LEST WE FORGET

In honour of Remembrance Day, we take a look at the university’s long history of service with the Canadian Armed Forces, through a decades-long association with the Canadian Officers Training Corps program.

READ THE FULL STORY ON PAGE 11.
Drafting a framework for an architecture school

HENRYTYE GLAZEBROOK

Saskatchewan has the lowest number of local architects per capita of any province in Canada, with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador.

That may not sound like a pressing issue, but the result is that many new construction projects planned within Saskatchewan are designed by people from Toronto, Calgary and other cities outside the province. And if you ask Colin Ripley, project director for the University of Saskatchewan’s School of Architecture Initiative, this is a big problem.

“This is not a great situation for the province, either economically—with fees going to those firms in Toronto and Calgary—or in terms of identity, as it means that the province is literally being designed by people who don’t live here,” he said.

Ripley, who is also a professor with Ryerson University’s Department of Architectural Science, has been working since 2015 to bring a School of Architecture to the U of S, a program the university has looked at creating since 2008. The process has been slow and methodical—with funding and location the key considerations—but he believes success would mean both stronger educational supports for students as well as similarly positive developments for the province as a whole.

“It’s not so much about standing out as about doing what the U of S should do: supporting the province in its development,” Ripley said. “If there is a School of Architecture in the province, then young people who want to be architects will not need to leave and are more likely to stay after graduation. It will take time, but in a generation we can expect Saskatchewan to have statistics around architects similar to other provinces.”

Ripley said the latest developments include preliminary approval of some of the programming by the College of Graduate and Post-doctoral Studies and the College of Arts and Science. The Academic Programs Committee has also reviewed the plan, reporting to University Council on Oct. 19 that the committee supports the proposal in principal, but needs questions surrounding resources and location answered before recommending council approval.

At that council meeting, provost Tony Vannelli said that he is also supportive of the academic program, adding that the university would look for ways to fund the initiative by ensuring start-up and ongoing operating resources to support this program, without depleting resources from other units.

While support in principal is only the first of many steps required—and indeed university-level approval is still very much in the preliminary stages—Ripley said the school could conceivably launch as early as September 2019, if everything goes smoothly, although he stressed that no official timelines have been determined.

However, Ripley remains hopeful, not only from the show of academic and administrative support, but from what he sees as a cultural shift in the province to produce home-grown design and development of key construction projects that change the face of our communities.

“I think people have come to recognize how valuable architectural thinking can be as the communities think about how to develop, how to make the place better,” he said. “People in Saskatchewan are really connected to the place.”

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:

U of S leads list of research gains

The U of S led the country in research income gains in the annual ranking of research funding for Canadian universities by Research Infosource Inc. The U of S posted an impressive 27.8 per cent increase in research income in the 2016 fiscal year (totalling $215 million), while the national average held steady at 2.2 per cent. The increase moved the U of S up from 13th to 11th place in research funding on the list of Canada’s top 50 research universities.

University launches respiratory centre

With a mandate to improve the quality of life for all Canadians, the U of S launched the new Respiratory Research Centre on Oct. 16 in the College of Medicine. Headed by director Donna Goodridge, the new interdisciplinary initiative will foster innovative respiratory research through the health sciences in partnership with the Saskatoon Health Region, Health Quality Council, and Lung Association of Saskatchewan.

Alberta ending WCVM partnership

The Government of Alberta announced Oct. 12 that it will not be renewing its participation in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine’s interprovincial agreement after 2020. While the loss of $8 million in annual funding will have an impact, WCVM Dean Doug Freeman said it won’t affect the U of S college’s ability to provide professional education and training for students from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and B.C.

Discovery could help clean oilsands

A team of U of S researchers led by biology professor Susan Kaminskyj has discovered a natural strain of fungus that could have the power to clean oil spills and return life to Alberta’s oilsands. The recently published research findings showed that seeds treated with the fungus sprouted in the contaminated coarse tailings found in oilsands, with the discovery having the potential to help clean petrochemical spills and oilsands sites.
When Sean Maw relocated to the University of Saskatchewan, he was searching for a way to bring the community into his work—to step out of the office, away from his desk, and get some hands-on time with the next generation of bright young minds.

And that’s where the U of S Speakers Bureau came in, like a key plucked from the ether to open new doors for Maw.

“I did upwards of 50 of these (talks) in Alberta, when I lived in Calgary,” said Maw, an associate professor with the College of Engineering. “I was looking for a way to link in with the K-12 community on engineering-related topics in the classroom. When the Speakers Bureau appeared, I signed up immediately.”

Maw has since given eight talks as part of the U of S Speakers Bureau, on a wide range of topics, everything from the technology of sports doping to Indigenous watercraft design. The goal, he said, is to showcase to the community some of the exciting research being done at the university, to make it accessible to those just starting on their academic path and to give students a real-life target that they can aim for.

“The Speakers Bureau is a very important outreach program of the university,” he said. “It helps ground us in the community and it helps show the relevance of our work. It also helps inspire and motivate the kids to see what they can do as adults.”

Richards said the idea for the Speakers Bureau came in part from his former post-doctoral advisor, Toddi Steelman, who recommended he run with the idea when he expressed appreciation for a similar program at his old PhD stomping grounds at the University of Victoria.

But when Richards starts talking about his own work in knowledge mobilization—which involves exploring the ways that academic findings, research, data and conclusions can be tangibly put to use—it’s easy to see why the concept of the Speakers Bureau hits so close to home for him.

“The Speakers Bureau is not only an opportunity to directly mobilize the existing knowledge of university experts, but it is also one of many initiatives that can help to train researchers—especially early-career ones like graduate students—as knowledge mobilizers throughout their career,” he said.

“Getting some experience with summarizing your research focus in plain language, targeting it to a public audience, often made up of elementary or high school students, and presenting it in an engaging way to solicit questions and discussions, can change the way you think about the potential social relevance of your work.”
U of S researchers explore sleep clock disruption

LESLEY PORTER

How much can you learn from saliva? One interdisciplinary research team is studying the bodily fluid to investigate the link between oral health and our body’s internal clock.

The husband-and-wife team of Drs. Petros and Silvana Papagerakis are faculty members and professors in the Colleges of Dentistry and Medicine, respectively. Alongside a colleague from the University of Michigan, the team received $460,000 in funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, the first ever award received with principal investigators from the University of Saskatchewan and in the College of Dentistry. This will be used to fabricate a special dental retainer—similar in shape to a teeth-whitening tray—designed to collect saliva samples over a 24-hour period.

From there, the samples are tested for melatonin, the hormone that regulates the body’s sleep-wake cycle—better known as our circadian rhythm. Think of it as the body’s internal clock that signals the brain and other organs when it’s time to go to bed. Other processes, such as cell regeneration, hormone production and brain wave activity, are also linked to our natural timekeeper.

Not surprisingly, a multitude of ailments and afflictions—ranging from cancer, diabetes, lung disorders, schizophrenia, Alzheimer’s, and Down syndrome, to obesity and coronary disease—are all linked to disrupted circadian rhythms.

But what’s causing this? At a macro level, societal changes—ranging from dietary deviations and mental health issues, to irregular work hours and an increase in the use of technology—can trigger circadian disruptions.

“We know that the change in lifestyle has never been so dramatic as it has been in the last while,” said Petros, who also serves as the associate dean of research in the dental college. “But with the device, we can take the patients that have developed larger disruptions, and give them some things they can do to actually reset their clock.”

One particular source of disruption is the blue glow of a smartphone, which has been found to suppress melatonin in humans—a shift that Silvana is studying in oral cancer patients.

“What we’re seeing now are not more ‘traditional’ oral cancer patients,” she said. “It used to be predominantly male, old age, and people that have been drinking or smoking for years. Right now we see a shift to younger and younger patients.”

Another large cause of circadian disruption is irregular work hours. In 2007, the World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) declared shift work that disrupts circadian rhythms as “probably carcinogenic” to humans.

According to IARC epidemiological studies, those engaged in long-term night shifts are exposed to more light and experience sleep activity pattern disruption—both of which are likely to be linked to tumour development.

“We need night shifts—we are always going to need them, as a society,” said Silvana, adding that nearly one-third of the Canadian labour force does not work a regular day shift in industries such as health care, hospitality and transportation. “It’s just giving them the tool and the awareness.”

The team is in the process of patenting the retainer device, and Silvana sees potential in it as a personalized therapeutic tool—possibly linking it to a smartphone to monitor saliva and recommend the optimal time to take medication.

“If you have something that is time dependent, we can conduct the device to release drugs at a given time, or to measure a biomarker,” she said. “Then the biomarker can be linked to your device saying at what level your marker is at that time.”

Additionally, there is interest in the device from local stakeholders.

“We want to use it here in the dental clinic—that’s the goal—and maybe in the sleep clinic,” said Petros. “We’ve also talked to the health region and the hospitals here. They find it very interesting. They both told us that there is an increasing number of medical leaves that are fatigue-related.”

This study is the foundation of a larger initiative on campus towards precision health and technology, led by Petros and Silvana.
Committed to helping others
U of S law student champions Indigenous and women’s rights

As a pageant queen and lawyer-in-training, Siera Bearchell is using her voice to advocate for those who are not always heard.

For the University of Saskatchewan law student, participating in beauty pageants has always been more about a platform for positive speech than the stereotypical glitz, glam, and fake tan.

The first Métis woman to be crowned Miss Universe Canada in 2016, catapulting her onto the world stage, Bearchell has used her pageant success to champion the rights of women and Indigenous peoples through public speaking.

Losing her family home to fire at age 16, spurred a young Bearchell’s passion for advocacy. “I could have gone down a path of self-pity,” she explained. “Instead, I used it as an opportunity to reach out to people.”

She began volunteering with the Canadian Red Cross, choosing to share her own devastating life experience to help others overcome theirs. Shortly after, and wishing to further spread her positive message, she came across the Miss Teen Saskatchewan pageant.

“I didn’t enter the pageant for the typical reasons. There was a glamorous side to it for sure, but for me, it was more a way to see if I could raise my voice a little bit,” she said.

Proudly Métis and Saskatchewanian, hailing from Moose Jaw, Bearchell has never let being from a small community stand in the way of chasing big dreams.

“I’ve always had that pride that you can be from somewhere small and still do great things,” she said.

And winning pageants, including her victory at the 2016 Miss Universe Canada, has given her a golden opportunity to reach out to vulnerable groups on a global scale. A passionate advocate for women and Indigenous youth, Bearchell has done a lot of public speaking to high school-aged women, and has been a keynote speaker at the youth-focussed WE Day in Saskatoon.

En route to her crown, Bearchell dealt with her fair share of criticism. “I could have taken a ‘woe is me’ attitude, but I chose to take the view that I won’t let it hold me back,” she explained.

Answering her critics, she said, “There is beauty beyond size. There is beauty beyond looking a particular way. It’s time to realize that true beauty, self-worth and validation start from within.”

It is this type of message that Bearchell is keen to impart—for women to free themselves of the stigma that they can’t achieve the things they want to, because of what they are, or are not.

“Women need to empower women, and that is the greatest challenge we face,” she said. “As women, we can be hard on ourselves, and on others. We are consumed by criticism, and we need to overcome this, to be kinder to ourselves.”

For all the opportunity and world travel her Miss Universe Canada title has afforded her, Bearchell is ecstatic to be back home in Saskatchewan and returning to school full-time. When asked why she pursued law, Bearchell explained that it seemed like the natural next step in her advocacy journey.

“When you’re in law, whether you’re a practising lawyer or not, you’re an advocate for others,” Bearchell said.

Set to graduate from the College of Law in spring 2018, Bearchell’s commitment to reconciliation, and improving access to justice for Indigenous peoples, has focused her study on Indigenous law.

In 2016, U of S law student Siera Bearchell became the first Métis woman to be crowned Miss Universe Canada.
Digging into the lost city of Alexander the Great

Using ancient, war-scarred elephant bones found in Iraq, a University of Saskatchewan archaeologist has helped to unearth what is believed to be the mysterious lost city of Alexander the Great.

Participating in the excavation of this historical site was nothing less than a once-in-a-lifetime moment for Tina Greenfield, an expert in near eastern archaeology at the Department of Religion and Culture with St. Thomas More College.

Traveling to Iraq earlier this year as part of a heritage protection project launched by the British Museum and funded by their government, Greenfield was part of the team that uncovered the archaeological ruins of Qalatga Darband, a city considered to have been founded under the reign of Alexander the Great more than 2,000 years ago.

Having been brought on to the excavation project as the director of bioarchaeology, Greenfield developed a research program to investigate organic remains found in the deposits, which included animal bones, along with human and plant remains.

“I look at ancient economies to understand how people provisioned and fed the earliest cities and empires,” she said. “Analyzing these bones help tell us what daily life was like in these cities, whether a building was used for cooking, administration, or if it was a dwelling of a high-status occupant.”

Greenfield said these data also contribute to the body of evidence related to the exploits of Alexander the Great, considered by many historians to be one of the most powerful kings of the ancient world.

“Generally, you don’t get data from animal bones that would pinpoint a battle,” she said. “But when I was at the site this spring I found massive bones. I couldn’t figure out what they were at first, but we eventually found out they were elephant bones, which was a great find because we know that in wars at this time they were riding elephants into battle.”

Greenfield said that the wounds on the bones indicate how the animal died, and helps to tell the legend of Qalatga Darband, a story that has been shrouded in modern intrigue.

The hidden city first came to the attention of British archaeologists after viewing declassified footage captured by American spy satellites taken during the 1960s. The site remained unexplored for a number of years after due to safety concerns during Saddam Hussein’s rule over Iraq. However, Greenfield and a number of her colleagues were eventually able to converse at the ancient city as a part of a British Museum project that aims to preserve Iraqi heritage and educate Iraqi archaeologists on modern excavation techniques and scientific analysis of artefactual material.

Since excavating around the Hellenistic city, which is believed to have been founded in 331 BC, Greenfield said that a wealth of hidden historical artifacts and treasures have been uncovered that have shed light on evidence of the later Persian occupation and the earlier occupations from the Assyrian Empire (900-612 BC), which was the earliest true empire in the world.

“When we began to dig we saw artifacts specifically dating to the Hellenistic time period,” she said. “And then we realized we were standing on a major settlement that coincided with the rule of Alexander the Great. We know that his forces were in this region during this time, but unfortunately there was no tangible evidence. We believe we now have that evidence, from coins that show the leaders of this time period which help to place this exact city as to where battles between the Greek occupants and the Persians under the rule of Darius III took place. And we know Alexander was fighting these battles to control this area.

“There are incredibly rich deposits of what we believe are temple artifact remains, like Hellenistic statues of gods and people. All of these finds help us to better understand how the citizens of this city lived in this region. We are investigating the frontiers of this empire.”

Greenfield, who teaches courses on ancient Mesopotamia and the Eastern Mediterranean, ancient Egypt, and the Levant, eventually aims to establish a field school in Israel, which she hopes will inspire students to learn more about the archaeology and the ancient cultures that existed in the Holy Land.

“The conditions we work under when excavating aren’t always easy, especially at the foot of a mountain range in Iraqi Kurdistan. So you have to have a passion for this,” said Greenfield. “But those wow moments do happen when you find artifacts that help place these sites into a broader historical context. When you find what is believed to be a lost city of an ancient empire and charismatic ruler, it can be very exciting.”
Forget for a moment the woolly mammoth tusks, dinosaur skeletons and other prehistoric discoveries that easily garner attention in the world of paleontology. In Saskatchewan, one of the most exciting fossils that’s been unearthed is a piece of coprolite slightly larger than a foot in length.

Or, to put it slightly less eloquently, one big pile of dino dung.

“They’re pretty sure it’s from a Tyrannosaurus rex,” said Michael Cuggy, senior lab co-ordinator and sessional lecturer with the University of Saskatchewan Department of Geological Sciences. “You have to be a certain size of animal to make a certain size dung. You know it’s a carnivore because it has bones inside of it, and then by process of elimination it would have to have been a T. rex.”

That lump of dinosaur droppings is the first ever discovered that researchers believe to have come from a Tyrannosaurus rex, excavated in the quiet, quaint town of Eastend, Sask., where U of S faculty and students have worked on dig sites. Located just north of the Canada-U.S. border, the hamlet has garnered a reputation over the years as Saskatchewan’s foremost site for paleontologists, both professional and homegrown, to take their tools and get digging.

Cuggy said the reason for Eastend’s bounty of bones lies in its unique geology. While much of Saskatchewan’s land has been laid flat by past glacial movement—its colossal weight pushing down fossils over untold years of crushing advancement and recession and leaving behind layer upon layer of soil overtop—the province’s southernmost cities remain comparatively hilly and bares rocky exposures that are ripe for excavation.

“There probably are more fossils everywhere, but Eastend is by the edge of the Cypress Hills so it’s been pushed up and this exposes rock,” he said. “Other areas are too flat, and even the rivers are fairly gentle cuts. If you don’t have rock exposed, you can’t really find stuff.”

The region is perhaps most famously known for Scotty the T. rex, named after the bottle of scotch her founders shared in celebration of their astonishing find. The gargantuan beast was discovered on Aug. 16, 1991, when a classroom from Eastend joined a team of paleontologists on an educational dig just beyond the town’s limits.

Apparently the high school principal found some bones which they then excavated a few years later,” Cuggy said. “As it turns out, it was the most massive, largest T. rex that’s ever been found in the world.”

Scotty is just one in a lengthy list of creatures from a land before time that have been found in Saskatchewan, including many brontotheres—large, rhinoceros-like mammals with multiple bumps and horns protruding from their heads—and a six-metre crocodile skeleton named Big Bert, unearthed in Carrot River.

Saskatchewan’s history with paleontology stretches back just over a century and a half, when researchers from Eastern Canada began scouring the west for fossils and other ancient artifacts.

In those days, and into the modern era, the province gained a reputation as a little sister of sorts to Alberta and its abundant deposits, where even the entire city of Drumheller was built upon a legacy of dinosaurs. Yet still, Saskatchewan was not without its merit.

“The southern area has Cretaceous rocks, so it has lots of T. rex and Triceratops that have been found, basically from the Alberta border right across through the Grasslands National Park area,” Cuggy said.

It can be easy to get caught up in the colossal skeletons that lay beneath our feet, imagining a prehistoric time when the animals they belonged to roamed freely in a world largely unrecognizable to the one we now inhabit. But Cuggy believes there are many important reasons to study paleontology beyond the innate sense of wonder.

“Understanding what’s going on with living things now and how changing environments and climates and other events in the future could affect life, the only way to have a hope of doing that is to see how changes happened in the past,” Cuggy said. “You have to study the past animals and plants that were on Earth to really comprehend this.

“It’s also just fun.”
Welcome to the School of Rehabilitation Science

A lot has changed in the 50 years since the first class of physical therapists graduated from the University of Saskatchewan back in 1967, with another major change coming in the spring.

On May 1, 2018, the School of Physical Therapy in the College of Medicine will be renamed the School of Rehabilitation Science, reflecting research and program advancements in the rapidly growing health-care field.

“Our faculty and students already represent a range of rehabilitation science researchers and scholars, so in one sense the name change is representing what we are doing currently,” said Liz Harrison, associate dean of the school.

“Although U of S physical therapy education and research are absolutely on the map, this name change aligns us with other universities across Canada and the globe, with faculties, school, colleges with the range of rehabilitation science. It opens lots of new doors and opportunities for our faculty, students and community partnerships.”

The name change was approved on May 5 by the school’s faculty council and approved by University Council on Oct. 19, after receiving broad support across campus. The change has also been well received in the provincial health sector, supported by the likes of the Saskatoon Health Region and the Saskatchewan Society of Occupational Therapists, as well as from other U15 institutions including the University of Alberta and McMaster.

“Our faculty, students and community are excited with the approval of our new name, as it signals our advancement and aspirations to be leaders in research, education and scholarship in the range of rehabilitation science disciplines and professions,” said Harrison, noting that the school hopes to offer occupational therapy and speech language pathology programming in the future.

The School of Physical Therapy was originally established in 1965 as a diploma program, expanded to offer a degree in 1973 and developed into a full master’s professional program in 2007. Today, 80 per cent of physical therapists across the province received their education at the U of S.

“Some may not know that globally the field of rehabilitation science is considered one of the fastest-growing and important fields to support health, quality of life and well-being,” said Harrison.

“The disciplines and the professionals working in these areas are critical to addressing the health needs of an aging population, improvements in health status and services for children and youth with complex disabilities, management of chronic diseases, and the application of a range of health and education-related technologies. Rehabilitation science is directly linked to better care and better quality of life.”

Master of Physical Therapy students Nick Allard and Nadia Philipenko graduated at Fall Convocation on Oct. 28 at TCU Place.
When it comes to campus infrastructure, university leadership’s top priority is building exciting new ways for students, staff and faculty to excel.

And there are no better examples of that goal than the Collaborative Science Research Building and Merlis Belsher Place, two major new construction projects that feature an investment of more than $100 million to provide state-of-the-art academic and athletic facilities on campus.

Merlis Belsher Place will replace the aging 88-year-old Rutherford Rink with a new dual-ice pad facility and multisport complex. The facility will be home to the Huskie hockey programs and will provide practice facilities for Huskie basketball teams, as well as recreational campus and community sports teams.

“We have about 800 female and male students engaged in campus recreational hockey, and I hope this number will grow because of the better facilities at Merlis Belsher Place,” said Greg Fowler, University of Saskatchewan vice-president finance and resources.

“But Merlis Belsher Place is not just an ice facility. It has a basketball gym, funded by Jane and Ron Graham, which will support our student athletes and free up the PAC (Physical Activity Complex) for more recreational sports. It also has soccer change rooms, as we plan to build soccer facilities south of Merlis Belsher Place to support student recreation and Huskie Athletics.”

Merlis Belsher Place and the Collaborative Science Research Building are both slated to be finished in 2018.

Made possible by $42.9-million in joint funding from the U of S and a variety of donors—including generous contributions from Merlis Belsher, after whom the rink is named, the Grahams, and the City of Saskatoon—the new multi-sport facility is on schedule and prepped for an easy transition into winter construction during Saskatchewan’s harsher months.

“The most important early milestone has been seeing the roof be completed over the rinks and gym,” said developer Lorne Wright, president of Wright Construction. “This allows us to stay watertight and more strongly control our work environment. With the roof on the building we now feel we are in a good position for winter and the snowfall.

“I am personally very proud to be part of this much-needed facility for campus and our larger community. It has been desired for several decades and to now see it under construction is very exciting.”
While many students spend their time off from school looking to make extra money with a part-time job, Nicole Baldwin’s job search led her to something far more adventurous and extreme.

Instead of working in retail, in restaurants or in an office, she has chased drug smugglers off the coast of South America and encountered Russian ships in oceans around the world while serving in the Canadian naval reserves.

But while her escapades on the high seas may seem worlds apart from her research at the U of S, Baldwin has nevertheless managed to split her time between working on her Master of Science in Toxicology, while also serving in the reserves.

After completing her undergrad degree in toxicology, Baldwin had two paths in front of her. The first option was the opportunity to sail the world. The other would see her back on campus continuing her academic studies. After taking a year off from school to commit to the military full-time, Baldwin now sails the seven seas in addition to studying aquatic life.

“To come from my undergrad at the U of S and to go sailing in oceans around the world, or to be in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea during a refugee crisis, it was a completely different perspective that few people get to experience,” she said.

“Initially, I put in three months doing work-ups—pre-deployment checks that are done prior to sailing overseas—while off the west coast of Canada. From there we were deployed for nine months, which was spent entirely on ship at sea, with docking at ports for a day or two around the world. The whole experience was an adventure.”

The most exciting times at sea were also some of the worst times, and Baldwin admits that not everyone is cut out for naval life.

“We hit a very rough patch in the China Sea while we were heading back to the west coast, but we had a job to do and when you are in a spot like that you realize that you have a responsibility.”

While she maintains a separation between her military service and her academic life, Baldwin admits that there is plenty of overlap between the two worlds.

“In a lot of ways it feels like a double life. But my military experience is also relevant in that learning to multi-task and personal accountability comes into play all the time here,” she said. “My job on ship—to have the ability to listen to a hundred different voices in a stressful situation and still focus—helps with my academic career.”

In addition to finishing her master’s degree—studying aquatic exposures to chemicals and how they are affecting the immune systems of amphibians—Baldwin hopes to continue her career with a civilian position in the military, with thoughts of eventually finishing her PhD.

“I’ve always been interested in the physical and life sciences, and toxicology is a good balance between that,” she said. “That said, I love the lifestyle of being on board a ship, and I don’t feel like I am ready to be away from that part of my life.”
Canadian forces have long history at U of S

The university and the city of Murray Scharf’s youth is very different to the one today, once a central hub of military service members training for the Second World War and living shoulder-to-shoulder with the local populace.

And at the heart of this relationship was The Cavern, a speakeasy of sorts in the basement of a building in downtown Saskatoon where members of Canada’s military personnel and civilians would gather to dance and let off steam.

“You’d have the engagement of university students on the social side meeting with these groups that were here from all over the world to train at Dundurn, or in the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (based at the airport),” said Scharf, a former military man himself and retired dean of the College of Education at the University of Saskatchewan. “It was a big thing. That was the social centre. A meeting place that even led to marriages with people from all over the world.”

The Cavern was a byproduct of a close dovetailing of the Prairie city and the country’s armed forces. Scharf believes that bond was solidified in 1929 when the university became home to the Canadian Officers Training Corps (COTC).

The program, initially established in Saskatoon in 1921, was a means of increasing infrastructure for, and membership in, armed services after the First World War.

“They started the Canadian Officers Training Corps at the universities so that they could have a cadre of officers available to staff the armed services if a war came about,” Scharf said.

The COTC was made up of 10 faculty and administrative members and at least 150 students each year, the latter of whom, in addition to their regular classes, were trained to exit the program as officers in Canada’s army, navy or air force. The operation was centred in Qu’Appelle Hall—the former residence building for male students—where over the years countless young students would take part in military drills, parades and marksmen challenges.

“In the basement of Qu’Appelle Hall they had a rifle range for .22’s,” Scharf said. “They had competitions with the other COTC’s from across Western Canada. They would send their marksmen here and they would have a shooting competition right there in the basement.”

The COTC proved transformative, leading to an influx of construction projects for military facilities that would later be rolled into university buildings—Scharf cited a gym and the commerce building as structures first established for military use—as well as a culture of national pride and military accomplishment that stretched well past the war.

“After the war, the controller was from the army, the registrar was from the army. The administration of the university became dominated by veterans from the armed services,” Scharf said.

Over the years, the COTC played a part in helping make Saskatoon into the city it is today, building on military connections in the community as pilots trained at the airport during wartime and soldiers drilled south of the city at Camp Dundurn, which remains an active base to this day.

But for Scharf, who himself took part in the COTC beginning in 1956, the program is just as notable for the mutually beneficial association that was formed with the U of S, making university a financial reality for countless young minds and in the process providing the institution with the students necessary to support its expansion and the elaboration of the college structure.

“They were getting a cadre of full-time students who were guaranteed their funding for three or four years,” Scharf said. “That gave us the stability base to expand the university and differentiate, providing the critical mass of students and the income during that time between the Depression and going into the war, to make the U of S viable to operate.”

University holding annual Remembrance Day service

The University of Saskatchewan will host its annual Remembrance Day ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1:30 p.m.

The multi-faith service will be held at the Memorial Gates, located on campus at the corner of College Drive and Hospital Drive, commemorating those who have served and died in the Canadian Armed Forces. The ceremony will include a wreath laying, honouring those who have been lost. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at Louis’ Loft, located upstairs in the Memorial Union Building.

All are encouraged to attend the ceremonies to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country.

The Memorial Gates were erected in 1928 as a monument in honour of the 69 students, staff and faculty of the U of S who perished in the First World War, with a Remembrance Day service held annually at the site for the past 89 years.

U of S cadets with the Canadian Officers Training Corps march outside Rutherford Rink in 1943.

The Cavern was a byproduct of a close dovetailing of the Prairie city and the country’s armed forces. Scharf believes that bond was solidified in 1929 when the university became home to the Canadian Officers Training Corps (COTC).

The program, initially established in Saskatoon in 1921, was a means of increasing infrastructure for, and membership in, armed services after the First World War.

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The COTC was made up of 10 faculty and administrative members and at least 150 students each year, the latter of whom, in addition to their regular classes, were trained to exit the program as officers in Canada’s army, navy or air force. The operation was centred in Qu’Appelle Hall—the former residence building for male students—where over the years countless young students would take part in military drills, parades and marksmen challenges.

“In the basement of Qu’Appelle Hall they had a rifle range for .22’s,” Scharf said. “They had competitions with the other COTC’s from across Western Canada. They would send their marksmen here and they would have a shooting competition right there in the basement.”

The COTC proved transformative, leading to an influx of construction projects for military facilities that would later be rolled into university buildings—Scharf cited a gym and the commerce building as structures first established for military use—as well as a culture of national pride and military accomplishment that stretched well past the war.

“After the war, the controller was from the army, the registrar was from the army. The administration of the university became dominated by veterans from the armed services,” Scharf said.

Over the years, the COTC played a part in helping make Saskatoon into the city it is today, building on military connections in the community as pilots trained at the airport during wartime and soldiers drilled south of the city at Camp Dundurn, which remains an active base to this day.

But for Scharf, who himself took part in the COTC beginning in 1956, the program is just as notable for the mutually beneficial association that was formed with the U of S, making university a financial reality for countless young minds and in the process providing the institution with the students necessary to support its expansion and the elaboration of the college structure.

“They were getting a cadre of full-time students who were guaranteed their funding for three or four years,” Scharf said. “That gave us the stability base to expand the university and differentiate, providing the critical mass of students and the income during that time between the Depression and going into the war, to make the U of S viable to operate.”

University holding annual Remembrance Day service

The University of Saskatchewan will host its annual Remembrance Day ceremony on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1:30 p.m.

The multi-faith service will be held at the Memorial Gates, located on campus at the corner of College Drive and Hospital Drive, commemorating those who have served and died in the Canadian Armed Forces. The ceremony will include a wreath laying, honouring those who have been lost. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at Louis’ Loft, located upstairs in the Memorial Union Building.

All are encouraged to attend the ceremonies to honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country.

The Memorial Gates were erected in 1928 as a monument in honour of the 69 students, staff and faculty of the U of S who perished in the First World War, with a Remembrance Day service held annually at the site for the past 89 years.

U of S cadets with the Canadian Officers Training Corps march outside Rutherford Rink in 1943.

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Late Huskie’s legacy to live on in Merlis Belsher Place

Hanging proudly above the ice in Rutherford Rink, a banner reads, “We all play the Cody Smuk way.”

It’s one of the many tributes to the late University of Saskatchewan Huskies men’s hockey player, who lost his battle with testicular cancer in 2015. As the Huskies play their final season in the arena, a local business is making sure that Smuk’s legacy lives on when the team begins a new chapter and moves into Merlis Belsher Place next year.

Inland Steel Products, a scrap metal recycling company servicing Saskatchewan, has contributed $150,000 to the Home Ice campaign to create Smuker’s Lounge in Merlis Belsher Place, a gathering spot for players, alumni and friends of Smuk’s to reminisce while cheering on the Huskies.

Inland Steel Products’ Matt Ditlove said the family-owned business was eager to make a substantial investment back into the community to commemorate its 50th year of operation, and saw an opportunity to honour a family friend at the same time.

“He was one of my closest friends and I wanted to make sure he was never forgotten and always remembered,” Ditlove said. “So myself and my family thought this was a good way to give back, not only to the community that we do business in and operate in, but to make sure his spirit is never forgotten.”

Ditlove said his family is glad to be contributing towards a new facility for the Huskies, as Smuk had often said that a new arena was long overdue.

“He was definitely passionate about getting a new arena for the Huskies and I think he would have been heavily involved in this Home Ice campaign if he was around,” Ditlove said. “So the fact that the lounge is getting built here would have made him pretty proud.”

After Smuk’s passing, the players’ lounge in Rutherford Rink was renamed Smuker’s Lounge in his honour, and has been a central gathering point for old friends and alumni. Smuk’s mother, Darla Smuk, said the family was overwhelmed with emotion when they learned that Smuker’s Lounge would be incorporated into the new arena, and thinks it’s a wonderful way to remember her son.

“Cody always liked hosting the team and wanted everyone to have fun,” she said. “To me Smuker’s Lounge represents him hosting his friends and family; a place where they can come together, share a drink, share stories, think of Cody and remember his laugh. It was quite contagious and one of many things we miss the most.”

She said while it’s bittersweet that the Huskies will no longer be playing in Rutherford Rink—a place that holds many special memories for the family—she feels her son would have been thrilled that the Huskies will have a new home.

“I know it meant a lot to Cody to be a part of the Huskies program. He was always very proud to wear the Huskie jersey and do his very best for the team,” she said. “His memory will live on in the new Huskie facility and we can’t thank Matt and his family enough for their kindness and generosity now, and during Cody’s battle with cancer. It means the world to us.”

Roxanne McHattie is a development communications specialist in University Relations.
Huskies balance athletics and academics

He has shattered team records, was named one of the top players in the country, and has already been selected in the Canadian Football League draft, but Mitch Hillis is also busy preparing for a career after football.

The 22-year-old all-star receiver with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies football team is committed to juggling academics and athletics, classes and passes, as he plans for the future.

“I was lucky enough to be selected in the draft, but even for the people who are, there are no guarantees, and football careers can be short,” said Hillis, a kinesiology student from Saskatoon who was selected by the B.C. Lions in the eighth round of this year’s CFL draft.

“So it is really important for me to keep my grades up, to keep all my options open.”

Hillis is one of hundreds of Huskie student-athletes who are masters of multi-tasking, successfully balancing textbooks and playbooks.

This year, 183 U of S student-athletes, trainers and managers—more than 43 per cent of all Huskies—earned Huskie Athletics All-Academic Team recognition for posting grades of better than 74.5 per cent while completing a full course load of 24 credit units. Hillis took it a step further by also being named a national Academic All-Canadian for averaging 85 per cent in his classes.

“We are extremely proud of the efforts of our student-athletes, who regularly work just as hard in the classroom as they do in representing our university on Huskie Athletics teams,” said U of S chief athletics officer Shawn Burt. “It takes great commitment and work ethic to successfully balance academics and athletics and we are honoured to pay tribute to our student-athletes, trainers and managers for their success in their respective colleges across campus.”

With daily practices and game-film sessions, weight-room workouts and road trips, Huskie athletes like Hillis put in as much time each week training as they do in the classroom. U of S student-athletes must meet academic standards to remain eligible to compete, making them among the most dedicated students on campus.

“There is definitely a limited amount of time in a day, when you mix in all the meetings, film and practices, with your courses,” said Hillis, who has set Huskie records for most career pass receptions, most yards and most touchdown catches for most career pass receptions, most yards and most touchdown catches and also set a new Canada West conference record in all-time career receiving yards with 2,961. “You have to be really strategic with your time.”

Now that he has completed his final year of university football eligibility, Hillis will likely get another shot at the CFL, after attending his first training camp and playing in his first preseason game this year with the Lions, who want to bring him back in 2018. But the two-time Canada West conference all-star and 2015 all-Canadian also hopes to tackle a master’s degree in physiotherapy, giving him plenty to prepare for in the off-season.

“It’s good to have options, so we’ll see what happens,” he said.
Students, but are open to everyone. There is
these events are tailored to education
professional development workshops
College of Education Students’ Society
English, Lindsey Banco, professor, Depart-
Kevin Flynn, professor, Department of
A panel discussion will follow, featuring
Kevin Flynn, professor, Department of
English, Lindsey Banco, professor, Depart-
commentary.

The Shining

Christmas is a time of peace, love

bourn’s dark comedy,

artsandscience.usask.ca/news/

contact Protective Services at 306-966-5555.

The following is a list of recent incidents reported to U of S Protective Services in the month of October. If you have any information about these, or any other incidents, please contact Protective Services at 306-966-5555.

INCIDENT REPORT:

Theft from Seager Wheeler Hall:

Susicious male gained access to a room in Seager Wheeler Hall on Oct. 16, either by following a resident in or taking advantage of a door that was propped open by residents. Once inside the building, he entered one of the rooms and took money from a wallet.

Susicious phone call:

An individual reported to Protective Services on Oct. 6 that they received a phone call from a person claiming to be a student and an alumnus member looking for a donation. After asking for more information, the person

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**Bearchell shines spotlight on Indigenous issues**

**FROM PAGE 5**

“I noticed in my travels across Canada, that there is still a sense of ignorance for Indigenous issues,” she said. “I would like to see more education, particularly in high schools, drawing attention to and understanding the First Peoples of Canada. The issues Indigenous peoples face should not be ignored.”

Bearchell was recently named a U of S Canada 150 Citizen in recognition of the significant impact her volunteer work and public speaking have had in promoting a culture of inclusivity and diversity on campus and across the country.

“It’s wonderful to think that my actions and messages have had a positive impact on people,” she said of the honour. “It shows that one person can make a difference in the lives of others, and it encourages me to keep doing what I’m doing.”

Cat Bonner is a communications and alumni relations officer in the College of Law.

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**New home for interdisciplinary research progressing**

**FROM PAGE 9**

Meanwhile, the Collaborative Science Research Building, established through $63.5-million in joint funding from the U of S and the federal government through its Strategic Investment Fund, is envisioned as a space where facilities and equipment are used in a shared governance model, creating a natural support for interdisciplinary research.

“This is an excellent opportunity to create research space for our science programs, and will also initially provide lab and other space to support the renewal of the W.P. Thompson (Biology) and Physics buildings,” Fowler said. “The vision for this space is to integrate these facilities into a broader infrastructure precinct for basic and applied sciences on campus.”

U of S President Peter Stoicheff echoed Fowler’s statements on the significance that these projects hold for the university community.

“Merlis Belsher Place and the Collaborative Sciences Research Building are of great importance to the U of S, and will help to continue re-shaping our campus into an unrivalled institution for success in research, athletics and beyond,” Stoicheff said.

Meanwhile, construction on the new nine-story hotel complex in College Quarter, a private business development located on leased land on the east side of the Stadium Parkade on College Drive, is also right on schedule. Construction began in October of 2016, with the plan for the 220-room dual-branded Holiday Inn Express and Staybridge Suites complex to open in the spring of 2018.

Over on the west end of campus, work also continues to progress on the new Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital, a $285.2-million facility adjacent to the Royal University Hospital that is on schedule to open in 2019. The 176-bed children’s facility is funded by the provincial government along with a public capital campaign and a $50-million donation from Jim Pattison, a Saskatchewan-born philanthropist and businessman.

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**Willoughby leads by example**

**FROM PAGE 13**

Like Hillis, Huskie hockey standout Kaitlin Willoughby is also dedicated to balancing classes and competition, an Academic All-Canadian and conference all-star who was named rookie of the year in the country in 2014. On pace to finish her Huskies career with the second most points in team history, Willoughby also had an average of 80.5 per cent last season while completing a whopping 30 credit units.

“I am proud of how far I have come with my academics,” said Willoughby, a nursing student from Prince Albert who is serving as captain of the Huskies in her final season. “In my first two years, I struggled with academics, but it was my goal to get into nursing and I just needed to bear down on my school work. And getting my acceptance letter (for nursing) was probably one of the most exciting moments of my life.”

Willoughby leads a Huskies team that takes just as much pride in its work in the classroom as it does on the ice, with 19 of the 24 players on last year’s roster earning All-Academic honours, while also skating six days a week.

“Our team average was over 80 per cent and I am just so proud of our team,” said Willoughby. “When we go on road trips, you walk down the aisle in the bus and everyone is doing homework, so it’s great to see.”

Willoughby’s work ethic on the ice helped her make Team Canada for the 2017 World University Games in Kazakhstan, where she helped Canada win a silver medal. While she may get a shot at representing her country again in the future, Willoughby is also firmly focused on life after hockey.

“I like to think of it as a balance: It’s two aspects of your life and I am definitely proud of how I have managed both,” she said. “Hard work in school pays off and it’s just as rewarding as athletics. Because in the end, that is what we are here for and what we are going to do in our careers.”
Pack your bags and set your sights on memory lane, because this year’s On Campus News back page features landmark moments and events from our storied 110-year history.

Have a particular event you’d like to see featured? Let us know about it at news@usask.ca.

With files from University Archives and Special Collections.

In early 2005, Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) announced that the University of Saskatchewan would host the 2006 Vanier Cup—the first time the football championship would be hosted outside of Ontario.

This came after extensive upgrades were made to Griffiths Stadium, including new field lighting and artificial turf, in order to meet hosting requirements by the CIS.

The U of S Huskies had finished second in the regular season behind the University of Manitoba Bisons before beginning their playoff run. After defeating the UBC Thunderbirds in the first playoff game, the Huskies went on the road and claimed victory again over the Bisons, before beating the University of Ottawa to earn a spot in the 42nd Vanier Cup.

The sold-out game on Nov. 25 attracted close to 13,000 parka-clad fans to the newly-upgraded Griffiths Stadium at PotashCorp Park. Ultimately, with over half a million Canadians watching the game on television, the Huskies fell 13-8 to the Université Laval Rouge et Or, to drop their third straight Vanier Cup.

However, hosting the game was regarded as a major success, receiving a significant amount of media coverage and providing a boost to the local tourism market.

One tool, the Sports Tourism Economic Assessment Model, estimated the game’s economic impact for the city and province was more than $16.5 million.