VIEW FROM THE TOP

University of Saskatchewan President Peter Stoicheff reviews the highlights of 2017 and offers his thoughts on what’s in store for 2018 in this edition of On Campus News.

SEE PAGES 8-9.
College of Arts and Science unveils Aboriginal faculty recruitment plan

CHRIS PUTNAM

It wasn’t a typical job ad.

“The College of Arts and Science invites applications from outstanding emerging or established Aboriginal scholars,” read the posting issued in October. Two tenure-track positions were advertised “at any rank in any scholarly discipline.”

The posting evoked a flurry of applications to 13 departments, along with discussions across the country. But this is only the beginning, said Lawrence Martz, the College of Arts and Science’s vice-dean faculty relations.

Over the next 10 years, the college will “transform its existing faculty complement” by allocating up to three annual faculty job openings to Aboriginal scholars, Martz said. The resulting 30 new hires will raise the proportion of Aboriginal arts and science faculty members to nearly 15 per cent: on par with the overall Aboriginal population of Saskatchewan.

“We think it’s important that our college reflects the society we live in, but it’s not just a matter of numbers,” said Kristina Bidwell, associate dean Aboriginal affairs in the College of Arts and Science. “By being more inclusive, we become more successful. We grow our knowledge base and we connect more to our world.”

In its mission, vision and values statement, the U of S pledges to “be an outstanding institution of research, learning, knowledge-keeping, reconciliation and inclusion with and by Indigenous peoples and communities.”

“Arts and science is leading the way with this very important initiative and it sets the tone for other colleges to proactively recruit Indigenous scholars to this university,” said Elizabeth Duret, U of S inclusion and diversity consultant. “This strategy aligns well with our Indigenization efforts and truth and reconciliation calls to action.”

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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:

Remai Modern to collaborate with university

On Dec. 5, U of S President Peter Stoicheff and Remai Modern Executive Director Gregory Burke signed the first agreement in Canada between a university and a city-owned art museum. The institutions agreed to collaborate in public programming, Indigenous initiatives, partnered exhibitions, research, scholarly and artistic work, teaching and instruction, and acquisitions.

U of S naming boardroom after Emmett Hall

The U of S will name the boardroom of the Peter MacKinnon Building in honor of Emmett Hall (1898-1995), a major contributor to the national health-care system, a defender of Indigenous land claims and widely considered to be among Canada’s finest jurists of the 20th century. Hall, a U of S College of Law graduate, taught at the university and served as chancellor.

Global Water Futures announces 21 new projects

The U of S-led Global Water Futures, the world’s largest university-led freshwater research program, has announced 21 new projects across Canada. Valued at over $10 million in total, they address critical water security challenges, from the melt of mountain glaciers and the thaw of northern permafrost, to prairie food production, river basin prediction and the health of the Great Lakes.

U of S clinician leads First Nations health initiative

U of S clinician and researcher Dr. Stuart Skinner of the College of Medicine has been awarded a $2-million team grant by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to refine and expand an on-reserve diagnosis and treatment program for HIV, hepatitis C virus and sexually transmitted blood-borne infections. It will be a five-year multidisciplinary project.
It’s been a busy first few weeks on the job for Dr. Alexandra King. But she wouldn’t have it any other way.

“To be honest, it’s been a while since I’ve started a new job in a new city,” she said with a laugh. “Having to find a new house and all of those things is just a lot all at once.”

With the figurative and literal housekeeping in order, she hit the ground running as the university’s inaugural Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health for a five-year term beginning October 16, 2017.

The position, based in the U of S College of Medicine, was created in 2006 after mining organization Cameco donated $1.5-million for the chair. Those funds are part of a $3-million endowment established for the chair by the Royal University Hospital Foundation through its Royal Care Campaign.

“I look at this position and I think it’s quite visionary,” King explained, adding that the chair has changed since its inception more than a decade ago. “At the same time, the university has also been on a growth path and now has Indigenous health in its strategic plan, and is quite committed to reconciliation.”

Another important piece, in addition to how the chair and university have evolved, is King’s own storied learning path—one that began with completing an undergraduate degree in finance and economics before ultimately shifting her focus to health care. She completed her medical degree at the University of Toronto in 2009, followed by an internal medicine residency at the University of Alberta. She is also currently working on a PhD in Aboriginal health through Simon Fraser University, where she served as an instructor and student mentor.

“I find it really interesting how those three paths have sort of converged together,” said King, who is originally from Nipissing First Nation in Ontario.

The fluidity of the position makes it unique from other research chairs, she explained, and was what attracted her to it.

“This is Indigenous health, and that gives me a lot of flexibility,” she said, adding that there has already been discussion about working with community partners to incorporate Indigenous wellness into the chair’s title. “I think it’s broader and more holistic, and brings in Indigenous ways of knowing rather than the Western definition of health.”

One of King’s top priorities in this role is to further incorporate Indigenous history and understandings of health and wellness into university curriculum. This has been ongoing for some time nationally, led by groups such as the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada and the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada.

“This covers the essential elements but allows each school to contextualize to its local needs,” she said, adding that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada’s Calls to Action also touch on this priority.

What she hopes materializes at the institutional level, however, is a more co-ordinated approach to curriculum among the health science units on campus.

“We know the overall information is consistent, the development is shared, so it’s a more efficient way of approaching things,” she said.

Additionally, as a researcher specializing in HIV and hepatitis C—diseases with high prevalence in the province’s Indigenous communities—King is set on aligning her work with others to help find solutions.

“For me, research has to change health outcomes for the better,” she said. “So, I really want to see the action component of this.”

Improving Indigenous health Inaugural Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health seeks solutions

LESLEY PORTER

DAVID STOBBE
From stories suggesting rural crime is on the rise, to racially charged language on social media, a turbulent year in the news has left many people scratching their heads in disbelief.

Are these stories and headlines, tweets and posts, really how we feel as a province?

After a six-year hiatus, the U of S is once again taking the pulse of Saskatchewan with a new public perceptions survey, in an effort to accurately gauge public opinion on hot-button issues happening in our province.

“This project, Taking the Pulse of Saskatchewan, provides an important and unique opportunity to collect real-time data that accurately portrays how Saskatchewan residents feel about a variety of issues,” said Jason Disano, director of the Social Sciences Research Laboratories (SSRL) at the U of S. “We may or may not like the data that is presented, but it is reflective of Saskatchewan residents’ opinions.”

Taking the Pulse of Saskatchewan is a comprehensive research survey conducted by the SSRL to document attitudes and opinions on important and controversial issues facing people across the province.

In 2012, it was designed as a telephone survey that took 1,750 respondents approximately 15 minutes to complete and covered a wide range of topics. The revamped project now features an ongoing quarterly survey—with one question—targeting a random, representative sample of 400 Saskatchewan residents.

Undergraduate students hired for the project picked up the phones starting on Dec. 6 and researchers have found individuals are more open and available to participate in the new smaller and shorter survey. It also helps to have the U of S brand backing the survey.

“I think people generally feel more confident and comfortable answering a telephone survey with a U of S student on the other end of the line,” said Disano. “It is reassuring for folks and I believe it is why we have such extremely high response rates to our surveys, when telephone surveys are now increasingly plagued with historically-low response rates.

“It is becoming increasingly important to collect data that is truly representative of the views and opinions of Saskatchewan residents. Taking the Pulse achieves that objective. Because of the quarterly nature of the survey, we can be more responsive to what is happening in and around the province, thereby providing a more timely reflection of what Saskatchewan residents think and feel on a variety of topics and issues.”

The Saskatoon StarPhoenix and Regina Leader-Post used the new survey data in their Boxing Day editions by presenting it in a way that matters to the Saskatchewan public—telling a story of how residents across the province really feel about a variety of topics, beginning with a question on property crime.

“This (project) is something that is going to continue to grow and snowball over time,” said Disano. “This partnership with Postmedia has created an incredible opportunity and I don’t think there is anything else like it in the country.”
From epidemics to Olympics
Jones brings a wealth of experience to School of Public Health

Hearing Steven Jones describe his time working with highly contagious deadly diseases, it almost sounds like he’s walking you through a scene from a blockbuster film. He’ll recount the measures to prevent contamination—the security checkpoints, the multiple changes of clothes, the biosafety suits and the chemical showers, just to name a few—each of which was a regular part of simply showing up for his job of managing Canada’s only Level 4 microbiological lab, and it’s suddenly very easy to wonder how anyone could willfully walk through those doors.

But for Jones, the process was just another way of holding on to a keen sense of perspective on the nature of his work. “You treat these viral agents with the utmost respect, because they don’t give you a second chance,” Jones said. “If you make a mistake—particularly if it’s a needle stick or a sharps mistake—there is a very significant chance, particularly with something like Ebola, that the consequences would be fatal. The first ever outbreak in 1976 of Ebola, there were in excess of 80 needle stick injuries and all of those people died. That gives it some level of context.”

Jones is relatively new to the University of Saskatchewan, having just started his new roles as executive director and professor at the School of Public Health on Sept. 1, but his experience in the field stretches back decades. Included in his career have been stints working with Health Canada during the SARS epidemic of 2003, researching international disease outbreaks with the World Health Organization and leading biological security operations in Vancouver during the G8 and G20 summits as well as the 2010 Olympic Games.

“You’re part of a big machine, and you work with a lot of highly skilled, dedicated people,” Jones said of his Olympic experience. “The goal, of course, was to be on the ground preventing, by our pure presence, any incidents from developing into a crisis by doing very rapid response. If the police found a suspicious package at a venue, we could do on-site analysis and tell them that there was no biologic threat.”

Despite his previous globe-spanning work, Jones said settling in Saskatoon and moving to the U of S was the right choice. He said the decision was easy, because of his enthusiasm to help train the next generation of public health researchers and his desire to help the institution move the field further forward, and also because he is a big proponent of the university’s vision. “I like the University of Saskatchewan,” Jones said. “My own daughter was a student here in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine. I like the campus, I like the Indigenization and reconciliation emphasis which permeates the entire place, and I like the opportunity to come into what is already a going concern in the School of Public Health and take it, hopefully, to the next level and beyond—to have real impact, not just on the lives of our students but also on the lives of people in Saskatchewan and globally.”

SEE JONES, PAGE 7
From Tennessee to Canada 150

When Kassondra (Soni) Collins began her PhD in neuroscience at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC), she had little idea that her academic path would lead to research in function after limb amputation, much less to becoming an international academic ambassador.

Then again, it’s a journey that Collins readily admits is a surprising one. Her major has changed from law to science, with several turns in-between. After avoiding classes such as biology in high school, Collins said a cognitive neuroscience course taken during her undergrad days ultimately changed the trajectory of her career.

“We got to dissect a sheep’s brain and I was hooked,” she said. “I remember thinking that this was it for me. I wanted to jump headfirst into the medical field.”

Starting in criminal justice with a minor in chemistry and psychology before switching gears, Collins eventually began working on medical research in topics such as concussions and Parkinson’s disease, until a change in supervisors led her to phantom limb pain research. Under Audrey Zucker-Levin, then a professor at UTHSC, Collins had finally found her academic niche.

However, that all changed when Zucker-Levin announced her move to Canada—a situation that could have dealt a major setback to Collins’ own research.

“My whole project revolved around her work,” said Collins, now a health sciences graduate student in the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan.

Rather than face the prospect of another academic upheaval, she jumped at the opportunity to finish her research at the U of S, a location where her work has since flourished. Since arriving in Saskatoon, the American-born Collins has been awarded a Canada 150 International Graduate Student Fellowship, an award that allows her to encourage other students to take advantage of study abroad experiences.

“There are a lot of opportunities that students may not know about, such as conferences or the advantages of experiencing other cultures and campuses,” said Collins.

Since Collins and Zucker-Levin have been reunited at the School of Physical Therapy, they have been working on a number of projects, including her dissertation which compares the muscle activity used to move a phantom limb to the muscle activity used to control a prosthetic device. Collins believes there is a disconnect that contributes to the rejection of more than 30 per cent of upper-extremity prostheses.

“We think that if the same muscles used to control the phantom limb are targeted to control the prosthesis, there would be a higher acceptance rate,” she said. “We’ve also found that many of those who wear prosthetic limbs say they are heavy and difficult, and call them a burden rather than an asset.”

Zucker-Levin is dedicated to improving function and quality of life in all people affected by amputation, not just those who wear a prosthesis. She and Collins look forward to working with patients, family members and health-care providers to positively impact this population.

“We have been reaching out to health-care providers, patients and the community. Everyone has been receptive and welcoming,” said Zucker-Levin, a faculty member in the School of Physical Therapy.

The two have since established Who Needs Twenty, a website dedicated to those affected by limb amputation. It’s part of a project that Collins said will provide social support and outreach. Rather than being reflective, she said the group aims for positivity by setting up opportunities for travel and social events.

“Many people with amputation that I’ve met have had difficulty adjusting and many of them want to know about getting back out and being active or learning new skills,” said Collins. “They want to live their lives, and they are looking for guidance.”

While it’s been a long road from her undergrad days in the U.S. to amputee research at the U of S, Collins said she looks forward to giving back to the community in Saskatchewan.

“I want to help as many people as possible.”

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CHRIS MORIN

“There are a lot of opportunities that students may not know about, such as conferences or the advantages of experiencing other cultures and campuses.”

Kassondra Collins

CHRIS MORIN
U of S nurtures support for student parents

BRETT MAKULOWICH

Requel Rope’s day starts at 5:30 am and goes until 11:30 pm or 1 am, depending on the next day’s assignments and exams. She is a second-year full-time nursing student, part-time cook in the Royal Canadian Navy, and a single parent to six-year-old son Hunter and three-year-old daughter Sterling.

“After I graduate I want to go back to my home community of Carry The Kettle First Nation and be a community health nurse or become a nurse in the Navy,” said Rope.

Rope came to Saskatoon for university and has no family in the city. During the school day, her son attends elementary school and her daughter plays at the USSU Child Care Centre.

While the U of S has operated a campus daycare since 1969, it wasn’t until 2014 that the group Parents on Campus was created. A community for on-campus parents, including students, staff and faculty. Parents on Campus is focused on providing support, advocacy and events for U of S families.

Kayla Maddler, Parents on Campus and Comfort Room co-ordinator, founded the group with Rita Hansoki, U of S health education co-ordinator. As a student, Maddler contacted campus resources at the end of her maternity leave to see if there was somewhere on campus where she could pump so that she could maintain her breastmilk supply to continue breastfeeding her son.

She was met with responses like “I wish we had something like that to offer, but at this time we don’t,” or “Can’t you just use a bathroom?” and “Wow, I’ve honestly never thought of that being a need for our students before.”

Maddler was unable to find a location on campus and had to abandon her goal of breastfeeding her son for the remainder of his first year.

“As my first couple months back after maternity leave went on, I noticed a feeling of being seemingly the only parent on campus,” she said.

Maddler’s experience led her to start Parents on Campus with Hansoki. Today, the group offers important services such as the Comfort Room in the Thorvaldson Building. The Comfort Room is a safe space for parents to breastfeed, pump or have a break from campus life and spend it with their children.

Other designated breastfeeding locations on campus include the Student Wellness Centre, the USSU Food Centre, GSA Commons, USSU Women’s Centre, Education Building, Williams Building, and the Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre.

There is also another comfort room located at the U of S Prince Albert Campus. Breastfeeding is acceptable in any place at any time, but these designated spaces allow parents more privacy and less noise.

In addition to the physical spaces Parents on Campus offers, it also connects fellow parents with each other. Student parents can find it hard to relate to their peers and can experience a lack of belonging on campus, as Maddler initially experienced.

Resources such as Parents on Campus and the Aboriginal Students’ Centre (ASC) Parent Circle allow parents to network. The ASC Parent Circle offers programming such as MEND (Mind, Nutrition, Exercise, Nutrition, Do It), family literacy and parents nights. Rope attends Parents Circle and appreciates the friends she’s made through it.

“They help not only with babysitting, but they also understand my struggle,” said Rope. “They are easier to talk to.”

Parents on Campus offers community building activities such as family items swap meets, information sessions and family fun days. A new initiative this year is family friendly study sessions every Wednesday night in the Education Library. Volunteers are on hand to entertain children while parents study nearby.

The initiative arose out of a School of Public Health survey that found many parents struggled with leaving university to pick children up from daycare or school, then dropping them off with a babysitter so they could return to campus to study.

“Our most recent assessments indicate around 10 per cent of the total student population are parents,” said Peter Hedley, director of student affairs and services.

Students have the choice of self-declaring as a parent, which gives the university an accurate number to strategize what resources to devote to student parents.

“Students may be able to access university, but for some students without the necessary accommodations, it’s not equitable,” said Hedley.

The U of S’s growing accommodations and services for all students. In November 2017, Disability Services for Students (DSS) became Access and Equity Services (AES). AES is guided by Saskatchewan’s Human Rights legislation and the duty to better accommodate individuals based on disability, religion, family status (including pregnancy) and gender identity.

The university’s new wellness strategy also launched in October. The goal is to create an environment that promotes and supports the health and well-being of all who study and work on U of S campuses.

“We’ve already done a lot of good things (for student parents) but could do so much more,” said Hedley. “Why? Because it’s the right thing to do.”

Brett Makulowich is a communications officer with the Vice-Provost Teaching and Learning Portfolio.

Jones settles into new role

FROM PAGE 5

Now that he’s feeling settled into his new role, Jones said he’s excited to start building for the future.

The first steps, he said, include securing the school’s foundational elements as it heads into its next cycle of accreditation, creating interdisciplinary opportunities with other areas of the university and connecting with the surrounding community to discover what their public health needs are. But in all cases, Jones said the overarching goal of his career, past and future, involves striving for a healthier tomorrow.

“Because we live longer and our lifestyles have changed so much, we’re much more susceptible to these chronic diseases that kill people—cardiovascular disease, diabetes and so on,” he said. “The need for public health expertise is not going to diminish in the future. In fact, it will probably increase.”

HenryTye Glazebrook is a freelance writer and former U of S communications co-ordinator.
U of S president focused on building on progress in 2018

It was a year filled with memorable milestones and landmark events to celebrate on campus, with 2017 also offering challenges to address and overcome.

But President Peter Stoicheff said the University of Saskatchewan is well-positioned, with the right people in place who are firmly focused on the future as we begin 2018.

“We have greatly strengthened our senior leadership team and I am very cognizant of the fact that at least 60 per cent of our current faculty were hired in the last 10 years, so we have a vigorous, fresh, committed and extremely creative and community engagement-minded faculty complement here,” said Stoicheff. “So, I see only really great things coming out of that kind of workforce excellence at this university.”

Now in his third year as president of the U of S, Stoicheff is supported by a new chancellor and new provost, as well as new deans in the College of Arts and Science, Dentistry, Engineering, Nursing, the Edwards School of Business, and the University Library. There are also new executive directors in the School of Environment and Sustainability, and in the School of Public Health, as well as the university’s first chief athletics officer in Huskie Athletics, as senior leaders were recruited from across North America in 2017.

On campus, Stoicheff was proud to help the university celebrate the 100th anniversary of the alumni association as well as commemorate Canada’s 150th anniversary of confederation with major events. Those landmark activities and occasions served as a backdrop to the university’s steady progress in a number of key areas, including revitalized research funding and enhanced enrolment, while also climbing in three of the four major international university ranking systems.

“There were many highlights, and I would say the fact that we again showed that we are a very strong institution with regards to research, and that our percentage increase in research funding was the best of any university in the country, was one sign of that,” said Stoicheff, noting that the U of S increase in research funding was 25.6 per cent higher than the national average.

“I am also glad to see that our overall student numbers are increasing again this year. We are delighted that so many students, including an increasing number of Indigenous students, want to be a part of our great university.”

Total enrolment continued to climb in the 2016-17 academic year, up 2.3 per cent to 24,571, including an 8.2 per cent increase in the number of Indigenous students (2,979). Registrations rose again to start this 2017-18 academic year, up 1.8 per cent overall in the most recent fall census and featuring a 5.7 per cent increase in the number of self-declared Aboriginal students.

Supporting more Indigenous students on campus than ever before remains one of the key priorities.
for the president in 2018, as the university continues to work to answer the calls to action for post-secondary institutions in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada final report.

“We are continuing to move ahead on reconciliation and the Indigenous priorities that this university has set for itself and I want to be able to say that every year,” said Stoicheff. “This is going to go in stages and the first stage was to change the conversation and make sure that everybody was talking about it. Next is what does acting on it truly look like?

“We have had significant input into the national conversation on reconciliation. We were the best represented visiting university by far at the most recent national forum on building reconciliation, in Winnipeg. We signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the FSIN (Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations) to work together to improve academic success for First Nations students, we hired our first vice-provost Indigenous Engagement, and we again saw an increased number of Aboriginal students enrolling and graduating.”

Building on its commitment to community collaboration, the university also recently signed partnership agreements with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra as well as with Remai Modern — each the first of its kind in Canada. The university is now in the process of finalizing an MOU with the City of Saskatoon, which will also be one of the first of its kind in the country.

“Cities deserve and need great universities, and cities themselves are the sites of enormous influence now in the country, with the population having become more urban overall,” said Stoicheff. “So, I am really excited about that partnership.”

Stoicheff is also excited about the possibility of partnering in one of five planned national supercluster innovation hubs — and sharing a whopping $950 million in funding — that the federal government plans to announce in March. The U of S is one of nine shortlisted supercluster proposals across the country.

The president is also looking forward to receiving the final results of the accreditation visits for the Edwards School of Business, the College of Medicine and the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

Other highlights in 2018 will include the openings of two new state-of-the-art academic and athletic facilities on campus, with the Collaborative Science Research Building on schedule to open in the spring and the Merlis Belsher Place multisport complex on track to be completed in the fall.

“I think the Prairies region protein supercluster proposal has a good chance to be one of the final five, and that’s another example of how we have a strong impact, economically and in so many other ways, on the region,” said Stoicheff, noting that the university was ranked first in the country in per capita economic impact ($1.2 billion annually) in a recent study.

“And I would be remiss if I didn’t say that being able to raise the funds for Merlis Belsher Place in 18 months, which allowed us to begin construction of that rink in 2017, was a sign of the tremendous alumni support that we have, certainly in this case across country, and even internationally. That’s a really positive sign for the future.”

One area that continues to concern Stoicheff is the budget, specifically dealing with the major reduction in the provincial operating grant that the university faced in 2017.

“There’s no doubt that it’s a challenge. You can’t get a budget shift to your operating grant of 5.6 per cent and pretend that it didn’t happen,” said Stoicheff. “Nonetheless, what we learned from previous experiences at the university was that we need to keep our eyes on our mission and keep our swagger. We will not deviate from being one of the top research-intensive universities in the country. That is not going to change. We will govern ourselves not only on the basis of what we want to be, but what the world needs us to be.”

To that end, the university has been working on implementing a new university plan in 2018, a strategic framework that will guide the institution’s planning and priorities through to 2025.

“That is certainly a top priority and I have watched that plan circulate around the university through the different council committees, through different colleges, and through the senior leadership forum, and have witnessed a lot of excitement about it,” said Stoicheff. “It is a truly creative first-of-its-kind plan, in terms of its presentation and its format, but also in its vision. And we’ve really tried to identify the things that are unique to this university that we need to make great strides in over the next six or seven years.”

That timeline could feature a number of potential additions to academic programming at the U of S — initiatives led by the provost’s office such as possibly establishing an architecture school or adding occupational therapy and speech language pathology — while also continuing to expand on creative campus collaborations in signature areas of research.

“This university is really good at imagining new and creative interdisciplinary programming that represents the future aspirations of students and I do foresee that we will be able to continue in that direction,” said Stoicheff. “That’s another way of saying that the budget won’t define us. We will continue to think creatively and to think big. And academic programming is one example of that.

“Another example is we have had a good record of community-engaged research and I think with time, that will continue to strengthen and become more prominent as well. Another thing I am looking forward to is continuing to be a talent magnet in terms of domestic students, international students, faculty and staff. Talent attracts talent. That’s what makes a university great and what makes a city great.”

We are delighted that so many students, including an increasing number of Indigenous students, want to be a part of our great university.

Peter Stoicheff
A good Irish Catholic, Terrence Downey is not one to easily shy away from a challenge. Perhaps that is one reason why, when he was just steps away from retirement in 2011, he agreed to take on the presidency of St. Thomas More College (STM) at the University of Saskatchewan.

Downey earned his undergraduate degree in history at St. Jerome's University and master’s and PhD in political science at the University of Western Ontario, before serving 22 years as a professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Waterloo. When approached about STM, he had just completed 12 years as president and vice-chancellor at St. Mary's College in Calgary, where he played a key role in its evolution into an accredited degree-granting university.

“I was impressed with the University of Saskatchewan and felt the position with STM was a wonderful opportunity to continue to serve in a place of such good standing in the Canadian Catholic college community,” Downey recalled. “Exposure to the dynamic intellectual stimulation of this large, thriving, research-intensive university, while being a member of a more intimate academic community that is equally stimulating in promoting intellectual, personal and, if the student wishes, spiritual development, ensures students are given access to the best of both worlds.”

Seven years in, Downey’s tenure with STM has proven productive in the list of accomplishments. Two major renovations were completed in 2013 and 2017—on either side of the college—resulting in over 27,000 additional square footage of space benefitting students, faculty and administration. A Chair for Catholic Studies (including a lecture series), along with the Basilian Chair in Indigenous Spirituality and Reconciliation, were developed. The college also increased visibility through Downey’s focus on enhanced recruitment and community outreach, positively impacting enrolment.

Last spring, STM’s Board of Governors received news that Downey would be retiring on July 1, 2018, initiating plans to find a successor for the successful leader. In June 2017, the Standing Committee for the Appointment of the President, consisting of a representative of the St. Thomas More College Society and six elected members chosen from key stakeholder groups, began meeting to guide the search process.

“We are looking for an appropriate successor for President Downey, who has provided exceptional leadership at STM,” stated Bev Hanson, vice-chair of the St. Thomas More College Board of Governors and chair of the Standing Committee for the Appointment of the President. “Many local and provincial stakeholders, including all faculty, staff and students, were invited to respond in a confidential format, highlighting key qualities needed for the candidate to succeed in the position of president of St. Thomas More College.”

Shortlisting of candidates and interviews will take place early this year, with the proposed timeline to have the new president for STM named and in place by July 1.

Now looking ahead to retirement, Downey has fond memories about his time at the college.

“I have been privileged to serve at STM and work with committed faculty and a strong administration team,” he said. “In our intimate scholarly community, conversations are possible about the great issues in life. My wife Margaret and I have lived and served in three provinces and have had the wonderful opportunity to view the diversity and complexity of our country and similarly, that of the university communities.”

Richard Manley-Tannis will take over as the new principal of St. Andrew’s College on July 1.

Manley-Tannis will replace Lorne Calvert, who is completing his second term as principal of the historic college that was founded in 1912 and is affiliated with the U of S.

Manley-Tannis, who was introduced on Dec. 7, stated that he is “truly honoured to be invited to join the community of St. Andrew’s College and to be able to return to Saskatchewan, where I answered my own call to ministry.”

Commissioned as a Diaconal Minister in Saskatchewan Conference in 2009, Manley-Tannis currently serves as Winnipeg Presbyterian Church. Manley-Tannis is also a poet, a novelist and an enthusiastic blogger. Manley-Tannis will be joined in Saskatoon by his wife, Reverend Shelly Manley-Tannis.

Calvert, an ordained minister and U of S graduate who served seven years as premier of Saskatchewan from 2001-2007, is currently completing his second five-year term as principal.
What do people think about the University of Saskatchewan?

Each year, we get some insight into the answer through a survey of public perceptions in Saskatchewan, Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver. The marketing and communications team works with the Social Sciences Research Laboratory in the College of Arts and Science to complete the study.

U OF S EDUCATION
We asked people if...

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<td>...the cost of a U of S education is worthwhile.</td>
<td>![Survey chart]</td>
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<td>...a U of S degree helps people secure a successful career.</td>
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**REAL WORLD IMPACT**
All regions
U of S research is important to the growth and well-being of Canada.

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Visit communications.usask.ca to read the full perceptions survey report.
Remembering Rutherford Rink

MICHAEL P.J. KENNEDY

Although there was a team as early as 1910, University of Saskatchewan hockey was first played on campus on natural ice in late 1929, within what was originally called the ice drome.

The official opening, which included an appearance by Premier James T.M. Anderson and a “fancy skating exhibition” did not occur until January 23, 1930. With the death of the Dean of Agriculture William Rutherford that same year, the building was named Rutherford Rink in his honour. The initial cost was $47,000 for the brick-faced building, which held a small ice surface and was used not only for varsity hockey, but also for recreational skating, band nights, and winter carnival activities.

Many stories in my book Dogs on Ice: A History of Hockey at University of Saskatchewan document the use of the rink for hockey, recreational skating, and as a military drill facility. My personal experience with Rutherford in any meaningful way started when I came to teach English at the U of S in 1991.

For years I have sat in a lawn chair I bring to every game. To this day, a number of us old-timers view the games up against the glass in the northeast corner of Rutherford. I have gone years without missing a single men's hockey home game.

Like most spectators in Rutherford Rink, I lament the shortcomings of the rink, which has a well-deserved negative reputation for its lack of spectator amenities. It is cold, the sightlines obstructed by steel posts (and thick black netting seemingly recycled from a Nova Scotia trawler!), the seats are backless boards bolted to concrete, the sound system is barely audible, the concession offerings are limited, and the two public washrooms are small and spartan.

Players are forced to use crowded dressing rooms, with the men jammed into a space beneath the media deck, while the women have to change in a construction trailer attached to the back of the rink. Showers are few, and training facilities consist of a few stationary bicycles. Through private donations and some university funding, the women’s trailer has been made relatively comfortable, while Smuker’s Lounge (named in honour of former Huskie Cody Smuk, who passed away from cancer) provides some amenities for the men’s team to study or relax with fellow players.

Rutherford’s small ice surface and close-up spectator area and walls make it intimidating for opposing teams. Hitting one of the overhead cross-girders results in rust filings falling onto the ice creating “rust delays” at most games, but this adds to the unique character of the facility. Over the years, Huskie players have said they like performing in the early 20th century structure, with its retro small-town Saskatchewan feel. Because it is so cold, the ice is usually good and the lack of player amenities in a way draws the team together.

Most of the fans at games are family or friends of players, or true Huskie fans who appear game-after-game. For those who continually stand or sit in the freezing confines of the building to support their team, there is a bond which creates a collective loyalty to the team and the shared experience at Rutherford Rink. One of the joys of games at the rink is the friendly interaction among spectators of all ages, as serious hockey fans and family and friends of players mingle with parents of young Timbits players who get to skate between periods.

Like many others, I have seen the plans for the new Merlis Belsher Place and recently had the opportunity to tour the facility. What an incredible place it will be when it opens. I will miss Rutherford’s unique old-school environment, but it will be a pleasure to be warm at a game, to have comfortable seats, numerous washrooms, concession choices, and excellent sightlines and sound system to provide an enjoyable experience.

Similarly, it will be good for the players to have the training, dressing room and ice facilities which allow them to perform at a high level. The women’s and men’s teams certainly deserve quality facilities after going decades without basic amenities.

Each game has been a positive experience for me as a fan and one who appreciates the speed, skill and strategy of university hockey. However, if I am to pick what has been the greatest game for the women’s team that I have experienced, I would point to the playoff series in 2014 when the Huskies shut out the University of Regina Cougars 1-0 in double overtime in the opener, dropped the second game in quadruple overtime 2-1, and clinched the series with a 2-1 double overtime victory. The rink was filled and the hockey was excellent, in a landmark series for the women’s hockey program.

In recent years, the men’s team’s most exciting game would also be a series, in fact two series. The first was in 2012 when the Huskies captured a best-of-three playoff series versus the University of Calgary Dinos. After losing the opener 2-1 in overtime, the Huskies won the second 4-1, and then captured the Canada West championship with a 2-1 triple overtime win. What made this series so special was the quality of play, but also the way it attracted fans to Rutherford. The seats and standing room areas were filled almost an hour before puck drop and for the first time in my memory, fans were turned away since the building could hold no more people!

The second series that comes to mind was the 2016 Canada West final against arch-rival University of Alberta. The crowds were loud and engaged throughout, but it was the fact that the Huskies swept the Golden Bears in two straight games (4-0 and 3-2) and had the trophy presented on home ice that made it special. I recall how players, family members and fans, including the family of the late Cody Smuk, who had passed away the year before, assembled on the ice to celebrate.
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Rutherford Rink is the only place one could see a professor pitching in with rink maintenance.

As fellow fans roared with laughter, I continued to stand there holding the glass and said to those around me: “This thing is heavy … I am holding it out of self-preservation, not trying to be helpful to the maintenance staff!”

Sitting by the northeast exit door, many nights the cold air from outside permeates the area, and of course there are many games where the frost drops from the uninsulated roof boards and inside the rink is indeed colder than outdoors. Asbestos was removed several summers ago when it was found that the pipes above the spectator area were wrapped in the material.

As far as players are concerned, like a father asked to proclaim his favourite child, I do not want to name any one player, since I have taught and interacted with so many excellent individuals from both the men’s and women’s teams over the decades. I will, however, note my strong support for the Huskies student-athlete model which has been a big part of the university.

Students learn so much about themselves and working toward shared goals, time management, dealing with challenges, etc., through their commitment to a team while they are studying at the post-secondary level. The successful players are those who excel in their chosen field of study and are also able to play their sport at an elite level. Many members of the hockey teams have been models of how successful student-athletes can be.

I have mixed emotions about the Huskies leaving the cozy confines of Rutherford Rink. It has been such an integral part of Huskie men’s and women’s hockey and recreational and alumni activities over the years. Yet, with the multi-purpose benefits of Merlis Belsher Place and integration of Saskatoon-wide activities with university events in a beautiful new facility, new history will be made.

Smuk’s family was included in the official Canada West championship photograph, which brought out the emotions in many of us.

There are so many other games that I have enjoyed as a long-time fan and team historian. One especially funny incident occurred around the turn of the century when two players crashed into the Plexiglas in front of where I was sitting in my lawn chair. The glass popped out and was falling toward me as I stretched out my hands to grasp this heavy Plexiglas panel. As I stood there and play was whistled down, people laughed and public-address announcer Bruce Gordon commented about how Rutherford Rink is the only place one could see a professor pitching in with rink maintenance.

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Michael P.J. Kennedy is a former long-time English lecturer at the U of S and a Huskies hockey historian who has installed a display of photographs and historical information at Rutherford Rink entitled: A Place to Call Home: From Rutherford’s Rink to Merlis Belsher Place.
COMING EVENTS

SEMINARS/LECTURES

Philosophy in the Community: Is the Psychedelic Renaissance More than a Flashback?
Jan. 12, 7 pm, The Refinery (basement of Emmanuel Anglican Church, 609 Dufferin Avenue). Free lecture and discussion series by Erika Dyck, Department of History and Canada Research Chair in the History of Medicine. In this presentation, Dyck will explore the history of LSD and psychedelic drugs and consider whether the claims about their therapeutic benefits are likely to gain traction in the 21st century. Psychedelics gained a reputation among scientists in the 1950s and 1960s for raising consciousness, providing insight, and offering therapeutic relief in ways that defined contemporary measurements. Indeed, psychedelics were described as changing ontology, not simply psychology or physiology; claims that were difficult to verify using a randomized controlled trial methodology. But, if past generations were unwilling to endorse a psychoactive substance that caused us to think differently about ourselves and the world, what has changed now that might allow for their acceptance in today’s modern pharmacopeia?

Why Scottish Teenagers Voted for Independence in the 2014 Referendum
Jan. 25, 3 pm, Room 153 Arts. Lecture open to university community and general public, presented by professor Peter Grant, Department of Psychology.

Sociology in 21st Century Canada: Is it Still Relevant?
Jan. 25, 7 pm, Room 241 Arts. The 49th Annual Sorokin Lecture, presented by Dr. Ted Hewitt. Almost since the time of its official birth nearly 100 years ago, Canadians and indeed many sociologists themselves have reflected on both definitional and substantive questions associated with the “relevance” of the discipline. The fact is, however, that sociology in Canada has made significant contributions to both knowledge and the well-being and prosperity of the country we call home. Today, the insights offered by the sociological imagination are more needed than ever, in the face of profound challenges associated with reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, migration, and the threats posed to Canada by the restructuring of the current world order. For more information visit artsandsscience.usask.ca/sociology

ECONOMICS SPEAKERS SERIES: Life expectancy and the earnings distribution in Canada
Feb. 4, 4 pm, Arts 807, Economics Speakers Series Presents: Tammy Schirle, Wilfrid Laurier University. Dr. Schirle will present a seminar titled, Life expectancy and the earnings distribution in Canada: New evidence from administrative data

Courses/Workshops

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education
Call 306-966-8686, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed • Jan. 18, Feb. 15 and Mar. 15, The Engagement Series – Saskatoon • Jan. 18, Fueling Enthusiasm-Building A Culture of Appreciation – Saskatoon • Feb. 15, Boosting Energy-Taking a Break to Get a Grip – Saskatoon • Mar. 15, Tapping Passion-Moving Beyond Mid-Life Malaise – Saskatoon • Jan. 27-Feb. 2, Effective Executive Leadership Program – Waskesiu Lake

Registration open for winter 2018 Conversational Language Classes

Registration open for the French Voyageur Weekend Workshop
Running until Feb. 15, Williams Building. Are you travelling to a French speaking country and want to learn the basics? Want to learn some French quickly in a comfortable setting? This beginner-level course is all you need to travel to a French-speaking destination and interact with the locals. The course runs over the weekend – Friday (6:30 – 9 pm) and Saturday and Sunday (9 am – 5 pm). For more information visit: ccderegister.usask.ca

Spanish Weekender and Spanish Turista Weekend Workshops
Running until Feb. 1, Williams Building. Are you travelling to a Spanish-speaking country and want to learn some Spanish quickly in a comfortable setting? The following courses are all you need to travel to a Spanish-speaking destination and interact with the locals.

• Spanish Weekender: This low beginner Spanish program is ideal if you have little or no previous Spanish-speaking experience or exposure.
• Spanish Turista: This low intermediate Spanish program is ideal if you have some previous Spanish-speaking experience or exposure.

Courses run over the weekend – Friday (6:30 – 9 pm), and Saturday and Sunday (9 am – 5 pm). For more information visit: artsandsscience.usask.ca

Registration open for 1-Week Intensive French Immersion Course
Running until Feb. 16, Williams Building. All levels offered (beginner to advanced). This week-long program consists of 40 hours of learning (Monday-Friday, 8:30 am – 5 pm). Highlights of the program: Themes, vocabulary, and grammar taught with the communicative method. Language lab exercises, group projects, guided conversations, discussions and debates. Friday final luncheon included. For more information visit: ccderegister.usask.ca

THE ARTS

Movies that Matter: Latin American Film Fest
Jan. 13, 1 – 6 pm, Broadway Theatre. Double feature and panel discussions:
• Embrace of the Serpent – 1 pm
• Daughter of the Lake – 4 pm

2018 Arts and Science Book Club: The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America by Thomas King
Immerse yourself in a great book, join a community discussion and visit with a reading author Thomas King.

• Reading and discussion with Thomas King: Jan. 29, 2 – 3:30 pm, Gordon Dakes Red Bear Student Centre, 5 Campus Drive
• My Writing Life: An interview with Thomas King: Jan 29, 7 – 8:30 p.m, Convocation Hall, Peter MacKinnon Building, 107 Administration Place

Next OCN: February 9, 2018
Deadline: January 29, 2018

INCIDENT REPORT:

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

Thieves on campus
Protective Services received several reports of petty theft from offices in the Peter MacKinnon Building on Nov. 22. No suspect was identified. Victims are advised to contact Protective Services if possessions were stolen, or if they have information.

Fights outside residence
Two fights were reported outside College Quarter residences on Nov. 24. Protective Services assisted several intoxicated individuals to return safely to their residences. Individuals with information regarding these altercations are encouraged to call Protective Services.

Stranger in residence
On Nov. 28, Protective Services was contacted by a College Quarter resident assistant about an individual who was trying to gain entrance to the building by using another resident’s ID card. The RA called Protective Services for assistance, but the individual fled the premises and left the ID behind before the officers arrived.

Impaired driving
On Nov. 29, officers observed a vehicle driving on campus in a way that suggested impairment. Officers stopped the vehicle and requested the driver provide a breath sample for testing in a roadside screening device. Results of the test indicated intoxication and the individual was issued a driving suspension of 72 hours.

Theft from Thorvaldson
A break and enter occurred on the second floor of the Thorvaldson Building on Dec. 3, with video game consoles and accessories stolen. Anyone with information is asked to call Protective Services.

Snapshot complaint
On Dec. 6, Protective Services received a report from a female student who believed a pair of male students were taking unwanted Snapchat photos of her during class. The caller confirmed that no lewd photos had been taken and Protective Services has spoken to the individuals involved, as this type of behaviour could be considered a breach of the Non-Academic Code of Student Conduct.

Shoplifting
A male subject was caught stealing from the Mac’s convenience store in Lower Place Riel on Dec. 12. The theft was verified by surveillance footage and all information was relayed to the Saskatoon Police Service for investigation.

Stolen vehicle
On Dec. 13, members of Protective Services witnessed a vehicle leaving Aird Street and Cumberland Avenue at a high rate of speed. The vehicle accelerated toward College Drive, where it drove onto the grass by the Stadium Parkade and then left westbound on the wrong side of the road. Officers called off their pursuit and contacted the Saskatoon Police Service, which had been tracking the stolen vehicle all night. No one on campus was injured.

Power shut off
On Dec. 16, two males were suspected of shutting off all of the breakers near Moose Lounge in Saskatoon Hall. Images of the suspects were recorded and anyone with information should contact Protective Services.

H.E.A.L.t.H Challenge – Human, Environment, Animal ties to Health
Jan. 27, 8:30 am – 12 pm, WCVM Room 4103. Undergraduates: join your peers to solve a One Health problem. The winning team is awarded $1,000 to invest in global community-based projects of their choice. This opportunity is open to undergraduates in all programs, including professional schools, at the University of Saskatchewan, Carleton University and Michigan State University. Register: https://carleton.ca/chaimcentre/ohs2018/
Contact: Vikram Misra vikram.misra@usask.ca or Doreen Stumborg doreen.stumborg@usask.ca

Group-based self-care training program
Graduate or professional students studying in health programs are needed to take part in a group-based self-care training program. Eligible students will be randomly assigned to either an immediate training group or a wait-list control group. Participants will have the opportunity to learn about self-care and how values can inform self-care. For more information, call 306-966-6731 or email selfcare.research@usask.ca

Thomas King is an award-winning writer, a member of the Order of Canada, and recipient of an award from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation. King has taught at the University of Lethbridge and was chair of American Indian studies at the University of Minnesota before moving to the University of Guelph.

MISCELLANY

Next OCN: February 9, 2018
Deadline: January 29, 2018
New approach to hiring in college

The college had those commitments in mind as it developed its plan, said Bidwell.

“If we want to meet these goals, we need to have more Indigenous faculty who can inspire our students, bring Indigenous knowledge into our curriculum and research, and bring their perspectives to everything that we do,” she said.

This ambition has been in place for years, but of the nearly 300 current College of Arts and Science faculty, only four percent self-declare as Aboriginal.

“We recognize that we are far short of where we need to be,” said Martz.

A different approach was needed. Rather than advertise positions in specific departments, the college chose to make its postings open-field and open-rank to ensure a large, competitive pool of candidates and to encourage representation across many areas.

Instead of relying on special funding, the strategy makes use of job openings that arise each year through the regular faculty renewal process.

“We wanted to make a serious commitment, not an add-on program,” said Martz. “Even in these times of financial restraint, the approach we’re taking allows us to move forward.”

Another priority was maintaining all of the standards and processes that apply to any faculty search, including making appointments only with the full support of the home departments.

“As always, the critical decisions about hiring are made by the experts at the department level,” said Martz. “Our expectations in terms of demonstrated excellence in scholarship and teaching are the same when we hire any faculty member.”

The response to the plan has been “overwhelmingly positive,” but reaching this point took work, Martz said.

Many groups were consulted, including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal faculty, human resources specialists, university leaders and the University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association.

Those consultations continue as the plan rolls out, and diversity workshops have been made available to staff and faculty involved with hiring committees.

“We know that no process is perfect. But even though there has been discussion of the details, we haven’t talked to anyone yet who has been against this in principle,” said Bidwell.

Applications from the October job posting are now being reviewed. The first two hires under the new recruitment program are expected to start in the College of Arts and Science by the fall.

“We hope that in a couple of years, this is no big deal; it’s just what we do,” said Martz. “If we get there, I think we’ll have made some real headway.”

Chris Putnam is a communications officer in the College of Arts and Science.

Downey will remain busy in retirement

“Retirement will bring continued presence on national boards, keeping an eye on my discipline—political science—and spending time with my family,” he said. “What will I miss most? The constant stimulation and opportunity to interact with young people and talented and interesting colleagues.”

Jacquie Berg is director of communications, marketing and recruitment at St. Thomas More.

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**2018 LECTURES**

All lectures are free and open to the public. Speakers and dates subject to change. For more information visit law.usask.ca/events

**Jan. 16, 2018** 12pm
MLT AIKINS Lecture Theatre
College of Law, U of S

Marijuana Legalization: Impacts on Students, Employers and the Public

A panel discussion featuring:
Kevin Wilson, QC, MLT Aikins LLP
Ron Piché, Piché & Company Law Firm
Michael Szafron, PhD, U of S School of Public Health

Janine Benedet, professor, Peter A. Allard School of Law

**Feb. 5, 2018** 12pm
MLT Aikins Lecture Theatre
College of Law, U of S

*Culliton Lecture in Criminal Law*
It Takes More Than a Moment: Challenging Impunity for Rape and Sexual Harassment

**Feb. 26, 2018** 7pm
Gordon Oakes Red Bear Student Centre, U of S

*Wunusweh Lecture in Aboriginal Law*
Shape Shifting: Making Space for Indigenous Process Within the Politics of Canada

Marilyn Poitras, professor, U of S College of Law and past commissioner, MMIW Inquiry

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**March 6, 2018** 7pm
Louis’ Loft, U of S

*Morris Shumiatcher Lecture in Law and Literature*
Imagination and Identity: How Stories Form Who We Are

Yann Martel, author

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**May 10, 2018**
Regina - time and location TBD

**Title TBD**
Andrew Arruda, co-founder and CEO, ROSS Intelligence

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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.

JANUARY 1961
ARTS BUILDING OPENS

Spanning 11 stories high, the Arts Building (also known as the Arts Complex) is the tallest building at the University of Saskatchewan and an easily recognizable part of campus.

A building for the liberal arts was of importance to President Walter Murray, and a tender was originally put out in 1930. However, the economic decline in the province ultimately led to the cancellation of the project, and it was shelved for more than 20 years.

In 1957, funding became available from the Canada Council, specifically targeting liberal arts and humanities-related facility projects at Canadian universities.

With funding in hand, the Arts Building was constructed in four stages from 1958 to 1967, costing $758,491. The first phase, a classroom wing, opened in September 1959. The next phase, completed in 1960, featured the first seven floors of the tower, a theatre and a link between the tower and classroom wing.

The tower officially opened on Jan. 16, 1961. Between that time and 1967, four more floors were added to the tower, as was a second classroom wing.