THE WORLD AWAITS

Every year, University of Saskatchewan students take advantage of the opportunity to spend a semester attending university in another country, while USask also hosts students from other institutions around the world. The International Student and Study Abroad Centre supports students by discussing exchange opportunities, funding and travel safety advice. In this issue of On Campus News, we chat with a couple of USask students about their experiences overseas.

SEE PAGES 7-9.
City and university explore development opportunities

JODY GRESS

The University of Saskatchewan is exploring ways to help the City of Saskatoon set the path for future growth and development.

City officials, in partnership with the university, recently completed the first in a series of community engagement sessions to share more information about the development of the university’s endowment land. On Campus News caught up with James Cook, manager of Campus Planning and Real Estate, to discuss the university’s plan for the nearly 1,000 acres of land that surrounds the main campus in the heart of Saskatoon.

OCN: What led to the university exploring opportunities for future land development?

JC: In 2007, we took on a project called Vision 2057 to study the university’s 1,865-acre urban land holdings. That process included wide consultation with members of the university and the community. A set of principles for future land development was established and nearly 1,000 acres of the urban land was designated as endowment land, with the rest being preserved for core campus and academic research use.

OCN: When you refer to endowment land, what does that mean?

JC: Endowment land is land that was purchased at the time of the university’s inception and through Vision 2057 was categorized as land that has the potential to provide new revenue streams to support the core mission of the university.

OCN: Do we know what the land will be used for?

JC: The University of Saskatchewan and the City of Saskatoon recently entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to explore potential collaboration on a number of issues, including strategic infill on university endowment lands. The development of the University Sector Plan is the first step in the development of community plans for those areas.

OCN: Will the development of endowment land impact current research activities in plots located near the main campus?

JC: When Vision 2057 was approved we began the process of relocating some agriculture activities to more suitable rural locations.
Dr. Leila Dehabadi (PhD) came to the University of Saskatchewan (USask) from Iran to conduct innovative chemistry research with industry applications.

Dehabadi earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in organic chemistry at the University of Mashhad in Iran before coming to USask to earn her doctorate in physical chemistry. During her time on campus, she has been inspired to work with colleagues in the College of Engineering and the Global Institute of Water Security, as well as with industry experts, on research initiatives that include developing an environmentally-friendly processing method for biofuels production.

“When I decided to come to Canada, it was very important for me to work on research which has applications, especially in industry,” said Dehabadi, whose thesis was titled Development of biopolymers and their modified forms as sustainable sorbent materials. “I found that my supervisor (Dr. Lee D. Wilson (PhD), associate professor of chemistry) got me motivated to come and work with him because working on research that improves industry is very important.”

Dehabadi developed new materials and methods for separating water and ethanol, essential in biofuel production and the food industry. Her research findings, published in ACS Sustainable Chemistry and Engineering in 2016 and 2017, could help reduce costs for industry while also reducing energy inputs and greenhouse gas emissions.

After earning her PhD in 2018, Dehabadi has continued to conduct research on campus, doing post-doctoral work in Dr. Wilson’s lab, The Wilson Group.

“The major thrust right now is harvesting energy out of thin air, which basically is capturing water vapour using some of the absorbent materials under development in our lab,” said Wilson.

While she was fluent in Farsi, coming to Canada helped Dehabadi become proficient in English as well, while excelling in the lab and in the classroom.

“I would say when she first came here she struggled at times with English, but she soon mastered the language, as well as the language of chemistry at the cutting edge,” said Wilson.

Dehabadi has earned a number of awards and scholarships during her time at USask, and will continue her work throughout 2019 at the university that has become her second home.

“My favourite part of the University of Saskatchewan is the friendly people and very good facilities in our department to help me do my research, and very supportive professors in our department,” said Dehabadi. “It was very good for me to continue my research and have success in my PhD program.”
New chair a good fit for Wilson

JAMES SHEWAGA

There was one magical item conspicuously absent when Dr. Jay Wilson (EdD) opened up his helpful handbook of tips and tools of the trade for serving as the new chair of University Council.

“I looked in the new chair kit and unfortunately there is no crystal ball in it,” Wilson said, with a chuckle.

For the record, Wilson is well prepared to anticipate the challenges that lie ahead as he heads the governing body that oversees and directs academic affairs for the University of Saskatchewan (USask). An award-winning College of Education professor and department head who has also served as faculty council vice-chair and led numerous council committees, Wilson is well-versed in the inner workings of USask in general, and University Council in particular, since it was established 25 years ago.

“I started to work at the campus in the same year that council was ‘born’ in 1995, so this is entering Year 25 for me,” said Wilson, who took over from acting chair Dr. Chelsea Willness (PhD) of the Edwards School of Business to become the 14th council chair in the history of the university. “I took this job on because I have been here that long and I realize the significance and importance of a well-run university. I see it as an opportunity for me to contribute, as someone who works at the university, which is a place that I value very highly. And I value participating in those systems that make up the university.”

Wilson said he also has full faith in the 116 faculty, students and senior administration members who make up council, to lead the university’s academic initiatives.

“There are always issues—good and bad—to deal with, and we just have to be proactive, not just reactive, and be prepared to deal with it,” said Wilson, who led his first council meeting on Jan. 17 after being elected in December to serve as council chair through to June 30, 2020. “There are a lot of really smart people here who are engaged as faculty members and as council members. I have great confidence that what we all do is in the best interests of our students and of the University of Saskatchewan.”

So, what makes for an effective council chair? For Wilson, it’s about striking a balance between efficiently conducting the business of council while also providing a forum for free expression and participation.

“As someone who has sat in the audience for many years, I see it as a challenge and I have seen people very skillfully stickhandle through the perils of that,” he said. “If it becomes too much of a business meeting, then there isn’t an opportunity for people to express themselves. And if it becomes a free-for-all, then absolutely, the hammer has to come down.”

“I think the worst thing that could happen is people show up for council and we sit there like robots and go through the agenda and vote and nobody asks questions. I think I am a facilitator, first and foremost, and I think council is a great opportunity for people who are passionate about engaging in leadership to make a difference.”

For his part, Wilson has a proven track record of making a difference during his time on campus. Among his awards, accolades and accomplishments, Wilson received the 3M National Teaching Fellowship—the highest teaching honour in the country—in 2017, earned USask’s prestigious Master Teacher Award in 2015, was named an Apple Distinguished Educator in 2011, and was honoured as the Provost’s Outstanding New Teacher as well as the College of Education Graduates’ Choice Instructor of the Year in 2010.

In addition to his new role as council chair, Wilson’s workload includes continuing his role as head of the Department of Curriculum Studies, teaching four classes this term, and maintaining his research activities.

“It is going to be a crazy term and I will be doing it this year and next year, so I have signed up for the full meal deal, for as long as they will permit me,” said the 50-year-old Wilson, who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at USask, prior to receiving his Doctor of Education through Australia’s University of Southern Queensland.

“I love teaching, so it is important for me to continue, and I have a full program of research as well. So it’s busy, but I feel if you are not engaged in all aspects of university life, then I think you are missing out and that is the reason why I have agreed to do this.”

New University Council Chair Dr. Jay Wilson (EdD) is the head of the Department of Curriculum Studies in the College of Education at USask.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Every month in On Campus News, we highlight an exceptional graduate of the University of Saskatchewan in our new Alumni Spotlight feature. In this edition, the Honourable Gerald M. Morin (JD’87) looks back on his successful career as a groundbreaking lawyer and judge.

The Honourable Gerald M. Morin went on to become a successful lawyer and a judge after graduating from the College of Law at the University of Saskatchewan in 1987.

Judge Morin: A legacy of leadership

After an exceptional career in the Saskatchewan legal system, the characteristically humble Honourable Gerald M. Morin (JD’87) struggles when asked what he would consider his greatest accomplishment.

“How do you measure accomplishments?” Morin asked. “Being a judge, you have to have integrity. You have to be fair. Every case is important for that person in front of you.”

The larger-than-life character who is affectionately called “Gerry” by his friends and colleagues, grew up in Cumberland House, Sask., and is a member of Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation. As a young boy, his father endorsed the importance of education, which influenced Morin’s lifelong passion for knowledge.

“Dad said ‘Go to high school and I’ll always make sure you get home whenever you can.’ The message that education is important was always clear to me,” said Morin.

Morin completed a one-year social work certificate in 1973, from Saskatchewan Polytechnic (then the Kelsey Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences), and went on to work as a probation officer in Northern Saskatchewan. He received his certificate in social work from the University of Regina in 1978 and his bachelor of social work degree in 1979.

Law always fascinated him and it was his goal to apply to law school, but when he became a single father in the late ’70s, he put his dreams on hold to take care of his son.

The dream to become a lawyer was never far behind; his time as a probation officer and becoming a father only strengthened his desire to practice law. His tenacity eventually paid off and Morin enrolled into the University of Saskatchewan (USask) law program in 1984.

“Law school is not easy. I didn’t find it easy. It shaped me in many ways to work hard and try to accomplish [my best],” said Morin.

After graduating, he practiced law in Prince Albert at the Pandila-Morin Law Office, appearing in all levels of court including the Supreme Court of Canada.

As a speaker of three Cree dialects, Morin was often asked to be an interpreter to clients in the courtroom. When he was appointed to the Provincial Court of Saskatchewan in 2001, he would eventually lead the introduction of the Cree language into the court process.

“It’s important that if you’re going to introduce language within a particular delivery system that not only do you legitimize it, but that you make it part of it,” said Morin. “It’s more than language. It’s a culture. It’s our history. It’s being able to discuss, in court, our way of life and use our language as a means of achievement.”

The Cree-speaking provincial court circuit, led by Morin’s insight and leadership, is a unique initiative and the first of its kind in Canada.

“Everyone needs to be heard. Cree allows that in much finer detail,” said Morin.

As a judge, Morin sat in many communities throughout his career, including Pelican Narrows, Sandy Bay, Whitefish First Nation and Ahtahkakoop First Nation. In 2008, he was appointed to the Northwest Territories and in 2016 he was appointed to Yukon.

Morin notes the importance of giving back to the next generation of lawmakers, acting as a mentor to many lawyers throughout his career. Despite his hectic travel schedule, he initiated the Wunusweh annual lecture series on Indigenous law at USask’s College of Law. Wunusweh is a Cree word that translated means ‘to make things right’ or ‘to make law.’

“I felt it was important that we have a discussion of Indigenous issues in law. I felt we as Indigenous people and alumni need to take a lead role with respect to that,” said Morin.

Plaques, degrees, news clippings and honours are plastered on the walls of Morin’s office, all highlighting a career that boasts 45 years of dedication to the legal profession. Pretty soon, these accolades will take off the walls of Morin, as the influential legal change maker prepares to enter the next stage of his successful career: retirement.

“I think it will always be a part of me,” he said. “It was my dream and a dream never leaves you. You just learn to keep living it in a different way.”

Leslie-Ann Schlosser is the communications specialist and editor in Alumni Relations at USask.
Ashley Vols is taking a personal approach to her global impact.

The fourth-year International Studies student at the University of Saskatchewan says she has “experienced a considerable amount of personal growth” while working on her minor in Critical Perspectives on Social Justice and the Common Good.

“Understanding that every action, even at a personal local level, has broad implications, has allowed me to evaluate myself and my surroundings,” Vols said.

This year, her actions in the classroom have earned Vols an Indigenous Student Achievement Award for academic excellence. Her studies focus on Indigenous and migrant populations in the Canadian context.

The Indigenous Student Achievement Awards were one of the highlight events of Indigenous Achievement Week, from Feb. 4-8. Each year, the university honours Indigenous students to recognize their academic accomplishments, leadership, research endeavours or community volunteerism. Vols was nominated by the College of Arts and Science for the award. We caught up with Vols to ask her a few questions about what motivates her.

OCN: Why did you choose International Studies?
AV: I chose International Studies because it is an interdisciplinary program that allows students to tailor their education to their unique interests. For me, that meant being able to apply my education in topics at the international level to my local community. I have been able to study diverse subjects, from gendered economics to senior-level history and sociology courses. There are distinct educational advantages that come with a program such as international studies. The possibilities are endless. Being able to bring multiple perspectives to any given class is a great advantage.

OCN: Has there been someone in your life that has inspired you to get to where you are today?
AV: Two people stand out the most: my mother and my aunt. They are two of the strongest and independent women I could ever imagine knowing. They have always been role models for balance and composure in my life. I’ve learned a great deal about vulnerability, resilience, and thoughtfulness from them. I owe a tremendous thank you to them for being constant sources of light and direction.

OCN: This year’s theme of the Indigenous Achievement Week is Powerful Voices. If there is one thing you can use your voice for in this moment, what would it be for?
AV: Embrace vulnerability! Say yes to challenges, despite being afraid of the potential outcomes. Believe that opportunities are presented to you because you deserve them. Use that momentum and become a force to be reckoned with.

AV: My identity as a Métis person did not play a large role in my academic life until recently. Since acknowledging my Indigeneity, I have been able to reflect on personal experiences through a unique lens and apply that new knowledge towards a more holistic learning experience. If I had to summarize that into a piece of advice, I would tell first-year Indigenous students to focus on making personal connections with the material instead of relying on memorization, and to not be afraid of showing some personality in class. Make it fun!

OCN: What plans do you have for the future?
AV: I recently took a class called Topics in Ethnic Relations, and wrote a paper on Indigenous and newcomer relationships in a Canadian multicultural context. Writing the paper was a fascinating process and it sparked a great interest in me. I would like to continue studying the topic at the graduate level. I hope to foster real-life engagement and understanding between the two groups through volunteering and programming, as I think there is a lot of potential power in that relationship.

AV: It's never too early to plan for your child's post-secondary education.

Only 6,570 days until first year
Study abroad: Memories to last a lifetime

University of Saskatchewan student Sydney Fortowsky (left) with her new friends from South Korea near the Hangang (Han River) in the capital of Seoul during her study abroad semester.

MEGHAN SIRED

Earning University of Saskatchewan credit while attending universities around the world has checked off many life-goal boxes for undergraduate student Sydney Fortowsky.

By taking part in the university's study abroad program, she visited friends and family who live in far off places, adjusted to different learning styles and cultures, ate unique and delicious foods, discovered her strengths, made unforgettable memories, explored new languages, developed confidence and a life plan—and, let’s not forget, earned an undergraduate degree.

“The allure of studying in a different country, where the culture and language are different from my own, is huge,” said Fortowsky.

“You can learn so much from all the new people around you and your view of things will change, too. Each time I have gone abroad, I have learned something new and have come away with amazing new memories that I couldn’t have made in my own country.”

Fortowsky earned about half of the credits for her bachelor’s degree in applied linguistics abroad in Germany, Finland and South Korea, all the while having experiences of a lifetime.

In the summer of 2017, Fortowsky took part in a summer language exchange at SDI Munchen (Munich) in Germany. In the winter of 2018, she attended Helsinki University in Finland, and in the summer and fall of the same year, she attended Chung-Ang University in South Korea.

In 2017, Fortowsky researched scholarships available to help subsidize her trip to Germany, and the work paid off. She applied to as many as she could, something she recommends all students take the time to do.

“I got four scholarships, and that paid for everything,” said Fortowsky. “I went to 15 countries before I went to SDI Munchen because I had all that extra money. It’s work to apply for scholarships, but if you get them, it’s really worth it.”

While studying in Finland, Fortowsky had the chance to travel across Europe, to Lapland in northern Finland and St. Petersburg in Russia, as well as to Latvia, Greece, Romania, Austria, Hungary, Iceland and the United Kingdom.

Fortowsky was in Finland from January until mid-June of last year. In January, she lived on four or five hours of sunlight a day, while in the summer, she remembers it was still light out at 3 am.

Fortowsky’s fondest memory in Finland was on one of those dark days in March.

“I was at my friend’s cabin and outside of the cabin they have their own sauna cabin and, oh my gosh, it’s amazing, it’s lovely. With all the fresh snow and just quiet, it was gorgeous,” said Fortowsky.

“You can learn so much from all the new people around you and your view of things will change, too.

— Sydney Fortowsky

“I had just come out of the sauna and it’s pitch dark, I could see the stars, and across the sky in wavy sheets is a bright green aurora, and then in that moment a shooting star passed by, and I thought to myself, ‘This is perfect.’ An absolutely perfect moment.”

While the Finnish landscape astounded Fortowsky, she was moved by South Korea’s history and welcoming community—that and the fried chicken that she thinks is the best in the world.

“The moment you say ‘hello’ in Korean, everyone’s like, ‘Oh my God, you’re amazing’ and they’re so, so happy to help you with anything,” said Fortowsky. “They’re extremely welcoming people.”

Fortowsky credits a group of Korean students at Chung-Ang University for her unforgettable experience.

“Because of them my exchange was amazing. Some of them even introduced some of their friends to me and we all went out for dinner together. We went to noraebang, which is karaoke, and we went to an archery café. Really, the GLAMS were the best part of my exchange.”

After graduating this spring, Fortowsky plans to go back to South Korea to teach English and pursue a master’s degree.

Faculty can learn more about the steps involved in proposing a study abroad program by visiting teaching.usask.ca. Students can learn more about studying abroad at goabroad.usask.ca, or contact the International Student and Study Abroad Centre at study.abroad@usask.ca.

Meghan Sired is a communications co-ordinator in Teaching, Learning and Student Experience at USask.
Sergeant Sean Mihalcheon’s heart raced as the SUV sped out of a cloud of dust on a collision course with his vehicle at the head of the Canadian Armed Forces convoy in Afghanistan.

In a split second, it was all over.

“That day we hit a section of road construction and this SUV (driven by a suicide bomber) came out of nowhere and tried to ram us but it detonated too early and blew up before it hit us,” said Mihalcheon, a third-year College of Law student at the University of Saskatchewan who served a seven-month tour of duty overseas in 2008. “Initially, I was just surprised that it happened. But you just take a quick check of yourself and make sure everyone is all right.

“We were always on edge over there because you never really knew when something was going to happen and you never really knew who the enemy was, because they didn’t wear uniforms. So, we were lucky that day.”

Mihalcheon was one of 40,000 Canadian Forces members who served in the Afghanistan mission from 2001 to 2014, as part of an international coalition that targeted al-Qaeda terrorists and battled the Taliban regime that sheltered the network after the 9/11 attacks that killed 3,000 people (including 24 Canadians) in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001. In all, 165 Canadians were killed and 1,800 wounded in the Afghanistan campaign, an experience that shaped Mihalcheon’s outlook on serving his country and Canada’s place in the world.

“I was proud to serve, and looking back, I would do it again,” said Mihalcheon, who turned 20 a week into his tour in Afghanistan. “I also got the opportunity to see a part of the world and a culture that most people never get to see and experienced some interesting things, both good and bad.”

While Canadian troops were on the front lines of combat duty in Afghanistan for more than a decade, a large part of the mission was reconstruction as Canadian soldiers worked to support and protect the many Afghans who wanted no part of the Taliban.

“I have a lot of respect for the Afghan people,” said Mihalcheon. “I think it is a beautiful country and a super interesting culture and it must be extremely hard for them. It is a very complex place. They are kind of caught between a rock and hard place and most are just trying to make the best of things. The country has been consistently getting worse, from the time of the Soviet invasion to the civil war to the coalition mission, and now, who knows what is going to happen over there.”

Mihalcheon survived four IED (improvised explosive device) attacks on his platoon, as well as regular rocket attacks on the Canadian military base at Kandahar Airfield, and a number of other close
Law student Sean Mihalcheon and his girlfriend Andrea Van Andel in Sweden during his study abroad semester.

calls during his tour. He continues to serve his country to this day as a member of the Calgary Highlanders reserve unit, training part-time with the North Saskatchewan Regiment in Saskatoon as he completes his law degree at USask.

“I didn’t do it for high fives and apple pies,” said Mihalcheon, part of a long list of USask law students and graduates who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces, dating back to the First World War. “It was a job to do and I think I’m pretty good at it. I didn’t expect recognition or accolades, but when people do say they appreciate your service, I am thankful for that.”

While some of his friends in the forces were seriously wounded overseas, and other soldiers have struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder upon their return, Mihalcheon said his transition back to civilian life was relatively smooth, after the initial adjustment period. He is also quick to point out that his experience has helped put everyday issues into perspective.

“It was a little difficult adjusting back to the real world, but I think everybody has to deal with that,” he said. “One of the things that I did have to get used to after coming back was getting frustrated over people who would get so worked up over trivial things. Nothing exploded, nobody was killed or wounded, this isn’t a big deal. So, it took some time to not get frustrated by that kind of thing. And for me now, for the most part, I think I am able to handle stress pretty well, because I experienced someone trying to kill you.”

Following his experience overseas, Mihalcheon was drawn to studying world history, earning his bachelor’s degree at Mount Royal University in Calgary prior to coming to Saskatoon to attend law school at USask. After defending his country, Mihalcheon’s motivation to serve others in the legal system came naturally for him.

“I am a Type A personality and somewhat argumentative, so it seemed like a good fit,” said Mihalcheon, who took part in USask’s study abroad program by spending a semester in Sweden last fall. “I find a lot of common characteristics between being in the military and being in law school, especially things like taking part in moot court. We did one in my first year and it reminded me of the kind of excitement when we are training (in the reserves) and I have to make decisions quickly under pressure. In court you also have to defend your position and when the judge asks you questions, you only have a second or two to come up with an answer.”

While he is originally from Alberta, Mihalcheon has enjoyed his time in Saskatchewan and has felt right at home in the College of Law.

“My family is originally from Saskatchewan, so when I got accepted here it seemed like a good idea to go and see where my family is from,” said Mihalcheon, who is on track to graduate with a Juris Doctor (JD) degree this spring at USask. “Originally, I was going to come here for my first year and then try to transfer to the University of Calgary, but after doing my first year here I really enjoyed it. It’s a great school and I met a great group of people, so I decided to stay. It’s been a great experience and I’m happy with my decision to come here.”
Call it a campus collaboration that’s truly come full circle.

When University of Saskatchewan (USask) Grounds Manager Gift Marufu first became involved in a food waste dehydrator project to champion campus sustainability, he never dreamed how deep the partnerships would run.

The new dehydrator, located at Marquis Hall, is able to divert more than 500 pounds of food waste from the landfill every day by creating a semi-composted material that is being put to use elsewhere on campus.

“We already have a vibrant composting program on campus, where we collect leaves and grass clippings and materials from greenhouses,” said Marufu. “But the dehydrator adds to this by taking our food waste and transforming it into a nutrient-rich material that’s great for plant growth. This composted material is then distributed to our community gardens and the flower beds located in the Bowl. We are also using this compost instead of conventional fertilizers in areas such as the Huskies soccer fields.”

And while this is good news for the grounds crew, it all starts with the kitchen, dish room and custodial staff, who are responsible for separating the compostable and non-compostable waste and bringing it to the dehydrator, according to Culinary Services Assistant Director and Executive Chef James McFarland.

“Through best practices, we try to avoid or reduce food waste before it even comes to the machine, however there is always a margin of waste in a food service operation including peelings from vegetables,” he said. “The composting initiative has involved changing habits in the kitchen with staff using compost bins, which we now have more of than garbage bins. It’s a group effort and it takes everyone’s regular attention to ensure it’s successful. Having access to this dehydrator and understanding the benefits has been a great learning experience and the staff have been great in supporting this.”

According to Marufu, this piece of composting technology—the first of its kind at a Canadian university—has been a long time coming.

A more compact version of the machine was initially installed in Marquis in early 2017 as part of the demo phase, where staff worked to smooth out any initial issues. A larger, more powerful version was brought to campus in October, 2018. While there has been some work implementing the machine, from configuring electrical and plumbing, to training staff on how to use the equipment, Marufu said it’s been an investment that’s paid off in a number of ways.

“I’d say we are diverting over 3,000 pounds of food waste from landfill every week. That is significant in that there are associated costs with garbage pick-up that we no longer need to pay. In terms of compost, we are self-sufficient now for our campus-wide needs.”

— Gift Marufu
Providing a path to the justice system

Indigenous Justice and Criminology program unique in North America

When Const. John Langan tells young people they can turn their lives around after a brush with the law, he speaks from experience. “I got in trouble too when I was 14 years old,” said the officer with the Saskatoon Police Service. “I really didn’t think I would be a candidate to be a police officer, but it just goes to show that it’s not over.”

Langan, a member of the Keeseekoose First Nation, built a new life as a Canadian Armed Forces reservist and a University of Saskatchewan student. He joined the police force in 2017 after completing his Bachelor of Arts in sociology in 2013, with a special concentration called Indigenous Justice and Criminology (IJC).

Previously called Aboriginal Justice and Criminology, the IJC program launched nearly 30 years ago in the sociology department of the College of Arts and Science. Today, its graduates are found working in justice-related careers across Canada.

“It’s quite exciting, actually. They’re change-makers in their own communities, change-makers in Saskatchewann, with such a passion for issues of Indigenous justice and social justice,” said Dr. Carolyn Brooks (PhD), head of the Department of Sociology.

The program was developed in 1991 by sociology professor Dr. Les Samuelson (PhD) in response to widespread calls for greater representation of Indigenous people in justice agencies.

“Even today, there is a shortage of Indigenous employees in the criminal justice system, yet they are overrepresented there in custody,” said Dr. John Hansen (PhD), supervisor of the IJC program and a sociology department faculty member.

“It’s important to have a program to address this issue and make a society that is more inclusive of Indigenous peoples, because they have been socially excluded for so long in those institutions.”

More than 100 students have completed IJC, which teaches concepts in justice and criminology while exploring the impact of discrimination on the lives of Indigenous people. The program remains unique in North America for its exclusive focus on Indigenous students and its emphasis on experiential learning.

Students must complete two 12-week practicum courses at workplaces such as penal institutions, community programs and advocacy groups. Langan spent one of his practicums at the Saskatoon Indian and Métis Friendship Centre working with young offenders as they completed community service projects.

Langan said his role as a police officer has benefited from his experiences working in the community with young people. “That’s what made it a good practicum—really engaging with the youth,” he said.

Larissa Mercredi, a 2015 sociology and IJC graduate, sought out the program because she was interested in justice issues and wanted practical experience. She spent her first practicum with the Saskatoon Tribal Council (STC) justice programs, providing support services to at-risk youths.

“That was my first hands-on experience really being in the justice field, and a lot of it revolved around restorative justice,” said Mercredi.

Like many IJC alumni, Mercredi’s practicum turned into a job after graduation. She is now a justice worker with STC.

Mercredi said that classes through the sociology program also changed her perspective on topics such as crime, trauma and the impacts of colonization, helping her to start her “own healing journey.”

“Because residential schools affected my community in Fond du Lac. It affected my mother, my grandmother,” she said.

Samuelson, who retired from the university in 2018, said he is grateful to see the high levels of success and perseverance among graduates of the program he founded.

“I’m proud, for sure,” he said. “I was glad to be of help in developing other people’s capacities and knowledge. I learned a lot, too—I think we all learned a lot.”
The first scientific study in the Saskatchewan Cattlemen’s Association Metabolism Barn at the Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence (LFCE) will identify how different levels of sulphates in water affect beef cattle.

The researchers are conducting the scientific study into potentially fatal sulphate levels, using the highly specialized metabolism barn. It’s research that would not be possible without the LFCE’s new barn and adjacent laboratories.

“When we call it a ‘barn’, this really is a lab, not a barn,” said Dr. Greg Penner (PhD), an associate professor at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and Centennial Enhancement Chair in Ruminant Nutritional Physiology.

The barn is a living laboratory that’s unique in all of North America. Within each of its 24 stalls, researchers can precisely measure several factors on an individual animal, including body weight as well as feed and water intake. The stalls make collecting blood, fecal and urine samples safer for the animals and for those working with them.

It is environmentally controlled to provide a high comfort level for the cattle, complying and exceeding guidelines from the Canadian Council on Animal Care.

With infrared cameras installed in the barn, scientists can study animal behaviour in real time during the day and night and in a non-invasive way. They can calculate how much time an animal stands and lies down, how often it changes position, as well as the amount of time it spends eating and drinking.

Across the hall from the barn is the sample preparation laboratory, equipped with ample bench space, a fume hood, a centrifuge, water baths, and plumbing of carbon dioxide and nitrogen gas lines. While this lab isn’t needed for the sulphate study, access to those resources will increase the research that can occur using equipment designed to simulate feed digestion, reducing the number of animals needed for studies and making research more cost effective.

“We will use artificial rumens, or rumen fluid within test tubes, to digest feed outside the cow to evaluate new feed additives or to better characterize the feed that we are providing. By doing screening outside of animals using models that represent parts of the animals, we are able to narrow down the number of treatments, find treatments that could be winners, and use fewer animals,” said Penner.

For graduate students Brittney Sutherland and Jordan Johnson, working in the new metabolism barn has been a highlight of their studies at USask.

“Being a young researcher and doing research at the university for a number of years, it’s exciting to have a new facility that improves our ability to do everyday research. It’s more conducive to doing higher quality research that’s meaningful to the industry,” said Johnson.

Sutherland agrees. “This research will give results that will directly affect producers. They are starting to realize more and more that they need good research to raise cattle in a way that’s beneficial for the animal and economical,” she said.

Livestock and feed extension specialists, based in Moose Jaw, are leading the sulphate research project that is funded under the new Strategic Field Program through the Canadian Agricultural Partnership, a federal-provincial initiative. The project is the first step to establishing consistent, science-based recommendations for cattle producers.

Currently, recommendations for safe drinking water for cattle vary from one province to another. After the researchers determine the effects of different levels of sulphates in drinking water, they hope to conduct further studies in order to recommend how to properly compensate for elevated sulphates in water by providing cattle with mineral supplements.

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Jessica Vance found her calling after the most devastating injury of her life.

Three years ago, the All-Canadian goaltender with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies women’s hockey team suffered torn knee ligaments just months before starting her university career. While the injury derailed her first season in the Canada West conference, the long road back to recovery while working one-on-one with a professional physiotherapist helped give her a focus for the future.

“I want to apply to study physiotherapy after I am done my kinesiology degree and my injury is what really drew me to that,” said Vance. “After going through that rehabilitation and seeing how a physiotherapist helps, I know that I would also like to be able to help people recover from their injuries.”

Vance capped her comeback in truly remarkable fashion last year, both on and off the ice. After sitting out two full seasons, the 21-year-old from Prince Albert led the Huskies to a berth in the national championship by rewriting the record book and being named Canada West player of the year. She was also named a U Sports Academic All-Canadian for posting an average of 82.5 per cent in her studies while completing a full course load of 24 credit units in 2017/18.

“It was tough to sit out that long, after two years of not playing, and I know some people if they were put in that situation they might have quit,” she said. “But I just kept working hard, and when things started going well, it was a big boost to my confidence and it just kept on rolling from there.”

While Vance’s player-of-the-year performance surprised some observers, Huskies head coach Steve Kook said they knew exactly what she was capable of.

“I wouldn’t say the season that Jess had last year was unexpected, as we could see the quality athlete we were getting, in the year that she had to red-shirt (sit out a full season, after transferring from the University of Manitoba),” said Kook. “But to set a single-season shutdown record, lead us to a national championship appearance, be named the Canada West MVP, all the while maintaining Academic All-Canadian status, shows us the quality person we have in our program.”

In one of the most remarkable seasons in Huskies history, Vance didn’t give up a single goal in half of the games that she played in 2017/18, earning a record nine shutouts in 18 starts while posting a record-setting 0.77 goals-against average. She has continued to shut the door on opposition shooters this season, with another six shutouts to move into fifth place in the Canada West record book with 15 in her career.

The most memorable of those shutouts came on Jan. 4 in a 3-0 victory over the Calgary Dinos on Play for a Cure Night, when the Huskies auctioned off special jerseys to raise money for the Canadian Cancer Society and honoured Vance’s mother Liane, who is battling cancer and took part in the ceremonial opening faceoff.

“It was a special game and thanks to my teammates for wanting to honour my mom,” Vance said.

“Getting the win and the shutting made it even more significant, and it was a game I will never forget.”

Vance said her teammates are a close-knit group, on and off the ice. When not skating or studying, the Huskies volunteer their time in the community by helping young kids in the Saskatoon Comets female hockey program.

“It’s nice to mentor them and it’s pretty cool to be someone for them to look up to and to help them out,” said Vance. “At that age, they don’t get much instruction as a goalie, so they really enjoy it when someone comes out to help them.”

As they prepare for the playoffs that begin Feb. 15 at Merlis Belsher Place, the Huskies will be counting on Vance to help lead them in the post-season as they try to earn a spot in the national championship for the second straight season.

“Our league is so competitive, but I think after being there at nationals last year, we have enough people back who know what it takes,” said Vance, who has posted a superb 1.25 goals-against-average and .948 save percentage to help the Huskies post a 10-9-5-2 record. “I think we have what it takes to get there again.”
One Day for Students draws alum back to his roots

When Mike McDonald came to the University of Saskatchewan (USask) to pursue his Bachelor of Kinesiology, he had no idea his work would one day influence more than 200,000 children across Canada.

Founder and CEO of the charitable organization Saskatchewan Blue Cross Recess Guardians, McDonald has travelled thousands of miles across the country to grow the program, which helps elementary school students take back recess and be more active.

McDonald and his staff of seven have visited more than 500 schools across Canada to empower youth to lead through play. He said his goal is to “create a bold and imaginative world where everyone has someone who believes in them.”

The concept for the organization was born out of McDonald’s experience working in an inner-city school in his gap year between high school and university. He saw a troubling trend in Saskatchewan, where recess periods were being cancelled or cut down, in an effort to increase time spent on academics. McDonald said he felt this was wrong.

“I thought that we have to change this for recess to be fun again,” he said.

When McDonald began his studies at USask, he originally wanted to be a phys-ed teacher. But by his second year, he decided to work on a solution to the pressing issue he took to heart, and pursued the project as his career.

With the help of his classmates, he approached community coordinators to develop relationships with local schools, and went to work devising a program to help kids develop leadership skills and confidence through play.

The program has grown steadily since it was launched 11 years ago, and now thousands of schools across Canada have requested support.

McDonald, who graduated in 2010, will be on campus as the keynote speaker for One Day for Students activities on March 6—the university’s annual day of giving to promote philanthropy. Faculty, staff, alumni and donors are invited to donate towards student scholarships and bursaries, and students are encouraged to share stories of volunteerism and their support of causes they care about.

“I feel it’s important to give back to the University of Saskatchewan for all that they have done for me and my family,” said McDonald, who added that he is getting involved to show his appreciation for the place where Saskatchewan Blue Cross Recess Guardians started.

An advocate for volunteerism, he noted that he hopes to convey to students the importance of giving time and energy in support of important causes.

“It also shows students that it is important not to forget where you came from, who influenced you, and how certain institutions and people have really made a difference in who you are,” he said.

Once again, the university asks its community to support the Nasser Family Emergency Student Trust with a gift of any amount. The fund helps students facing crises continue to meet their educational goals and supports students with flights for funerals, funds for alternative living arrangements after a fire or family breakup, personal medical emergencies, and loss of employment.

The fund was created by Professor Emeritus Dr. Kay Nasser (PhD) and his wife Dora, who will again match donations, dollar for dollar. Last year’s event raised $100,000 for students in these emergency situations.

To donate to the cause, or find out more, please visit give.usask.ca/oneday. Students struggling with a crisis can contact Student Central at askus@usask.ca to apply for the Nasser Family Emergency Student Trust.

Jessica Elfar is a development communications specialist in University Relations.

Dehydrator supports sustainability initiatives

outlined by USask President Peter Stoicheff in 2015. Having secured a silver STARS rating in 2017, the university has since created the President’s Sustainability Council, and the Office of Sustainability has ushered in a number of initiatives, including a new sustainable printing campaign that aims to save money, ink, and electricity across campus.

And with word of the project getting out, there has been plenty of positive feedback as well as interest from other areas of campus including student groups, said McFarland.

“The partnerships are a big win for us, but it’s the full circle of sustainability that’s also a big highlight,” he said.

The compost has even found its way to the rooftop gardens located at the Ag Building. This has been a true collaborative campaign, as the food grown at the gardens has similarly found its way to campus kitchens.

“We’ve worked with Dr. Grant Wood in plant sciences, and the ground services supplies the compost, which contains the food waste dehydrated here,” said Marufu.

“It shows how people can work together on important issues. What a beauty to watch that happen.”
One Day for Students draws alum back to his roots ecosystems and inhabitants. For more information, visit: planetaryhealth.usask.ca

People around the World (PAW)

2019 Conference

Planetary Health: Connecting food, people and the planet
March 12–13, 8 am–4:30 pm, Marquis Hall. Planetary Health acknowledges the interdependence of human health and the health of the planet. This two-day conference will bring together a diverse audience of health, environment, Indigenous, and policy researchers, as well as community and industry partners to better understand our role to improve human health outcomes in a manner that is respectful to the Earth’s ecosystems and inhabitants. For more information, visit: planetaryhealth.usask.ca

Department of Psychology’s monthly colloquium series

Members of the university community and the general public are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Peter Grant at 306-966-6675 or e-mail: peter.grant@usask.ca

• Feb. 28, 3-4 pm, Arts 153. Professor Janeen Loehr, Department of Psychology, will give a talk entitled We performed as one: Cues to joint agency in joint rhythm and music production. In this seminar, a set of experiments will be described in which pairs of participants produced very simple rhythms together and indicated the degree to which they experienced a sense of joint agency. Recent work investigating the brain signals that might underpin the sense of joint agency will be discussed along with projects that are currently underway examining the experience of joint agency during music-making with both novices and expert musicians.

Philosophy in the Community

7-9 pm, The Rehner, Emmanuel Anglican Church Basement. 609 Dufferin Ave. Free lecture and discussion series organized by the Department of Philosophy and open to the public. For more information, visit: usask.ca/philosophy/community

• Feb. 8, Professor Pierre-François Noppen will give a talk entitled What is capitalism? The Point of Marx’s Critique. The global economic crisis and its aftermath have generated a surge of interest in Marx’s analysis. What was Marx trying to do, exactly? Can his work still help us understand our current predicament? In this talk, a set of key concepts and issues at the heart of Marx’s Capital, such as labor, use, value, surplus-value and capital, will be discussed against the broad backdrop of contemporary capitalism.

• March 8, Why Legal Aid Matters for Justice. Sarah Buhler, College of Law, will discuss the vital importance of publicly funded legal aid in the context of a just system and legal regime that disproportionately impact members of marginalized communities. The talk will include some history and background about legal aid programs in Canada and will argue that legal aid can both mitigate harm and promote justice, for people who find themselves drawn into the system.

Literature Matters

7:30 pm, Grace-Weinstein United Church social hall, 505 10 St. E. Reading, studying and talking about literary works helps us to make sense of the world. In this series of community talks, members of the Department of English explore diverse literary topics.

• Feb. 27, Virginia Woolf’s Mrs. Dalloway

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education

Registration is open to the public and university employees for upcoming programs. Call 306-966-8866, email execed@edwards.usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed/

• Feb. 14–June 8, Master Certificate in Project Management – Saskatoon
• Feb. 26, Managing Difficult Conversations – Saskatoon
• March 4–5, Developing a Coaching Mindset – Saskatoon
• March 6–7, Speaking as a Leader – Saskatoon
• March 12–14, Project Management Course – Saskatoon
• March 19, Leadership Essentials for Supervisors – Saskatoon
• March 21, Appreciative Leadership – Saskatoon

Multi-lingual Conversational Language Classes

Until March 30, RJD Williams Building. Registration is open for conversational language classes in French, Spanish, Cree, German, Italian, Portuguese and Japanese. Call 306-966-4355, or register online at: artsandscience.usask.ca/noncredit/languages/language-schedule.php

French Voyageur Immersion Weekend

Feb. 15–17, RJD Williams Building. Registration is open for French conversational skills. Call 306-966-4355 or register online at: artsandscience.usask.ca/noncredit/languages/french.php

French 1-week Immersion for Beginners

Feb. 18-22, RJD Williams Building. Focus on conversation, presentations, listening comprehension and grammatical concepts. Call 306-966-4355 or register online at: ccregister.usask.ca/aspnet/Section/Detail/?id=44910

French 1-week Immersion for Intermediates

Feb. 25-March 1, RJD Williams Building. Focus on conversation, presentations, listening comprehension and grammatical concepts. Call 306-966-4355 or register online at: ccregister.usask.ca/aspnet/Section/Detail/?id=44909

The Arts

Greystone Theatre presents: The Cripple of Inishmaan
Feb. 8-16, 8 pm, John Mitchell Building. In this play set in 1934, the people of Inishmaan learn that Hollywood director Robert Flaherty is coming to a neighbouring island to film his documentary Man of Aran. No one is more excited than Billy, an unloved boy whose chief occupation has been gazing at cows and yearning for a girl who wants no part of him. For Billy is determined to cross the sea and audition for the Yank. As news of his audacity ripples through his rumour-starved community, The Cripple of Inishmaan becomes a merciless portrayal of a world so comically cramped and mean-spirited that hope is an affront to its order. Ticket information: artsandscience.usask.ca/drama/greystone/greystone-theatre.php

Newman Players presents: The Doctor in Wonderland
Feb. 8-9, 7 pm, St. Thomas More, Father O’Donnell Auditorium. In this performance, Wonderland is no longer just in the mind of Alice. In Don Zolids’ new parody, Dr. What and his companion Cara crash into Wonderland. When the two are separated they meet all the usual suspects, mainly the Queen of Hearts, who is ready to chop off the heads of anyone who crosses her. It’s up to the time-traveling duo to escape and get their phone booth fixed before it’s off with their heads! The Doctor in Wonderland is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French Inc.

Elixir Ensemble presents: Music Across Cultures
March 3, 2:30 pm, Emmanuel Anglican Church. Bright Sheng’s A Night at the Chinese Opera is a vivid work depicting many of the characters of this ancient art form. Guest artist: Véronique Mathieu, violin, David L. Kaplan Chair in Music. Elixir ensemble: Oxana Ossipchouk, violin, James Legge, viola, Scott McKnight, cello, Kathleen Solose, piano and artistic director.

University of Saskatchewan land development to support strategic priorities

FROM PAGE 2

An example of this is the purchase of rural lands that were used to relocate the university feedlot from its location north of College Drive to the recently opened Livestock and Forage Centre of Excellence south of Clavet. We also transitioned some plant science research activities to land designated for core agriculture research located between College Drive and Preston Crossing.

OCN: Will any of the university land be sold as part of this development plan?

JC: No, the university’s intent is to lease the land rather than sell it.

OCN: What will the potential revenue from developing the land be used for?

JC: There is nothing identified at this point. Any revenue generated from land development would go towards supporting the strategic priorities of the university.

OCN: Will members of the university and the community have the opportunity to weigh in on the type of development that will occur?

JC: The city held the first in a series of Come and Grow events, where members of the community could view the plan and provide input on what kinds of amenities they would like to see within these areas. Details about future events is available on the City of Saskatoon’s website.

OCN: Is there a timeline for the development of the university land?

JC: The city will continue with public consultation and the completion of the sector plan by the end of 2019, which will lead to the next phase of community planning.

Jody Gress is a communications specialist in University Relations.
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.

FEBRUARY 1964
FIRST KIDNEY RE-TRANSPLANT

A surgical team led by University of Saskatchewan medical clinician Dr. Marc Baltzan completed the first kidney re-transplant in Canada at Saskatoon’s University Hospital on Feb. 22, 1964.

The historic operation was a medical marvel in the early days of transplant surgeries, completed five years after the first successful kidney transplant in the country.

Dr. Baltzan’s team initially performed the third transplant in Canadian history on Dec. 10, 1963 at University Hospital (renamed Royal University Hospital in 1990), but the recipient’s body rejected the transplanted kidney later that evening.

Dialysis kept the patient alive for two months before a deceased donor kidney became available, allowing the surgeons to complete the first successful re-transplant in Canada.

University Hospital quickly became a world leader in transplant surgery, with Marc Baltzan soon joined by his brothers Richard (a nephrologist) and Donald (a surgeon) in completing several successful transplants.

As distinguished USask historian Dr. Bill Waiser (PhD) noted in his 2017 article, by the year 1992, seven of the 25 transplant recipients in the world who had survived for more than two decades after the procedure, received their transplanted kidneys at University Hospital.

Dr. Marcel (Marc) Baltzan received an Honorary Doctor of Science at University of Saskatchewan Spring Convocation in 2004.

From left, Dr. Richard Baltzan, Dr. Marc Baltzan and Dr. Danny McFadden, speak to reporters following another successful kidney transplant in Saskatoon in 1964.

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Baltzan’s team, which featured specialists from Saskatoon’s University Hospital and St. Paul’s Hospital, included vascular surgeon Dr. Neville Jackson, internist Dr. Betty Lou Baltzan, anaesthetist Dr. Gordon Wyant, and urologists Dr. Casimir Wolan and Dr. Manuel Ty.

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