service design and delivery. “This is a huge milestone in moving forward the work that started as one of eight institutional priorities launched in September 2014 to focus on mission.”

Based on data collected over a one-year period—including a survey of the tasks administrative staff spend time on, a satisfaction survey and countless conversations with groups across campus—ConnectionPoint was developed as a new, central model for delivering administrative services.

“The satisfaction survey really helped guide our focus on where to start,” said Epp, adding that initial services will focus on travel and expense support, general inquiries, and research support.

Later this fall, ConnectionPoint will launch additional services within financial services, human resources and research services, Epp said.

Within the data collected, respondents overwhelmingly indicated a need for better communication of policies and procedures. To address this need, an online resource called Knowledge Base was created within the ConnectionPoint channel in PAWS to house information important to all employees, such as benefits and compensation, payroll, and time away from work.

Epp said the online information is “one of the fundamental elements to what we are trying to achieve in terms of great service for our university community. I would describe it as the Google of the university, providing employees the ability to search for and access information when it’s needed. That said, the content links back to staff at ConnectionPoint if anyone has a question or needs assistance.”

ConnectionPoint staff are currently set up in temporary space in the Health Sciences Building A120 for in-person support, and all initial services are fully supported through telephone, online, email and in-person meetings. In late 2016, ConnectionPoint will move to a permanent, more central location in the Arts Building.

Over the next few years, ConnectionPoint will explore the way seven other administrative functions are delivered at the university: university relations, facilities management, financial services, human resources, information technology, research services and student services. The intent of a phased roll out is to ensure all the kinks are worked out before additional services are added.

“U15 research intensive universities require excellent administrative services that are aligned to support and facilitate its academic mission,” said Epp. “I’m confident this new way of delivering administrative support at the university will help take us to the next level.”

Jennifer Robertson is a communications specialist in the Office of the Vice-President Finance and Resources
Please join us for rethink research! Over two days, you will discover multiple opportunities to learn from and interact with respected research leaders within and beyond the social sciences. Learn about cutting edge research programs and research methods, forge new connections with colleagues, and intensify your research!

**SSRL RESEARCH INTENSIFICATION SERIES**

**Wednesday, October 5**

8:30 – 8:35 am  **Opening Remarks**  
*Jack Gray, Vice-Dean Research, Scholarly and Artistic Work, College of Arts and Science*

8:35 – 9:35 am  **Considering the Landscape of Indigenous Research**  
*Margaret Kovach, University of Saskatchewan*  
Panelists: Ken Coates (Public Policy), Priscilla Settee (Indigenous Studies), Winona Wheeler (Indigenous Studies)

9:35 – 10:35 am  **Mapping for Change: The Application of the Participatory Geoweb to Communicate the Experiences of Vulnerable Populations**  
*Jon Corbett, University of British Columbia Okanagan*  
Panelists: Scott Bell (Geography & Planning), Rachel Engler-Stringer (Community Health and Epidemiology), Stephan Milosavljevic (Physical Therapy)

10:35 – 11:35 am  **Predicting Success: Discrete Event Simulation in Healthcare Delivery**  
*Theodore Eugene Day, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia*  
Panelists: Thomas Rotter (Pharmacy and Nutrition), Kevin Stanley (Computer Science), Sonia Vanderby (Mechanical Engineering)

12:30 – 1:30 pm  **Networked: The Intersection of Social Networks, the Far-Flung Personalized Internet, and the Mobile Revolution**  
*Barry Wellman, University of Toronto and NetLab Network*  
Panelists: Harley Dickinson (Sociology), Peter Phillips (Public Policy), Louise Racine (Nursing)

1:30 – 2:30 pm  **Nonresponse Bias: Three Paradoxes**  
*Roger Tourangeau, Westat*  
Panelists: Michael Atkinson (Public Policy), Brenna Bath (Physical Therapy), Lachlan McWilliams (Psychology)

2:30 – 3:30 pm  **‘Mixed Methods’ Research in Psychology: History, Methodology, and Contemporary Applications**  
*Frederick J. Wertz, Fordham University*  
Panelists: Beth Horsburgh (Nursing), Linda McMullen (Psychology), Amin Mousavi (Education)

3:30 – 4:30 pm  **Applied Qualitative Methodology: Why Conventional Methods Don’t Serve the Purpose**  
*Sally Thorne, University of British Columbia*  
Panelists: Donna Goodridge (Medicine), Clinton Westman (Archaeology & Anthropology), Laura Wright (Sociology)

**Thursday, October 6**

9 am – noon  **How to Write and Edit Real Good: Practical Tips for Students and Scholars**  
*Barry Wellman, University of Toronto and NetLab Network*

9 am – noon  **Introduction to Interpretive Description: Qualitative Research for the Applied Practice Disciplines**  
*Sally Thorne, University of British Columbia*

9:30 am – noon  **Engaging with the Participatory Geoweb: Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities of Volunteered Geographic Information**  
*Jon Corbett, University of British Columbia Okanagan*

1:30 – 4:30 pm  **Qualitative Methods for Science Studies**  
*Frederick J. Wertz, Fordham University*

1:30 – 4 pm  **Workshop on Nonresponse**  
*Roger Tourangeau, Westat*

1:30 – 4 pm  **Agent-Based Modeling for Health Care Systems – Simulated Systems, Real Results**  
*Theodore Eugene Day, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia*

2 – 4 pm  **Aspects and Qualities of Indigenous Methodologies**  
*Margaret Kovach, University of Saskatchewan*

**Oct. 5 – 6, 2016**

Visit ssrl.usask.ca/events to learn more.
Building on a banner year for Huskies

It was a banner year for Huskie Athletics at the University of Saskatchewan in 2015-16, with plenty of pennants soon to be raised to the rafters.

So what do you do for an encore? “There certainly is a level of excitement and anticipation that is probably higher than a normal fall start-up, given the success of our programs last year,” said Huskies athletic director Basil Hughton. “There are a lot of things to be excited about.”

Indeed.

Huskies teams kick off the 2016-17 athletic season riding a wave of success from 2015-16 that included four Canada West conference championship teams in women’s basketball, men’s hockey, men’s track and field and men’s wrestling. The U of S men’s hockey team advanced all the way to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national semifinals before dropping a heartbreaking triple overtime decision, while the Huskie women’s basketball team—led by longtime coach Lisa Thomaidis—capped a dream season by capturing its first national championship.

“I think it’s a first for our program to have won four Canada West banners and of course the one CIS banner, and we’re extremely proud of all of them,” said Hughton. “It’s obviously a great way to reflect on last year and to move us into this year.”

Basking in the Canadian sports spotlight on nationally televised broadcasts helped raise the profile of the U of S across the country and resulted in a recruiting boost for Huskie Athletics programs.

“It’s priceless promotion, that’s exactly what it is, for our teams to be at national championships,” said Hughton. “Those are promotional opportunities for our university that are second to none …

“Success breeds success and I think that successful teams probably lend themselves to easier recruiting opportunities. Very simply, potential recruits are more aware of Huskie Athletics and the University of Saskatchewan because of the successes that our programs have.”

The recent Rio Olympics also offered more positive profile for the U of S, with a number of former Huskie athletes playing in prime time, and Thomaidis taking Canada’s women’s basketball team all the way to the quarter-finals.

“I’m extremely proud of that,” said Hughton. “To watch our former athletes, and obviously Lisa coach the women’s basketball team, is incredible … It’s a credit to them for what they have done to get themselves to the penultimate place in sport. It’s awesome.”

There are likely more future Olympians in this season’s crop of Huskie student-athletes, with approximately 400 competing on 15 teams in basketball, cross-country, football, hockey, soccer, track and field, volleyball and wrestling. From men’s hockey to women’s soccer, a number of Huskie teams are projected to be conference contenders battling for berths in nationals again this year.

“We’re optimistic that we’ve got a very strong recruiting class and I think all of our coaches are looking forward to a great year,” said Hughton, noting that one of the highlights of the upcoming season will be the Huskies hosting the 2017 Canada West wrestling championships on Feb. 10-11. “We’re optimistic about a number of our programs. It’s always an exciting time.”

Huskies football and men’s soccer have already kicked off their seasons, with women’s soccer starting its schedule this weekend and U of S cross-country runners soon to follow. Huskie hockey, volleyball and wrestling teams begin conference play in October, followed by basketball in November and indoor track and field in January.

While the Huskie teams prepare to pursue more titles and trophies, and awards and accolades, Hughton points out that the focus for U of S student-athletes is always to balance both athletic and academic achievement.

Last fall, the university honoured 183 Huskies—more than 40 per cent of all student-athletes, trainers and managers at the U of S—for earning grade point averages of better than 74.5 per cent while completing full course loads of 24 credit units per session. In addition, 77 Huskies also named CIS Academic All-Canadians for posting averages of better than 80 per cent.

“It certainly is a source of pride to know that these young men and women are students first, working towards a degree, and with their athletic prowess are playing a sport that they love at a very high level,” said Hughton. “We always have a strong academic success rate, so that’s a sense of pride for a fellow like me, a former high school principal, who looks at the academics as a very important piece of what we do and to make sure that all of our athletes do their very best in the classroom, too.”

September 16, 2016

Join the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association for our official centennial launch at Rally Alley at 5:30 pm.

Family-friendly events are planned throughout the day and it's all capped off with the Huskies homecoming football game versus the Calgary Dinos at Griffith Stadium at PotashCorp Park at 7 pm.

Visit alumni.usask.ca/centennial for more information on the day’s events.
COMING EVENTS

SEMINARS / LECTURES

Sept. 14, 3:30–4:30 pm, Convocation Hall.
Inaugural speaker Günter Blosch of the Vienna University of Technology presents “Breakthroughs in Flood Research.” The Global Institute for Water Security and the School of Environment and Sustainability are proud to present a weekly seminar series featuring top water experts from around the world. These lectures are free and open to the public. All lectures will be held on Wednesdays in Convocation Hall at 3:30 pm unless otherwise stated. For more information visit usask.ca/water/lecture-series.php.

Climate change: a conversation with David Suzuki
Sept. 19, 1:30–3:30 pm, Convocation Hall.
David Suzuki presents a discussion on climate change with an introduction by Ian Mauro of the University of Winnipeg. Book signing will take place after the presentation. To learn about additional presentations by David Suzuki at The Word on the Street Saskatoon on Sunday, Sept. 18, visit The Word on the Street website at thewordonthestreets.ca.

Department of Psychology’s monthly colloquium series
Sept. 29, 3–4 pm, Arts 153. Professor Carla Krachun presents: “Searching for the origins of mind in our closest primate cousins.” The distinctiveness of the human mind may lie in our ability to reflect upon and respond to the inner mental world. For more information, please contact Peter Grant at 306-966-6675 or via e-mail: peter.grant@usask.ca.

Rethink Research: U of S Research Intensification Series
Oct. 5–6, various locations around U of S campus. Discover multiple opportunities to learn from and interact with respected international research leaders within and beyond the social sciences. Learn about cutting-edge research programs and research methods, forge new connections with colleagues and intensify your research! All lectures and workshops are free. Registration is not required for Oct. 5 lectures, but is required for all Oct. 6 workshops. View event details and at srl.usask.ca/events.php.

THE ARTS

The Artwork of Robert Newton Hurley
Daily until Oct. 28, Link Gallery, Murray Library. This exhibit showcases the vast collection of materials owned by University Archives and Special Collections that were created by the talented Saskatchewan artist Robert Newton Hurley. To learn more about this British-born, Saskatchewan-made artist, check out the exhibit or visit hurley.library.usask.ca.

Sisters United: An exhibit on women’s suffrage in Saskatchewan
Daily until March 14, 2017, 9 am–8 pm, Daily until Oct. 28, Link Gallery, Murray Library. This exhibit showcases the vast collection of materials owned by University Archives and Special Collections that were created by the talented Saskatchewan artist Robert Newton Hurley. To learn more about this British-born, Saskatchewan-made artist, check out the exhibit or visit hurley.library.usask.ca.

COURSES / WORKSHOPS

Fall Conversational Language Classes
For more information, visit learnlanguages.usask.ca or call 306-966-4535 or 5539.

Multilingual Conversational Language Classes from Sept. 19–Nov. 28:
• French levels 1-8: $220 (GST exempt)
• Spanish levels 1-8: $231 (GST included)
• Japanese levels 1 and 2 $231 (GST included)
• Japanese for the Traveller $257.25 (Manual and GST included)
• German levels 1, 2 and 6 $231 (GST included)
• Italian levels 1-4 $231 (GST included)
• Portuguese level 1 $231 (GST included)
• Cree level 1 $241.50 (Manual and GST included)

Textbooks and workbooks are extra unless otherwise indicated.

Spanish Weekender for Beginners Workshop
Oct. 14-16; ideal for the traveller who has little or no Spanish-speaking skills, 20 hours over 2.5 days, cost: $341.25. Manual, Sat. and Sun. lunch included. GST exempt. Class limited to 14 participants.

MISCELLANY

Library master plan consultation
Over the next decade, the University Library must revitalize its physical spaces and services to meet the changing information landscape. Guiding these changes will be a master plan which is being developed over the coming months with the aim of being completed in Dec. 2016. The entire U of S community is invited to contribute feedback to the University Library master plan. The following come-and-go sessions are open to all members of the U of S community. Please drop-in at any time during one of the upcoming sessions to learn more about the project and to share your feedback.
• Sept. 15, 10 am–noon (near the Tim Hortons in Geology by the walkway to Agriculture)
• Sept. 15, 2:30–4:30 pm (bottom of the ramp in Arts Building)
• Sept. 20, 10 am–noon (Upper Place Riel Student Centre, North Concourse)
• Sept. 20, 2:30–4:30 pm (PAC 240)
• Sept. 21, 10 am–noon (Health Science E-Wing atrium)
• Sept. 21, 2:30–4:30 pm (Agriculture building atrium)
• Sept. 29, 2–4 pm (Murray Library, ground floor)

To submit your feedback online, visit library.usask.ca/libraryplanning.

9th Annual KinSpin... Run, Walk and Roll
Sept. 17, 10 am, The Bowl. The College of Kinesiology is pleased to present our ninth annual KinSpin... Run, Walk and Roll. The goal is to spread our message of physical activity, sport and healthy living to the entire campus community and greater Saskatoon region and to draw them into an event that is engaging, fun, inclusive and benefits a great cause. 100 per cent of the proceeds from the event are directed to the special needs programs within Recreation Services at the College of Kinesiology. For more information or to register, visit donate.usask.ca/online/kinspin.php.

Fall Silver Tea and Membership Registration
Sept. 18, 2–3:30 pm, St. Andrew’s College Lounge, 1121 College Drive. The University of Saskatchewan Women is holding its Fall Silver Tea and Membership Registration. This is an opportunity to learn more about the social activities enjoyed by this association of present, former and retired women faculty and spouses or partners of other faculty members. Cost is $15 per year. New members always welcome.

Corporate Administration and Purchasing Services – A Presentation on the Contracting Process at the University
Oct. 4 and Oct. 13, 9–11 am, C280 Peter MacKinnon. If your responsibilities include managing contracts with outside parties, including having contracts signed on behalf of the University, this presentation is for you. Two sessions will be offered to assist you with:
• Learning the basics about who can sign a contract;
• Learning about the different units across campus that process contracts (Purchasing, Research Services, Corporate Administration) and what types of contracts each unit can assist you with;
• Identifying situations where you may need the assistance of these units;
• Learning what to do with contracts, Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs), Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), Letters of Intent (LOIs) and other similar documents;
• The process for reviewing and signing contracts in each unit.

For more information, contact shelby.sluth@usask.ca or call 306-966-4355 or 5539.

School of Public Health Poster Fair
Oct. 28, 12:30–3:30 pm, Health Sciences D Wing Atrium. The School of Public Health will host its annual poster fair showcasing its thesis student’s research and the MPH student practicum projects undertaken in 2016. Visitors are welcome.

Next OCN: Friday, Oct. 14
Deadline: Thursday, Oct. 4
Game centred on activity

that,” said Mandryk, who herself has reached level 20 in the game.
But why has Pokémon Go become a cultural phenomenon in such a short span of time? Mandryk believes it is the combination of two important factors.

“The technology matured to a place where they could build something that’s pretty robust and easy to access for people,” she said. That, along with the domain of the game itself, resulted in a hit. “Pokémon, which has a lot of nostalgia, is a really good match to the kinds of things you’re doing in the game are a good match to the kinds of things you would expect in a Pokémon-based game.”

The game has experienced some backlash, with concerns ranging from privacy and data access to users playing the game while driving or trespassing onto private property to catch the more elusive creatures. However, given the game’s exponential growth, Mandryk expects to see more games using the augmented reality and location-based activities.

“Pokémon’s been around for 20 years,” she said. “I think there’s a new generation of fans that are experiencing Pokémon through this interaction instead of the (original) trading cards or through the television show.”

She turned her attention to something that perhaps few have taken into consideration: what will become of the game during the brutal winter months, especially in Saskatchewan?

“The first couple of cold days, how much Pokémon Go is happening?” she asked with a laugh. “I’m interested to see what happens in winter.”

Work-life balance key to career success

to have those healthy outlets and those outside passions that put it all in perspective,” said Phillipson, a published author and media commentator, as well as an internationally published researcher in the areas of intellectual property law, biotechnology law and international environmental law. “Law school is very important, but it doesn’t define you. And your success or difficulties in that pursuit doesn’t define you, either. It’s those other communities and interests that you engage in that are what keep you vital and balanced.”

For Phillipson, that includes sports, from soccer to baseball to the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

“I love the Riders because I first arrived in 1989 (when Saskatchewan won its second Grey Cup) so I got hooked on football,” he said. “And my third child was born on November the 25th of 2007, the day the Roughriders won the Grey Cup again. So that’s another day I will never forget. Sitting in RUH (Royal University Hospital) with the Roughriders celebrating the Grey Cup on TV, my baby in one hand and a glass of champagne in the other!”

But it’s not all sports, all the time, for Phillipson. His love of music—from playing his favourite Rush albums to working with the executive of the Saskatoon Jazz Orchestra—is matched by his appetite for creating new culinary delights in the kitchen and his fondness for finding new wines, from Portuguese and Greek to uniquely Canadian grape varieties.

Phillipson is also happy to volunteer his time to help with his kids’ school programs and serve as president of his master’s men’s soccer club, and relishes relaxing with a classic movie featuring the likes of legends Humphrey Bogart, Orson Welles, Cary Grant and Katharine Hepburn.

For Phillipson, work-life balance is truly a way of life and a lesson he hopes to pass on to his students, to see them succeed in both their professional and personal lives.

“Obviously work is very, very important and I am always prepared to put in the hours, but life is about a whole variety of things,” he said. “It’s about friends and family and food and your passions and you’ve got to make sure to pursue your job with the same passion that you apply to other things. I am a firm believer that life is to be enjoyed and it’s these extra pursuits that make you a more rounded person and it’s a way of escaping from the pressures and stresses of everyday life. Life is meant to be lived.”

On that, the case is most certainly closed.
What's your name?
I don't really have a name. However, the museum technician calls me Rexy, which is the name of the major Tyrannosaurus Rex specimen on display at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, of which I am a replica. That Rexy was also featured in the movie Night at the Museum. I can see why—what an attractive dinosaur!

When did you get here?
Well, I've been around for about 66 million years. But I came to this museum in 1986, when the Geology Building and museum were constructed. Since then, I've wowed and greeted close to half a million people—students, staff and museum visitors alike.

Where did you live previously?
My family and I were located throughout the western section of what is now called North America—Saskatchewan, Alberta, Montana, Colorado and South Dakota. I myself am actually a conglomerate of two different skeletal finds, discovered in northern Montana in 1902.

What sorts of shenanigans have you witnessed in your time on campus?
Once, one of my claws went missing. It was returned three years later, a little worse for wear but still usable. I was happy to see it again. Another time, a group of students dressed me up as Mr. T for Halloween.

How do you stay in such great shape?
At about 12 feet high and 40 feet long, the biggest obstacle to looking good is dust. So I'm dusted a few times a year to get rid of any unsightly build-up, and wiped down with Murphy Oil every five years to keep my bones shiny and luminous.

What is your favourite food?
Meat. Back in my prime, I could catch other dinosaurs because I could run at about 16 miles per hour and fit about 500 pounds worth of flesh in my four-foot jaw in one bite. That said, the coffee from the nearby Tim Hortons smells pretty good, too.

What is the best part about being at the U of S?
I love seeing the looks on people's faces when they see me, especially kids.