

HUB OF HEALTH

The fields of health science are always changing, and so too does the teaching and research within these diverse disciplines at the university. Throughout its history, the U of S, with a full complement of health science colleges, has worked to address the most pressing health issues. In this issue, we share stories about the way the U of S adapts to changing health needs, like improving service in northern communities, testing and treating concussions, examining policies to help paramedics, adapting to assisted dying legislation, having Canada's first PET-CT unit dedicated to animals, and more.

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On Campus News aims to provide a forum for the sharing of timely news, information and opinions about events and issues of interest to the U of S community.

The views and opinions expressed by writers of letters to the editor and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of the U of S or *On Campus News*.

We acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

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Bridging education

College of Education ITEP programming offered on Treaty 4

NICOLE BETKER

An expansion of the Indian Teacher Education Program (ITEP) community-based programming will now bring a four-year bachelor of education curriculum to Kahkewistahaw First Nation on Treaty 4 territory.

At powwow celebrations on July 13, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the U of S College of Education, ITEP and the Kahkewistahaw First Nation by College of Education Dean Michelle Prytula, ITEP Director Chris Scribe and Kahkewistahaw Chief Evan Taypotat. Kahkewistahaw First Nation is located about 150 kilometres east of Regina.

ITEP has been offering community-based teacher education programs since 1972. ITEP teachers—more than 1,500 graduates from about 60 First Nations in Saskatchewan, Alberta, Manitoba, Northwest Territories, Quebec and Nunavut—ensure the survival of culture as they are academically and culturally educating the youth of communities

throughout Canada.

“The College of Education and ITEP are proud to be able to offer programs in settings that enable students to be successful in their home community,” said Prytula. “Building on successes seen with similar programs on Treaty 6, we are pleased to be offering this valuable program starting this fall on Treaty 4.”

Classes on Kahkewistahaw First Nation will be held every Friday at the community high school for four years starting in September and is offered to anyone in the community and surrounding reserves—Indigenous or non-Indigenous. The program already has 24 applications and can accommodate up to 40 students.

“Education is power in a Western society,” said Taypotat. “The more degrees we can get, the more powerful we can be.”



Left to right: Chris Scribe, Indian Teacher Education program director, Chief Evan Taypotat, Kahkewistahaw First Nation, and Michelle Prytula, dean, College of Education.

SUBMITTED

Taypotat graduated through the ITEP program in 2004 and wanted to ensure that his community had opportunities to experience education. He understands that it is hard for Indigenous people to move and wanted to bring ITEP to his people.

“People at ITEP understand where Aboriginal people came from,” said Taypotat. “Not everyone feels

comfortable and they helped me feel at home.”

Taypotat believes that the work with the College of Education is just the beginning for indigenizing education at the post-secondary level. In the future, he hopes to see degrees in many sectors, including business and agriculture, offered on reserve. ■

Nicole Betker is a communications officer in the College of Education.



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:

Highest order

On June 29, five members of the U of S community were appointed to the Order of Canada. Cindy Blackstock, Eli Bornstein, John Conly, Beverley Jacobs and Bruce McManus were recently appointed to the Order, which recognizes Canadians for their outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Blackstock, was named an officer while the others were named as members of the Order of Canada.

Vanier scholars

2018 Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarships, worth \$150,000 over three years, have been awarded to four U of S PhD students working in health, water and conservation research: Scott Adams (improving medical imaging in northern Saskatchewan); Caroline Aubry-Wake (studying climate change impact on glaciers); Julie Colpitts (studying feral horses to develop conservation strategies); and Zoe Gillespie (treating premature aging disease in children).

Health funding

Four U of S research projects received more than \$2.4 million from the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. Dr. Alexandra King is leading two projects, both focused on improving health for Indigenous women with HIV. Phyllis Paterson is examining how protein-rich nutrition after a stroke can bolster brain and muscle recovery. Linda Chelico will examine the activity of enzymes that protect the body against viruses.

Banting fellow

A prestigious Banting Post-doctoral Fellowship was awarded to the U of S that will lead to nationally important research into risk assessment tools that could help courts determine whether inmates, particularly Indigenous individuals, are likely to re-offend. Maaik Helmus, an outstanding researcher with international work experience from New Zealand, is the U of S recipient of the Banting Fellowship, valued at \$140,000 over two years.

FOR MORE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS, VISIT: news.usask.ca @usask



Saving the lives of life savers

MEDAVIE HEALTH SERVICES WEST

Student examines paramedics' need for mental health support

KIMBERLEE LITZENBERGER

Suicide and mental illness represent a major health issue for Canadian first responders—more than 250, including 68 paramedics, have taken their own lives since 2014.

These staggering stats, in combination with her personal experiences as a frontline social worker, have motivated Jennifer Chouinard, a master's student in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the U of S, to ask the question: why aren't we working harder to save those who spend their days and nights saving us?

Chouinard is conducting international research on mental health policies and programs that have been successful in reducing the incidents of psychological injuries and suicide among paramedics. With the help of Medavie Health Services West, Chouinard is looking to identify

solutions to an increasingly alarming situation.

"I believe that it is vital to ask frontline workers what their day-to-day reality is like, what their needs are, and how we can meet those needs," said Chouinard.

To that end, Chouinard, in collaboration with Gerry Schriemer, chief operating officer and EMS for Medavie Health Services West, examined some of the stressors for paramedics in Saskatoon. With a population of 254,000, paramedics respond to more than 30,000 calls per year, one of the highest call rates per capita in Canada. In addition to the number of calls, Chouinard and Schriemer highlighted other significant themes plaguing Saskatoon's paramedics.



Chouinard

Chouinard said the high call volume creates tension for paramedics who are already working in a high-pressure and high-stakes environment. With limited time between calls, paramedics receive little peer support or even time for meal breaks. To bring the volume to the national

average, up to four additional ambulances would be needed on the street in a 24-hour period.

Once on scene, paramedics operate in an uncontrolled and unpredictable environment. They shield the patient and themselves from lingering dangers and overly curious passersby, while the environment and emotions fluctuate around them. In the heat of the moment, onlookers, uninjured individuals involved, and even injured patients may act out in fear, leaving paramedics at risk of harm.

Once off the scene, paramedics often face delays and spend a great deal of time waiting in hospitals, as they are unable to off-load patients to nursing staff due to a lack of available beds in emergency departments.

Meanwhile, they hear calls come in and are anxious to get back out on the streets to help meet the high demand of individuals requiring medical attention.

Chronically ill patients, the elderly, and individuals with problematic substance use often require frequent transport to hospital multiple times over short periods. Continually treating and interacting with repeat patients can put an emotional strain on paramedics who often spend extended time with the same individuals.

These are just a few of the stressors, in addition to responding to the actual call itself—which can range from major accidents and violent offenses, to cardiac arrest, dementia and problematic substance

SEE PROACTIVE, PAGE 11

Communities that inspire

CHRIS MORIN

For Dr. Veronica McKinney, health is much more than just delivery of services.

As an Indigenous physician and director of U of S Northern Medical Services, McKinney aims not only to help shape the university's College of Medicine, developing the curriculum that will aid new doctors in serving the province's remote communities. She also hopes to inspire the youth of those same communities.

For McKinney, the concept of mentorship being an important part of fulfilling the vision of healthy communities came when she was doing her own northern residency—something that has stuck with her throughout her career.

"I remember that people would come just to see me, because they wanted to see what I looked like, if I really was an Indigenous person who was also a doctor. It was such an incredulous thing," said McKinney, who graduated from the U of S College of Medicine in 1998. "And sometimes it still happens. But I knew it was important for these communities to see an Indigenous person serving as a doctor."

Establishing community-based relationships is a key part of Northern Medical Services (NMS), which has been working to provide accessible health care in geographically and culturally distinct areas of Saskatchewan for more than 30 years.

While there are five main sites where the physicians of NMS are located, many of them will travel throughout the province in order to meet the health needs of many communities and to share information about what the university is doing. There's also a student connection, said McKinney, so that these communities are not only able to get the knowledge of these physicians, but also to share their experiences with the students.

"Our doctors are involved with mentoring students in the university, but we try and reach the students in

“ We will mentor any Indigenous youth who are interested in health sciences.

— Dr. Veronica McKinney

these communities before that," she said. "A lot of studies have shown that if you can have a positive mentor it can encourage that youth to pursue more in these fields."

"As an Indigenous physician, we are still quite rare in this country and in this province," she continued. "That's why we will mentor any Indigenous youth who are interested in health sciences and we get into the schools and work with those educators to encourage this."

While she works to empower those voices, McKinney is quick to point out that she is not trying to speak on behalf of these communities, rather, as an advocate. Working with northern strategy groups, NMS has helped to identify some key health areas that need to be addressed, with chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease being among the top problems.

Next on the list are mental health and addictions, said McKinney.

"For many of our Indigenous communities, trauma is a big part of what is currently happening. Adverse events and traumas experienced as children impacts a wide variety of areas and is the basis of issues that we are seeing such as depression and anxiety, and suicide."

There is also a link between addictions and abuse, she said.

In light of the number of cases of HIV, there is also a growing need to address related health issues such as substandard housing. It's McKinney's hope that these programs that bring doctors to the north can also do more to protect children, and prevent health issues from affecting future generations.



Dr. Veronica McKinney, director of U of S Northern Medical Services.

DAVID STOBBE

"We have a very unique cultural group in our northern province," said McKinney. "The population is younger and we have double the birth rate and it's growing. But even when we had a boom in resource development, it didn't necessarily translate into greater employment for people living in these areas, as people were brought in to work from other areas. There's so many different dynamics that lead to a poor health

scenario. We try and identify those, and we look for the people to bring in to help this situation."

At the university level, McKinney is also involved in the ongoing indigenization efforts on campus in both curriculum development and research, in addition to recruitment and retention of Indigenous faculty at the U of S. She also aims to ensure that the admissions process is not a barrier

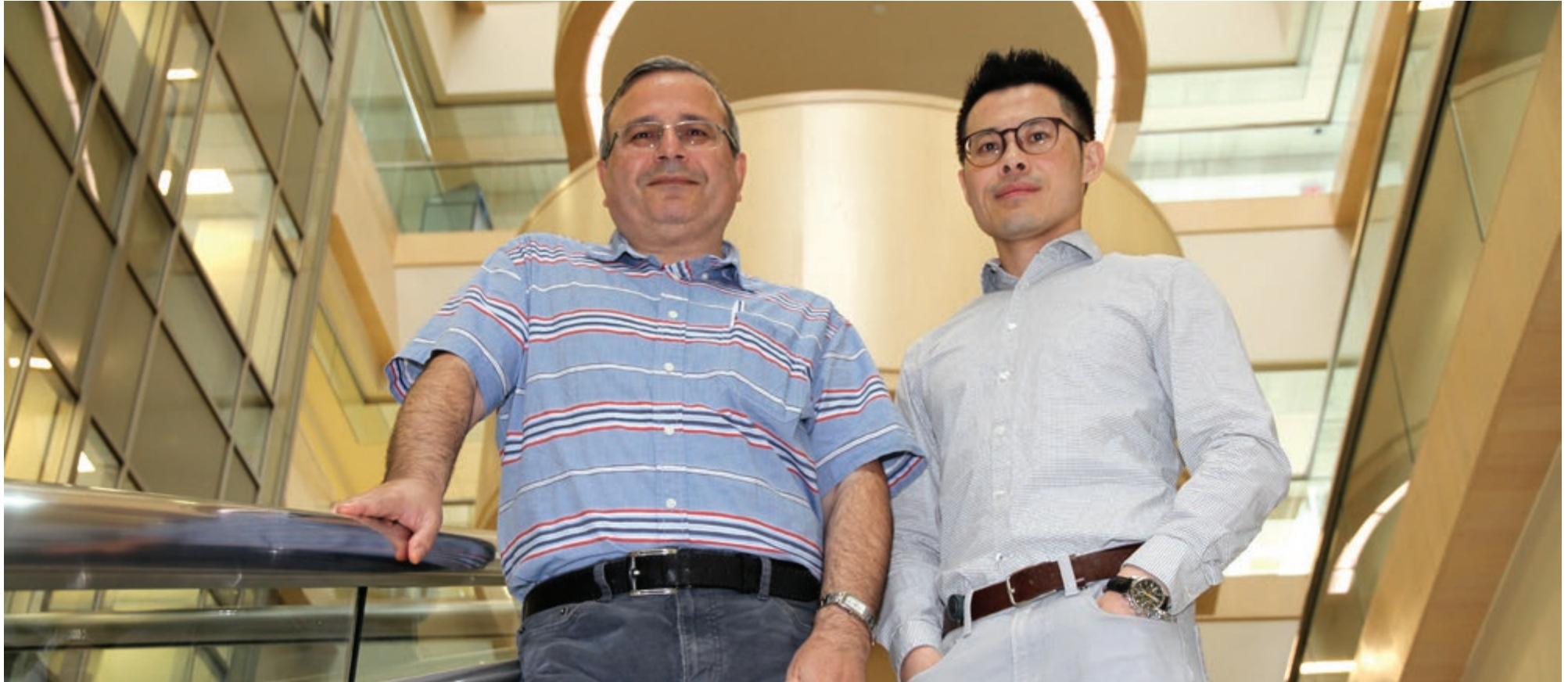
to any potential applicants to the program—something that she sees as a point of success.

"I'm proud to say that the U of S has some of the highest numbers nationally of Indigenous medical students gaining entry into our college," she said. "And we are getting more people from our northern communities who are graduating from our colleges, and it is so very encouraging." ■

Improving concussion tests and treatment

U of S researchers developing diagnostic tools and therapy techniques

JAMES SHEWAGA



Associate professor Changiz Taghibiglou (left) and Dr. Yanbo Zhang are collaborating on concussion research in the College of Medicine.

JAMES SHEWAGA

Imagine a portable and inexpensive sideline or roadside test to quickly and accurately determine if you have suffered a concussion in a game or car accident, and a hand-held device to immediately begin treatment.

For University of Saskatchewan researcher Changiz Taghibiglou and his colleagues, there is hope that day might not be far off.

“It is a very serious matter, so that is why we are excited about the prospect of improving quality of life for people with traumatic brain injuries,” said Taghibiglou, an associate professor of pharmacology in the College of Medicine and a member of the Neuroscience Research Cluster at the U of S. “We are still in the research stage and showing great potential, but it will take time. But the goal is one day we

want to take it to the field and be able to help people.”

Over the past seven years, Taghibiglou has been working on improving tests for traumatic brain injuries, publishing research that successfully identified protein biomarkers in a patient’s blood that accurately determines whether an individual has suffered a concussion. Further research found a second biomarker that can pinpoint the severity of the brain injury, using a simple blood test that could be used on the sidelines or on the bench during sporting events, at the scene of an accident, on the battlefield, or in the emergency room.

“We can determine if the person suffered from a concussion

brain injury and also which level of severity it is,” said Taghibiglou, who successfully tested his research with U of S Huskies athletes. “These two biomarkers that we have identified can go together in a kit. That

“ We are confident that this could be a game-changer.

— Changiz Taghibiglou

is our ultimate goal: To put them in a diagnostic kit that can be used by emergency medical personnel and in emergency rooms, or by team physicians or military doctors. It works, but it needs investment from industrial partners to develop.”

What is most exciting for

Taghibiglou’s team is new research that is proving promising in its potential to treat traumatic brain injuries. Working with Dr. Yanbo Zhang, a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at the U of S, along with post-doctoral fellow Sathiya Sekar, the researchers have found that using low-field magnetic stimulation could help treat and even reverse damage from concussions.

“We are confident that this could be a game-changer, particularly if we launch human studies and the data is there and proves that it is effective,” said Taghibiglou, who presented the new research in poster format at the annual Canadian Neuroscience Conference in Vancouver in May. “It basically is showing that the

magnetic field treatment reversed the pathology, reserved the damage, so that is exciting for us. We are the first ones testing this in Canada.”

So far, testing has been limited to rodent subjects, but does offer the promise of providing a new quick and efficient method of treating concussions.

“When we started this project, we were not expecting this significant success, but our surprisingly good results really strengthened our confidence and our passion that it works,” said Zhang, who was awarded a \$117,500 grant from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation in July to support the research into magnetic stimulation to promote brain repair. “We are

SEE POTENTIAL, PAGE 9



Top left: Dr. Doug Brothwell, dean of the College of Dentistry

Celebrating 50 years of dentistry

COLLIN SEMENOFF

This fall marks 50 years of the Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) program at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Dentistry.

Although the college was formally established in 1965, it wasn't until 1968 that it began accepting students into the first fully accredited dental program in the province of Saskatchewan, said Dr. Doug Brothwell, dean of the college.

Since then, Brothwell said, almost 1,000 students have graduated from the college and have joined the profession.

"Our graduates, faculty, staff and donors have helped establish the college as a leader in innovative scholarly pursuits, research, interdisciplinary collaboration, community outreach and engage-

ment," said Brothwell, who happens to also be a graduate from the class of 1984.

"We have a rich history and lots to celebrate," he said. "For the past several decades, the college and the doctors who have graduated from it have made considerable contributions to the field of dentistry and to the communities we serve."

Since starting in the dean position on Sept. 1, 2017, Brothwell said he has seen many reasons to celebrate the past 50 years.

"The college has an outstanding history and our graduates continue building our story of success in each and every community they practice,"

said Brothwell, noting that dentistry graduates do incredible work and gain outstanding recognition. "Our work is an integral and important component of overall health and well-being. That's something we should celebrate."

And celebrate they will. Throughout the 2018/19 academic year, the College of Dentistry plans to infuse meaningful 50th anniversary celebrations into a number of events. The official kick-off to the college's 50th anniversary celebrations will take place Sept. 6-8, in conjunction with the 2018 Saskatchewan Oral Health Conference.

The college has also partnered with Huskies Athletics and will be offering its alumni and dentistry community exclusive access to a hockey game at the brand new arena—Merlis Belsher Place—in

January 2019.

And while there is much reason for excitement when looking at the college's past, Brothwell said there is even more reason for excitement when looking to its future.

"Our research productivity and community service are two areas we expect to see significant growth in the future," said Brothwell. "I see this as an ideal opportunity to further integrate the school into the province to ensure it is doing everything it can do at the highest level in service to Saskatchewan."

Brothwell said another key part of the college's vision for the future is to ensure the student body, and indeed the faculty complement, better represents the demographics of the province it will serve.

"We are looking to attract more Indigenous students and faculty," he

said. "We plan to collaborate with First Nations entities and develop programming that supports traditional ways and understanding, and we are looking to partner with members of Indigenous communities to do shared, respectful research."

Brothwell said that the upcoming celebrations will be a good chance for college stakeholders to celebrate 50 years of success and progress and look forward to the next 50 years of development and innovation in the college.

Visit dentistry.usask.ca/50 for more information about the college's 50th anniversary and festivities. ■

Collin Semenoff is a communications co-ordinator in the College of Dentistry and the School of Public Health.

INDIGENOUS GATHERING

OUR CIRCLE, OUR STORIES.

OCTOBER 11, 2018 • 8 AM – 4:30 PM • WANUSKEWIN HERITAGE PARK

PLEASE MARK THIS DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR. REGISTRATION FOR THIS FREE EVENT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER.

Indigenous faculty and staff are invited to the second annual Indigenous Gathering, an event celebrating the diversity, strength, resilience and rich cultural history of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. "Our Circle, Our Stories" will focus on knowing, preserving and creating our stories and will feature best-selling author Richard Van Camp.

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UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

Preparing U of S health-care students for the new reality of end-of-life care

JAMES SHEWAGA

Two years ago, the federal government dramatically changed the health-care landscape by providing patients with the right to choose medical assistance in dying.

The passing of Bill C-14: Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) on June 17, 2016 followed a landmark judgement by the Supreme Court of Canada and made it legal for patients who were suffering from an incurable medical ailment, and met a strict list of conditions, to choose the option to end their life. The new legislation had implications for not only patients and their families, but also for health-care providers who have to deal with the ethical dilemma and difficult decision of whether to choose to assist in helping a patient end their life.

“I think many physicians find it so different from the way we were trained, and that is the challenge,” said Dr. Susan Hayton, who graduated from medicine and law at the U of S and teaches about MAID in the College of Medicine. “This intervention was always illegal, and it was just not what we thought of ourselves as physicians, always trying to preserve life and extend life. But now I would say that much of the general public thinks this should be available and apparently most physicians do too, if you look at the statistics.”

According to a federal report released in June, there have been a total of 3,714 medically-assisted deaths in Canada since the legislation was adopted, including 39 in Saskatchewan during the most recent reporting period of July 1 to Dec. 31 of 2017.

While personal feelings about the issue vary widely among practitioners, faculty and students, the new legislation has required the university to help prepare the next generation of health-care professionals—doctors, nurses and pharmacists—for dealing with this new reality when they begin their careers.

“I think end-of-life care, in general, is more challenging for students and nurses to deal with because it is not an easy topic to approach,” said Janet Luimes, assistant professor and the acting director of the Nurse Practitioner Program in the College of Nursing. “But I think the more we talk about it and go through cases with students to equip them with the knowledge and skills in appropriately addressing end-of-life care, the more they become comfortable discussing it.”

The topic of medical assistance in dying is now covered in mandatory courses for all students—largely in ethics classes—in the Colleges of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy and Nutrition. Once the legislation was officially adopted two years ago, all three colleges worked quickly to incorporate the subject into the curriculum.

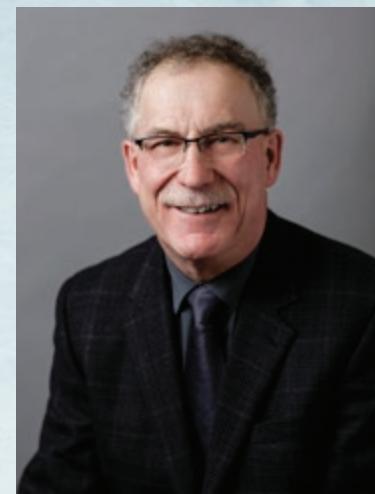
“MAID was interesting legislation because I think it was ordered by the court system before the health system was really prepared to deal with it,” Luimes said. “In health care there has always been the idea of doing everything you can to save and



Hayton



Luimes



Joubert

cure the patient, so how do we deal with this? At first it was much more about understanding what the legislation means in practice and since then we have figured out where it fits best with our curriculum. So, we discuss it with end-of-life care, since it's another aspect that needs to be addressed.”

Physicians and nurse practitioners can carry out assisted-dying procedures, while registered nurses can act as a witness. Meanwhile, pharmacists can be asked to supply the drugs used in the process, but do not take part in the actual procedure, which creates a unique ethical dilemma for that profession.

“(Pharmacists) have a very limited clinical role as they are not authorized under the Criminal Code to do much more than supply the drugs according to health system protocols,” said Ray Joubert, associate registrar in the Saskatchewan College

of Pharmacy Professionals, the regulating body that oversees licencing for U of S pharmacy graduates to work in the province, as well as curriculum covering the topic.

“They must trust that others who are authorized properly educate and counsel the patient, obtain

“Students pay attention to news and this was a huge news story and they want to know what the guidelines are for this and how this is going to affect them.

— Dr. Susan Hayton

consent, obtain a second opinion, and administer the service. In other words, they must rely entirely on others who are authorized under the Criminal Code (mostly physicians) to confirm eligibility of the patient, consent for the care, and administration of the service,” said Joubert, who has covered the topic in ethics and

law courses with pharmacy students.

For all three professions, no doctor, nurse or pharmacist can be forced to take part in any aspect of the assisted-dying process. However, if they do decline, they cannot abandon the patient. For a physician, this means “arranging timely access to another physician or resources, or offering the patient information and advice about all the medical options available,” according to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan policy. Nurse practitioners have similar obligations.

“As a nurse, we have a code of ethics and the code of ethics states that we can't abandon a patient,” Luimes noted. “So, if a patient requests medical assistance in dying and you don't agree with it, you do have a duty to provide other aspects of nursing care to the patient while referring the patient to another provider to discuss medical assis-

tance in dying.”

Both Hayton and Luimes said there has been a generational shift in acceptance by students, who are willing to at least discuss the topic even if they do not agree with the practice, for ethical, moral or religious reasons.

“Students pay attention to news and this was a huge news story and they want to know what the guidelines are for this and how this is going to affect them,” said Hayton, who was one of the first in the province to lecture about MAID once it became law, and presented on the topic and engaged in discussion about consent and the potential role of psychiatrists in physician-assisted dying, at the 2016 Saskatchewan Psychiatric Association annual conference. “And certainly not all, but many students that I teach, are maybe a bit more open to the idea than my generation was. So, I think that’s been a change.”

“I find my students are definitely open to discussing it,” Luimes added. “And I think it comes down to increased recognition and emphasis on the importance of patient-centred approaches in health care. So, while students may not agree with, they do respect a patient’s right to make an informed decision.”

Joubert said the majority of pharmacy students are also willing

to tackle the topic in the classroom, although the discussions sometimes create more questions than answers.

“I find that they are very open to the subject from the perspective of intellectual curiosity, but become more reserved, or perhaps apprehensive, as they learn more about their potential role and the legal and ethical issues and challenges,” he said. “In other words, they appear as though they had not considered this role in selecting pharmacy as a career and exhibit some level of surprise as they learn more.”

Hayton said, in the end, it comes down to the concept of patient autonomy. Health-care professionals offer their diagnosis, treatment options and recommendations, but when it comes to medical assistance in dying, it’s the patients who have the right to make the final decision, once all the requirements are met.

“You give the patient your best medical advice, but ultimately, they have the final say about what to do with their body,” she said. “And the whole idea of physician-assisted dying plays into that because maybe they don’t want to do what is suggested because it will be too much suffering and maybe they want to choose the time and method of their death. So, it’s all about patient autonomy and quality of life. And I think we can all respect that.” ■

Potential breakthrough

FROM PAGE 5

developing a non-invasive way to deliver a magnetic field to basically help the brain to reset and to recover. It is safe and non-invasive, so there is no opening of the skull. And it is very affordable and portable, laptop-sized, so the patient could just lie on it with their head while it works.”

Zhang and Taghibiglou believe their new tools to diagnose and treat concussions could eventually offer effective and efficient therapy for patients, while also providing significant savings for the health-care system, resulting in fewer costly imaging tests (MRIs and CT scans), and shortening hospital stays for patients.

“There is a human impact in terms of helping patients, as well as an economic impact with saving health-care resources and lessening the burden on our health-care systems,” said Taghibiglou, who has also submitted the new research for publication in a leading research journal. “The economic long-term impact of concussions is in the billions of dollars, with losing working days, disability leave, you name it. And of course, we improve the quality of life, which is most important.”

Zhang is now seeking approval for human testing, through the university’s Research Ethics Department and Health Canada.

“A similar magnetic stimulation treatment has been tested on patients in the United States and in China for many different disorders, like depression and bipolar disorder, and the patients improve quickly,” said Zhang. “So, we want to show

that it is effective in treating concussion as well, with early diagnosis and early intervention to limit the damage.”

Taghibiglou said they are also looking for funding agencies to continue their magnetic stimulation research, while also seeking a manufacturing partner to develop a concussion diagnosis kit using their successful protein biomarker blood tests.

“The next step is commercialization,” he said. “We are in touch with diagnostic kit developers to see if we can take this project to the manufacturing level ... And if we can attract funding from Health Canada and CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) or athletic bodies like professional football and hockey clubs, we can take (magnetic therapy) one step further and test it with humans and see if we can improve somebody’s life.”

Both Taghibiglou and Zhang said this collaborative research project is another example of the strength of the university, drawing on complementary expertise to improve health care.

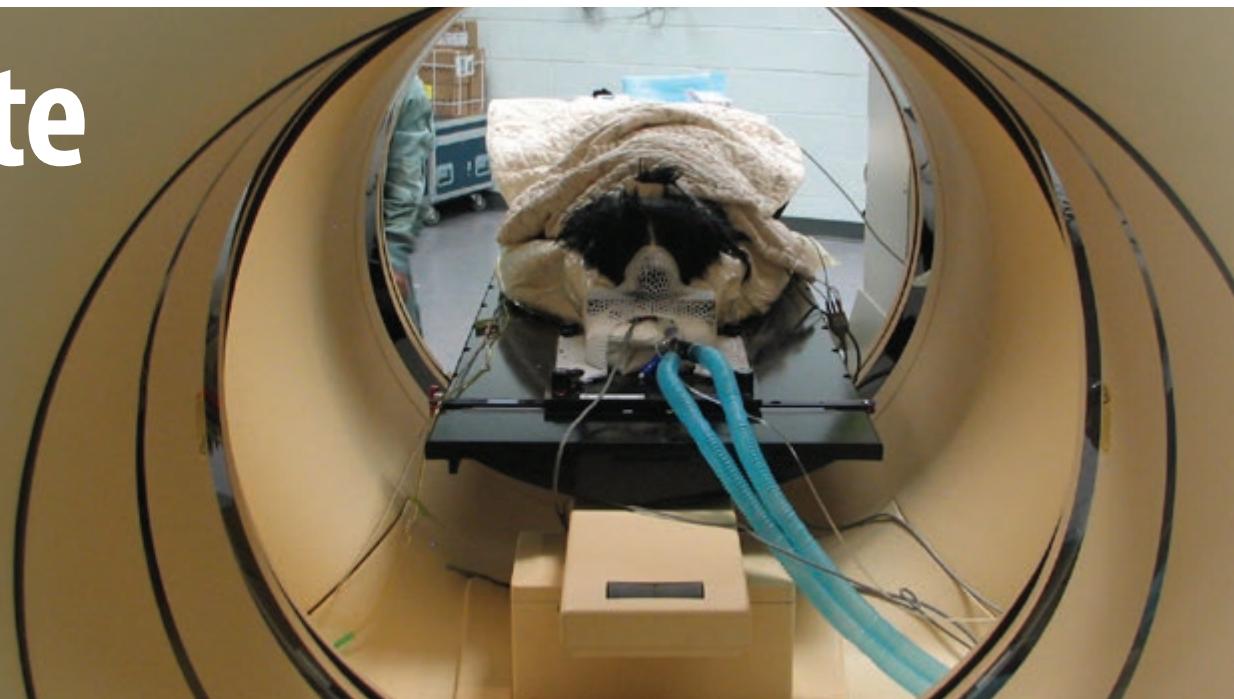
“We are in the early stages here, but the strength here is Changiz is a well-known basic scientist and has a really solid foundation in cognition and the traumatic brain injury field, and I am a basic scientist as well as a clinician, so we are a good collaboration,” said Zhang. “Changiz, with his knowledge and expertise, really gives us a scientific foundation to see what we need to do to improve both diagnosis and treatment. We work well together.” ■

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION

SEPT. 20-22, 2018
U OF S
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USASK ALUMNI *weekend*

WCVM to operate Canada's first PET-CT unit for animals



PET-CT unit at Colorado State University.  SUPPLIED

 LYNNE GUNVILLE

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) at the U of S will soon be home to Canada's first PET-CT unit dedicated to animals—thanks to an Alberta donor whose \$2.5-million gift is the largest private donation in WCVM's history.

With this technology, the WCVM will join a select group: only five other veterinary colleges in North America have a PET-CT unit available for clinical use in animals as well as for animal-human health research studies.

The suite, which is a key component of the WCVM's growing veterinary oncology centre, will be dedicated to animal health care, teaching and research, for animals and people. Now under construction, the veterinary college's PET-CT suite is set for completion in late 2018, with the PET-CT scanner expected to be operating by early 2019.

Cathy Roozen, an Edmonton-based businesswoman and philanthropist, made the personal contribution to the WCVM because of her strong interest in the veterinary college's clinical and research programs. She anticipates that the new technology and centre will help the WCVM and the U of S to attract top-quality researchers and

will be used for a combination of treatment, diagnostics, research, and education.

"Over the years we have supported the oncology program at the college, and I think the PET-CT scanner is just a complement to that program," said Roozen. Her support also reflects her regard for the college and for its dean, Dr. Douglas Freeman.

"I like the dean's vision for the college and the way he collaborates with other people and faculties. I believe it [the WCVM] has a quality program that turns out good veterinarians. In Saskatoon they get a quality, hands-on education, and when they leave the college, they're prepared to start in practice," said Roozen.

"We're extremely grateful to Cathy for this very generous gift that is allowing this PET-CT suite to finally become a reality," said Freeman. "Her belief in our veterinary college's ability to accomplish great things in the areas of oncology, medical imaging and one health is a major motivator for our clinical and research teams."

PET-CT stands for positive emission tomography-computed tomography. While a CT scan operates like a three-dimensional X-ray that provides detailed pictures



Snead



Mayer

of the anatomy, a PET scan delivers information about the metabolic activity in the patient's tissues.

A combination of PET and CT functions allows an imaging specialist to isolate the anatomic location of any notable metabolic activity. For example, it can help detect cancer, brain disorders, heart disease and infections before any anatomical changes are detectable by other imaging scans.

"The most important benefit will be to oncology and the oncology patients," said Dr. Elisabeth Snead, WCVM's associate dean of research and graduate studies. "It [the PET-CT scanner] will really

increase our capabilities, not only to diagnose cancers and determine the extent of the cancers, but also to follow therapy. And if we discover that therapy A is more effective than therapy B, that has the potential to benefit other veterinary patients—and potentially humans."

Since cancer cells have a more rapid metabolism than normal cells, the PET scan's capabilities enable oncologists to pinpoint these abnormal cells much earlier than they could with standard imaging tools.

"When we see a cancer patient, we almost always stage them—that's just finding out where the disease is

in the body so we can treat it effectively," said Dr. Monique Mayer, a specialist in radiation oncology and a professor in the WCVM Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. "The PET-CT can add a lot of information to the staging, and it's also important for early detection, so we can monitor the patient for any signs of the disease coming back."

Mayer said the scan will also help to determine the extent of a tumour—information that's important for radiation and medical oncologists as they develop a cancer patient's treatment plan. All these activities will provide vital learning opportunities for residents, clinical interns and veterinary students.

Perhaps the most significant impact of the PET-CT scanner will be in research, primarily because of the unique opportunities that exist at the U of S. The PET-CT suite will be located near the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation, where medical isotopes are made in the university's cyclotron. That makes it possible for the WCVM team to use very short-lived medical isotopes for their clinical cases and research studies. Ready access to the Canadian Light Source synchrotron will also advance future animal and human health



Proactive mental health strategy needed

FROM PAGE 3

use—that create an environment ripe with stress and prone to creating mental health issues.

“With increasing awareness and two recent losses to suicide in Saskatchewan, many paramedics worry about the current state of mental health resources,” said Chouinard. “The uncertainty of what the future may hold for them and their co-workers is additionally taxing on a paramedic.”

In Canada, paramedics are more than twice as likely as the general population to develop some form of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), with about 25 per cent of paramedics considered to meet the criteria of a PTSD diagnosis—not including those suffering from anxiety or depression.

When looking to the government for support after a psychological injury (either from a single incident or an accumulation of stress), workers are held up by a system that has not yet shifted its interpretation of mental health inclusivity. Workers across industries have raised serious concerns regarding the province’s lack of support through the Worker’s Compensation Board (WCB).

Chouinard and Schriemer agree that the implementation of Bill 39 (the psychological injury presumption), has not successfully assisted all psychologically injured paramedics and often puts more pressure on the employer and the injured employee. For instance, Medavie Health Services West is covering large gaps

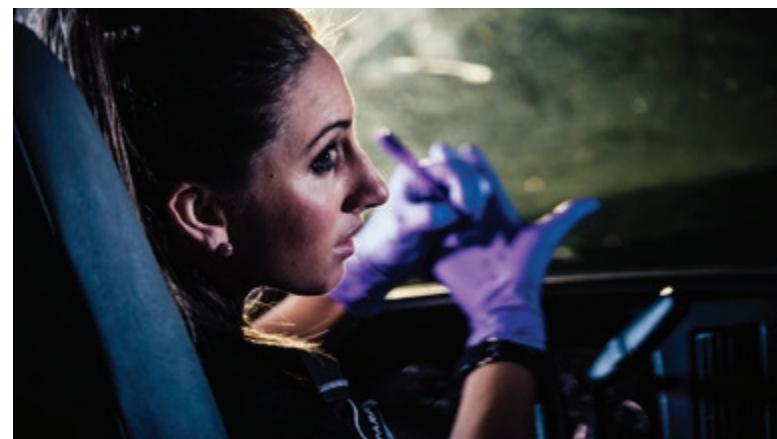
in lost wages and treatment costs—which are the responsibilities of WCB—so that its employees aren’t waiting several months for support.

While conducting her research, Chouinard was inspired by the progressive and comprehensive staff support service available to paramedics at Queensland Ambulance Services (QAS) in Australia.

“What I saw in Queensland was an entire department dedicated to staff well-being, strong investment and support from the government, and a strong, long-standing investment from the academic community to ensure every detail was well-researched and evidenced-based,” said Chouinard. “The duty of care for a paramedic’s mental health seemed to be spread more proportionately among multiple stakeholders such as post-secondary training, the family, the employer, the community and the government. Returning home, the burden of this intense responsibility seemed to fall too heavily on the individual.”

The QAS approach, Chouinard continued, educates paramedics on the psychological challenges of the job while also providing them with the processes, support systems and skills to prepare for and cope with what they will experience.

“This approach emphasizes support for the paramedics from the organization itself and their peers so that they know where to go for help, especially before they need it,” she explained.



Research in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the U of S, in collaboration with Medavie Health Services West, is examining ways to better support first responders’ mental health.

MEDAVIE HEALTH SERVICES WEST

The pain of psychological injury and suicide has been felt across Medavie Health Services’ operating companies, prompting the organization to continue looking for additional supports for paramedics and dispatchers. Currently, they offer programs such as the Road to Mental Readiness (R2MR) course to employees and their families. This program is designed to reduce the stigma of mental illness and to address and promote mental health resilience in a first responder workplace setting.

“The R2MR course is providing a useful foundation of knowledge for paramedicine teams and their families,” said Chouinard.

Chouinard hopes her work will inspire all sectors of public safety to be more proactive in caring for the mental health of their workers.

“It is time that we start taking care of the people that are taking care of us.” ■

Kimberlee Litzenberger is a marketing and communications intern in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

research collaborations among U of S specialists.

“We’re fortunate that we have all the health sciences on our campus, and we have many opportunities to do collaborative, multi-disciplinary research,” said Snead. “Our pets get spontaneous forms of cancer, and many of those forms of cancer are very similar to the forms that humans get. Pets form a really good model for studying treatments before research teams move into human clinical trials.”

That’s significant for pet owners since these clinical trials enable them to access cancer treatment for their pets at a reduced cost. And since the trials generate more options for effective treatments, their findings eventually lead to better outcomes.

“The ultimate end point is our patients will benefit—patients that maybe couldn’t have accessed that type of treatment otherwise if they weren’t able to enter the clinical trials,” said Mayer. “I also like knowing that we will be able to answer questions for human patients because that’s my family and friends too.” ■

Lynne Gunville of Candle Lake, Sask., is a freelance writer and editor whose career includes 25 years of teaching English and communications to adults.

Co-op student success on campus

NATASHA KATCHUK

Since 2007, more than 400 students have participated in the co-op education program in the Edwards School of Business, with 95 per cent of students' placements located in Saskatoon.

Fall gathering an opportunity to hear Indigenous stories on campus

ASHLEY DOPKO

Stryker Calvez is becoming well known on campus for his work towards building a better understanding of and support for Indigenous Peoples across campus.

As manager of Indigenous education initiatives, his passion for his work stems from his own experiences, and those of his family. Although Calvez is becoming a well-known figure in the Métis community, it wasn't until he was 11-years old that he started to learn about his own heritage as a Michif (Métis from the Red River territory) researcher and educator.

Like many kids in Western Canada, Calvez was in Grade 5 when he learned about the Red River uprising and the Riel Rebellion. It wasn't until his dad commented, "Louis Riel, I think we're related to him, a distant cousin or something" that Calvez was introduced to his own Métis family heritage.

Through conversations with his dad and extended family, Stryker

learned that in the 1920s, a time when the cultural ban was in full effect, his memère (father's mother) was pressured to not talk about her family's Métis heritage. This act of hiding her Indigenous identity was a coping mechanism to combat the oppressive atmosphere of the time, and it was passed on to her children.

While the older generation has maintained this attitude out of love for memère, the younger generation has begun to piece together this lost history. As a result, Calvez admits that his family has difficulty identifying as Métis.

"Many people who are learning about their own indigeneity have imposter syndrome," said Calvez. "You know that you're Indigenous, but you have a hard time feeling like it."

"I know that from experience that once you get past that, you will be able to ground yourself in it and figure out what exactly it means to you," he said.

"Co-op students gain a clearer idea of their career options and improve confidence in their capabilities," said Kim Stranden, co-op

coordinator and career advisor. "The strength of the co-op program is the positive relationships we have built with employers who come back year

after year for their hiring needs."

The Edwards School of Business Co-op Program is an option for third-year business students pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce degree or for those pursuing an MBA.

"The programs, supported by Federated Co-operatives Limited, allow students to alternate classroom learning with real-life work experience beginning each January," said Stranden.

Those benefits to employee and employer are on full display on campus this year with four departments hosting placements anywhere between eight and 12 months for students, Stranden said.

Kimberlee Litzenberger, now in her third year in Edwards and majoring in marketing, is one such student who got a position in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Working with Erica Schindel, a communications and marketing specialist in the school, Litzenberger gets hands-on experience working on a variety of projects for the school.

"The Edwards co-op program allowed our school to build capacity in a cost-effective way," explained Schindel. "It also allowed us to focus on some of the projects we wish we had the time to do."

Stranden said that each co-op intern must meet admission requirements showcasing their communication, interpersonal and academic skills, and more importantly, a sincere interest in succeeding. They also participate in professional



Calvez

Now, as a result of learning about his cousin, Louis Riel, Calvez spent many years trying to decolonize his own views by learning about, and trying to recognize and understand these biases by rebuilding his family's truth.

"The narrative continues to change," said Calvez. "One day Louis Riel was in the history books as a traitor, and now he is recognized as a hero."

Calvez said it can be "chal-

lenging to redefine yourself in a society that is redefining how they see you. Even if it's a good shift, you still have to adjust."

Knowing that he's not alone in this process, Calvez believes in creating community, encouraging people to go through this journey together.

"Some people have been learning about their culture for the last 20 years, others found out about their indigeneity just last week," he said. "We can all help each other, no matter where you're at in building your story."

As a committee member of the second annual Indigenous Gathering that will be taking place this fall at Wanuskewin Heritage Park on Oct. 11, Calvez encourages all Indigenous staff and faculty to participate. The event is a safe space to explore your culture, regardless of where you're at, and connect with the Indigenous community on campus.

"There are over 200 Indigenous staff and faculty at the U of S, and everyone's experience is unique, it's a chance to learn and to share our stories, whether you have a full picture of who you are, or if you're only just discovering it," said Calvez. ■

Ashley Dopko is a communications specialist in the Office of the Vice-President, Finance and Resources.



Edwards student Kimberlee Litzenberger and Erica Schindel, communications specialist in the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy.

2018 USASK ALUMNI Achievement Awards

Their legacies are incomparable, their stories impactful and their influence unwavering. From a legendary athlete to an international research expert; a philanthropic pair of doctors to a provincial court judge, this year's diverse group of Alumni Achievement award winners embody what it means to be dedicated and committed to one's profession and community.

Nominated by their peers from a group of more than 152,000 alumni, recipients of the U of S Alumni Achievement Awards represent alumni who are changing the world one idea at a time.

On Sept. 20, the U of S will recognize these eight extraordinary alumni for their contributions to their community, professions and the university at the 40th annual U of S Alumni Achievement awards.



Kathryn J. Ford (BA'71): Kathryn Ford has practiced law in Saskatoon for over 40 years and specialized in family law and mediation, helping clients find collaborative solutions long before conflict resolution became a welcomed approach in this field.

Along with her unparalleled career in the legal world, Ford is widely known for her broad-ranging commitment to community service. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, she was a board member and president of the YWCA during the organization's very successful capital fundraising campaign and new building construction. She was also a board member of the Saskatoon City Hospital Foundation, Saskatoon City Hospital, the Saskatoon Health Services Authority, Saskatoon Community Foundation, Riverside Country Club, LutherCare Communities and the U of S.

In 2017, Ford was awarded the YWCA of Saskatoon Women of Distinction Lifetime Achievement Award.

Saskatoon Chairperson for the Home Ice Campaign. He was unwavering in his passion to see the successful attainment of the fundraising target so the university and community could reap the benefits of this facility as soon as possible.



Patricia Lawson (BA'50, BEd'53): Patricia Lawson was the most distinguished female athlete in Canada during the 1950s with an unmatched athletic legacy. As a student-athlete, she represented the U of S on 13 teams over four years including basketball, swimming, tennis, and track and field.

Lawson was a member of the Canadian women's basketball team at the 1959 Pan American Games, a seven-time member of the Saskatchewan amateur golf team, and claimed Canadian titles in basketball, speed skating and golf.

It's a good thing there is no limit to the number of Halls of Fame one can be in, because Lawson would've exceeded that number a long time ago. She earned her inductions in the University of Saskatchewan Athletic Wall of Fame, the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame and the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame, to name a few.

As newcomers to Canada from Hong Kong, Ivan and Suzanne overcame significant obstacles to attend the U of S. They met while attending medical school and were the first two Chinese-born immigrants to graduate from the College of Medicine in their respective specialties of dermatology and radiology.

Today, their philanthropic endeavors reach many supporters of the hospital foundations, University of Saskatchewan, Remai Modern, Saskatoon Community Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation of Saskatchewan, Meewasin Valley Authority, and others.



Gerald M. Morin (JD'87): Gerald M. Morin has dedicated his life to the Canadian justice system for the past 45 years, travelling around Canada and lecturing on law, the Cree Court, criminal law, self-government, and First Nation political issues and the human condition.

He is nēhiyow (Cree) from Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation and grew up in Cumberland House, SK.

In 1999, he was the first Indigenous person in Saskatchewan to receive the Attorney General's Queen's Counsel designation and by 2001 was appointed to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan where he led the introduction of the Cree language into the court process.

Morin continues to sit in many communities, most in the northern regions of Canada. He has also worked with the College of Law to initiate the Wunusweh annual lecture series on Indigenous law. In 2007, he was awarded the Willy Hodgson Award from the Law Society of Saskatchewan.



Gary Carlson (BSA'61, MSc'64): A community volunteer for more than 50 years, Gary Carlson has lived a life of thoughtful contribution by supporting and giving back to the agricultural community in Saskatchewan.

Among his many accomplishments, Carlson was the lead organizer in the formation of the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame, Saskatchewan Farm Vacations Association and Nuffield Canada.

Carlson's love for the University of Saskatchewan shines through his ongoing dedication and involvement. He was a member of both the Senate and Board of Governors. He and his wife also established the annual Carlson College of Agriculture Scholarship.



David Christensen (BSA'58): David Christensen is internationally recognized for his research in dairy nutrition and feed development. His research has involved cattle mineral nutrition, forage and other feed evaluation.

Christensen has also demonstrated strong support for and interest in international development, working in Uganda in the early 1970s to develop a graduate program, teach undergraduates, establish an analytical nutrition laboratory and advise on government dairy policy.

He received the Order of Canada in 2002, and was inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2011. As professor emeritus, he continues to teach, supervise and consult for several companies and organizations. He and his wife recently established the Christensen Family Award Fund for Animal Science.



Tim Hodgson (LLB'83): Tim Hodgson played for the U of S men's Huskie Hockey Team from 1979 to 1983, being fortunate enough to be part of a hockey program that evolved from obscurity to prominence in those years.

The men's Huskie hockey team won three CWUAA Championships in his four years on the team, culminating with a national championship at the 1983 CIAU National Finals.

Most recently, Hodgson readily accepted the role as the volunteer



Dr. Ivan Jen (BA'57, MD'60) and Dr. Suzanne Yip (BA'58, MD'60): Drs. Ivan Jen and Suzanne Yip are an exceptional couple who have made outstanding contributions to the medical profession, the artistic community and more broadly as generous philanthropists.

For more information on the award winners and information on how to get tickets to the event, please visit alumni.usask.ca/achieve

Program provides broad benefit

FROM PAGE 12

development workshops to prepare them for their January start work terms.

“Our students are also able to inject creativity, new ideas, and enthusiasm into your department,” Stranden said. “They are highly engaged, overachieving and ready for work experience.”

“Kimberlee brought a variety of skills to the table,” said Schindel. “From her experience with social media, to shooting and editing

videos, and working with students and faculty to profile their successes and research, she had a lot to offer.

There is also the added value that she is a current student on campus, and could provide us with an inside perspective on how to reach and communicate with students to improve their Johnson Shoyama experience.”

The co-op program benefits are two-fold; supervisors become mentors and role models, while

students are provided with meaningful, hands-on experience to help build future talent.

“The ability to share knowledge and experience, while taking on the supervision of a direct report has been valuable,” said Schindel.

“The Edwards co-op program is a great asset for me,” said Litzenberger. “I’m excited to go back to class in the fall because of this well-rounded experience. I have gained a different perspective from participating in the program, one that you can’t get from just attending class. I also feel that I have increased my confidence going into future inter-



Stranden

views.”

For those departments on campus considering adding a co-op student to their portfolio, Schindel encourages investing in a co-op student.

“Talk to your senior leaders about this great campus resource,” said Schindel. “The Edwards Career

Services team worked together with us to ensure a successful experience for Kimberlee and Johnson Shoyama.”

The Edwards School of Business will begin recruiting employers for January 2019 starting in late August until December. Third-year students will be available in six areas of undergraduate study including Accounting, Finance, Management, Marketing, Human Resources, and Operations Management; and our first year MBA students.

Campus partners are invited to the Co-op Open House at 3 pm, Sept. 7 at Prairieland Park to get more information on how to get started (RSVP is required), or visit edwardscoop.ca. ■

Natasha Katchuk is a communications officer in the Edwards School of Business.



PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, September 13, 2018

7:00 PM

McNally Robinson Bookstore

You are invited to a public meeting sponsored by the VIDO-InterVac Community Liaison Committee (CLC). InterVac is a bio-containment Level 3 (CL3) facility where scientists focus on research and testing of vaccines for diseases that impact both animals and humans. The term “CL3” describes the safety measures and equipment within the facility that ensure the safety of employees and the community.

The CLC is a diverse group of Saskatoon citizens including experts in emergency measures, veterinary medicine and public health as well as citizens at large. The independent committee was established by the University of Saskatchewan to ensure that communication on safety issues related to InterVac is open and transparent. The CLC continuously monitors issues related to safety and any incidents of potential public interest. It continuously seeks related information on activities of community concern

Guest speaker will be internationally recognized Dr. Andrew Potter. Dr. Potter is the current Director and CEO of VIDO-InterVac. He will present a report on the world-wide reach of the facility and scientists as well as the new on-site vaccine manufacturing facility.

Questions and refreshments to follow.



COMING EVENTS

SEMINARS/LECTURES

Department of Psychology's monthly colloquium series

Sept. 27, 3–4 pm, Arts 153. U of S professor Gordon Sarty will give a talk entitled *Building Portable MRIs for Astronauts and Behavioral Research*. In this seminar, an overview will be given of the technology being developed to build portable MRIs. Working with the Canadian Space Agency will allow MRI to be used for the first time in space, aimed at imaging muscle and bone in astronauts' ankles in the early 2020s. As we develop the MRI for the space station, we will look for earthbound uses and plan for an MRI in a lunar village. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Peter Grant at 306-966-6675 or e-mail: peter.grant@usask.ca.

COURSES/WORKSHOPS

Fall Fortnight

Aug. 27–Sept. 7, a series of sessions to enhance your teaching practice. Sessions vary in style, length and scope—there is something for everyone. View the sessions and sign up by visiting teaching.usask.ca/events/fortnight.php

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education

Call 306-966-8686, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed. Registration is open to the public and all university employees for upcoming

programs:

- Sept. 10-12, The Project Management Course – Saskatoon
- Sept. 11-12, Conflict Resolution in the Workplace – Saskatoon
- Sept. 13, Leadership Communication – Saskatoon
- Sept. 18, Leadership Essentials for Supervisors – Saskatoon
- Sept. 19, Type and Stress Management – Saskatoon
- Sept. 24-28, Labour-Management Relations Certificate Program – Saskatoon
- Oct. 1-2, Process Mapping and Process Improvement – Saskatoon
- Oct. 2-30, Leadership Development Program – Saskatoon
- Oct. 3-4: Analyzing and Improving Office and Service Operations (LEAN Office) – Saskatoon
- Oct. 3-4: Digital & Social Media – Strategy and Tactics – Saskatoon
- Oct. 10-Feb. 9, 2019: Masters Certificate in Project Management – Regina
- Oct. 11-Feb. 16, 2019: Masters Certificate in Project Management – Saskatoon
- Oct. 17 and 24, The Powerful Presenter in You – Saskatoon
- Oct. 25, Networking—The Art of Building Relationships – Saskatoon

MISCELLANY

2018 Alumni Achievement Awards

Sept. 20, 6–9 pm, Adam Ballroom, Delta Bessborough. The 2018 USask Alumni Achievement Awards will recognize eight

influential alumni who've made an impact in their communities and professions. Join us to celebrate their achievements at the 40th annual Alumni Achievement Award gala, which kicks off the USask Alumni Weekend activities. The Alumni Achievement Awards are presented annually to U of S graduates who advance the reputation of the University of Saskatchewan and the Alumni Association. Award recipients are chosen for their outstanding achievements and innovation; commitment to excellence; community engagement and leadership; and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of society. Visit alumni.usask.ca/get-involved/awards.php for more information.

Alumni Weekend 2018

Sept. 21–22, U of S campus. All University of Saskatchewan alumni are invited back to campus to celebrate Alumni Weekend. Join us as we:

- Learn – about USask research, breakthroughs and discoveries
- Connect – with your former classmates and professors
- Celebrate – our alumni accomplishments and achievements

Have questions about this year's Alumni Weekend? Email events@usask.ca or visit alumni.usask.ca/alumniweekend/index.php to learn more.

**NEXT OCN: Sept. 14, 2018
DEADLINE: Sept. 3, 2018**

Recreation and participation

U of S offers full spectrum of campus and community programming

 JAMES SHEWAGA

Every week, thousands of people put the university's recreation and fitness facilities to use, taking part in a plethora of programs from personal training and children's activity camps, to swimming, dance and yoga classes.

But Paul Rogal and his Recreation Services team want to ensure that everyone in the city and the region knows that the welcome mat is rolled out for them, in addition to the university's on-campus community.

"I wonder how many people drive down College Drive every day and don't know that there is a pool here, and a gymnasium and a Fit Centre, that they are welcome to use," said Rogal, director of Recreation Services at the University of Saskatchewan. "And every once in a while, a student will come to the PAC (Physical Activity Complex) to write a final exam and say, 'Wow, this place is cool.' So, we need to be sure we are communicating that to the community, on and off of campus. We have a huge range of facilities and programs, but we need to do a better job telling people about it."

While serving students and staff remains a key focus for Recreation Services, the department is determined to develop its community connection and increase the number of children, youth and adults from off campus using the facilities and programs. Year-round swimming lessons and the university's summer youth activity camps and Huskies Athletics sport camps remain popular, but face increased competition in the city.

"Parents are always looking for ways to keep their kids active and we've had good success with most of our registration numbers," said Cary Primeau, campus recreation co-ordinator. "Our swimming program



Paul Rogal (left) and Cary Primeau at the newly refurbished climbing wall in the Physical Activity Complex.

 JAMES SHEWAGA

gets more than 8,000 patrons a year and we get close to 1,300 in our children's activity camps over the course of eight weeks in the summer. But there's a lot more competition in the city than there has been in the past, so we are continually trying to hone our experience to meet the needs of people in the community."

With a triple gymnasium, six-lane Junior Olympic pool, four racquetball/squash courts, a 13,500 square-foot Fitness Centre, 210-metre indoor jogging/walking track, 40-foot climbing wall, a kids' gymnastics multipurpose room, and a dance studio, the PAC has been the centre of activity at the university since opening in 2003. In addition, the Education Building houses a gymnasium, six-lane pool, squash court and wrestling training area, with six outdoor tennis courts and three grass sports fields adjacent to the building.

At the south end of campus, the

Griffiths Stadium football facility is next to four more natural grass fields for competitive and recreational sports including soccer, touch football and ultimate frisbee. The area is also the site of the new Merlis Belsher Place multisport complex opening this fall, featuring two ice surfaces and two basketball practice courts, as well as the state-of-the-art Ron and Jane Graham Sport Science and Health Centre.

"It's exciting and it will be an incredible opportunity for students to be able to participate in recreation programs in the new facility," said Rogal. "Minor hockey access to the facility will again create that community on campus connection and I think there will be spinoffs as people come for hockey and then maybe come for swimming lessons next. And I think the Ron and Jane Graham Sport Science and Health Centre is a great opportunity to provide training and support and

rehabilitation services not only for elite athletes, but for other members of the community."

The university's Human Performance Centre and its team of certified personal trainers currently serves a broad spectrum of clients from recreational athletes to seniors, to police service recruits and elite athletes like Canadian Olympic hockey player Emily Clark. And while the university reaches out to the broader community, serving students on campus remains a priority, through Campus Recreation leagues and activities.

"I think being physically active and being involved in Campus Recreation during the school year is critical for our students," said Primeau, noting that College of Kinesiology students earn valuable work experience serving as program directors, class instructors and personal trainers. "We provide much-needed breaks from their

studies and give students a balance between their academics and activities. It's not just about being active, it's about being social, it's about mental health and it's about employment opportunities for our students."

Overall, Rogal said Recreation Services is guided by the university's commitment to creating a healthy campus culture for all faculty, staff and students.

"One of the things I have been involved in is the university's overall wellness strategy and a big part of that is the physical piece," said Rogal. "So, there's a real need for us to ensure that everyone on campus knows what is available and that we make it as cost-effective and easy to access as possible. And I like the question of where are we going, because we always need to be mindful of our students, faculty and staff, and what they want from us and what changes we need to make moving forward." ■

PACKING THE PAC

2,000 people per week
use the swimming pool

1,300 people per week
use the gymnasium

200-600 people per week
use the climbing wall

266 people per week
use the dance studio

125-225 people per week
attend fitness classes

150 people per week
use the racquet courts

ON TIME TRAVEL . . .

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.

AUGUST 1979

JOHN DIEFENBAKER FUNERAL

On August 22, 1979, six days after his death, John G. Diefenbaker arrived at the U of S campus and his final resting place on the bank of the South Saskatchewan River.

Following a state funeral, and a train ride from Ottawa to Saskatoon, the former prime minister returned to his alma mater one last time. His casket was carried across campus to his grave site on a grassy knoll where he was buried alongside his second wife Olive—whose remains were exhumed so they could be buried together. Joe Clark, prime minister at the time, delivered the eulogy and began by saying: "John Diefenbaker is home."

The U of S—where he attended from 1912 to 1919, earned three degrees and was its seventh

chancellor—was always special to Diefenbaker, who served as Canada's 13th prime minister from June 21, 1957, to April 22, 1963. Diefenbaker planned much of his own funeral and required approval from the provincial government and the U of S Board of Governors to establish the on-campus gravesite.

The site is adjacent to the Diefenbaker Centre which officially opened in 1980 and was under construction at the time of the funeral. It serves to commemorate his place in Canadian history, and his long association with the University of Saskatchewan and the Province of Saskatchewan.

