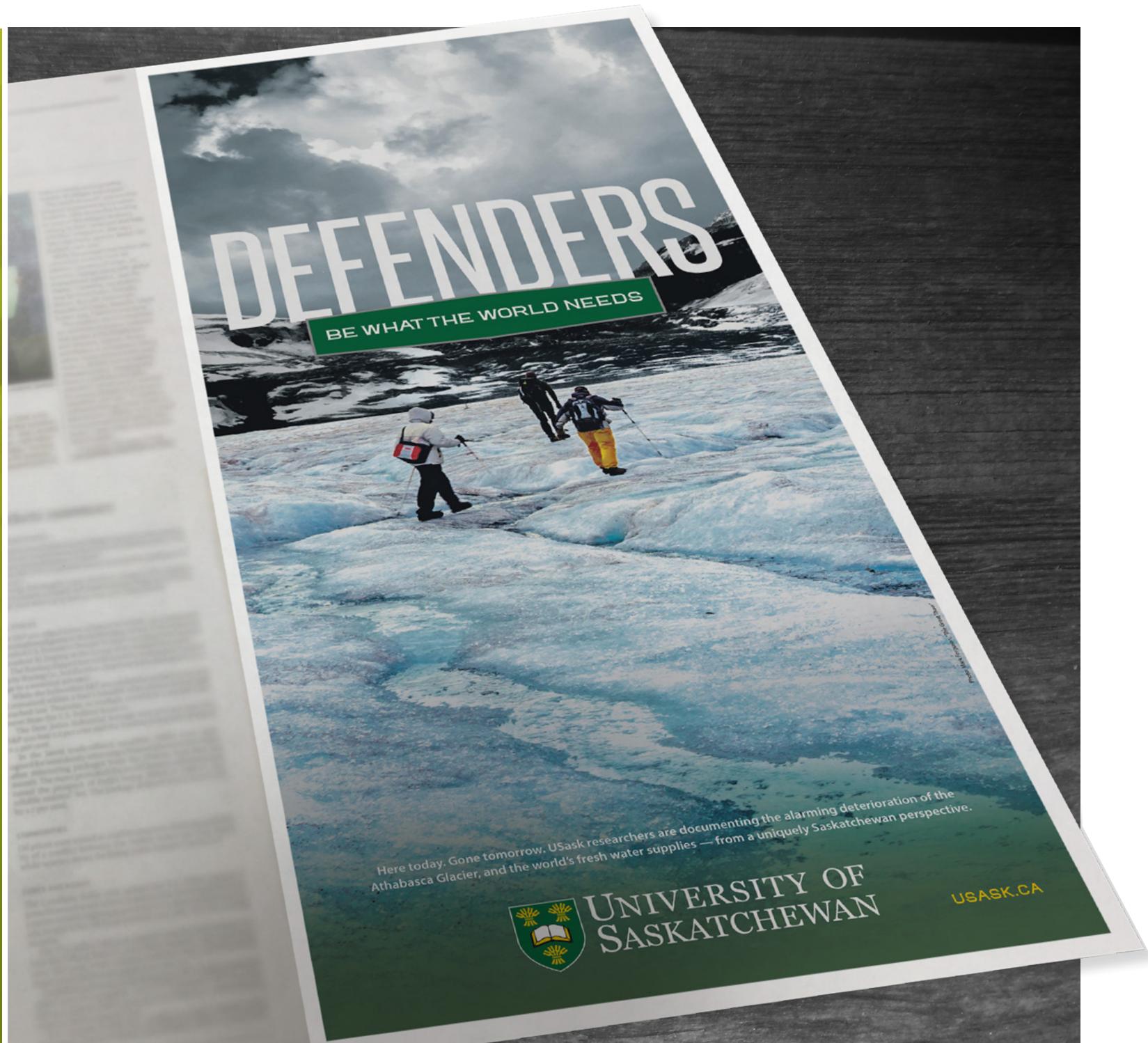


## ON BRAND

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) is rolling out a refreshed brand platform to share the story of the institution, on the heels of the implementation of the new university plan to be *The University The World Needs*. USask communications and marketing leaders are making a concerted effort to redefine the perceptions, expectations and reputation of the university, from local initiatives to national advertisements spotlighting the university's place as a world leader in areas such as water and food research. We take a look at efforts to build the brand in this issue of *On Campus News*.

SEE PAGE 2



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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 USask community.

The views and opinions expressed by writers of letters to the editor and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of USask 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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# Building the USask brand

JAMES SHEWAGA

The University of Saskatchewan (USask) has been a world-leading university for years. It's time to let the world know about it.

Building on the successful launch of the new university plan to be *The University The World Needs*, USask senior leaders are taking a fresh new approach to sharing the story of the institution, refreshing and refocusing the USask brand to redefine the perceptions, expectations and reputation of the university.

"I think everyone would agree that the University of Saskatchewan is not as well known for its strengths and its expertise outside the province as it should be, and this refreshed branding is how we intend to better tell the USask story," said Gord Hunchak, associate vice-president of strategic communications and chief communications officer.

"During the consultations held

## BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

across campus, it became very clear from students, faculty, staff, and alumni that there is a real desire to speak proudly about what we do here, and about the accomplishments and achievements of this university. Moving forward, we are going to make sure the world knows how great we are."

Ranked No.1 in the country and 18th in the world in water research, USask is Canada's only university that has two national research institutes located right on campus, with the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization-International Vaccine Centre (VIDO-InterVac), and the Canadian Light Source, featuring

the country's only synchrotron.

USask is seen as a leader amongst Canadian universities in our commitments and actions for Reconciliation and Indigenization, a critical role within the province and the country. USask is also experiencing record enrolment, higher student satisfaction scores, and increasing diversity of the student body, faculty and staff, helping make the university one of the best untold stories in the country.

"Our new university plan maps out the university's commitments and aspirations, and has the potential to redefine the perceptions of the University of the

Saskatchewan," said Hunchak. "If the university plan is all about change for the future, then we need to change how we talk about ourselves. The refreshed brand platform is how we are going to tell that story, helping elevate the university's profile and reputation."

In the new world of post-secondary education, the competition for attracting funding and faculty, staff and students, is more challenging than ever before, Hunchak said. Changing the narrative of the university by building the brand and proudly promoting our aspirations and achievements is key to positioning USask as an innovative world-leading institution on the rise, committed to creativity, connectivity, collaboration and community.

SEE TELLING, PAGE 14



## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

A lot happens at USask during the weeks when *On Campus News* isn't published. Here are a few of the top stories from [news.usask.ca](http://news.usask.ca):

### New GIFS leaders

Two internationally recognized leaders of agricultural research and innovation have been named to top leadership posts of the Global Institute for Food Security (GIFS) at the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. Steven Webb (PhD), a visionary strategic research leader with more than 20 years of expertise in developing and managing multidisciplinary enterprises and research and business opportunities, was named executive director and chief executive officer. Stephen Visscher, who received the Commander of the Order of the British Empire honour in 2013, is the new director of strategic partnerships and chief operating officer.

### CRCs established

Three Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs have been established at USask: Dr. Natalia Stakhanova (PhD), Canada Research Chair in Security and Privacy; Dr. Michelle Johnson-Jennings (PhD), Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Community-Engaged Research; Dr. Tara Kahan (PhD), Canada Research Chair in Analytical Environmental Chemistry. Three Tier 1 terms were renewed: Dr. Ken Coates (PhD), Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation; Dr. Mirosław Cygler (PhD), Canada Research Chair in Molecular Medicine Using Synchrotron Light; and Dr. Alexander Moewes (PhD), Canada Research Chair in Materials Science using Synchrotron Radiation.

### Fedoruk chair

Prominent Saskatchewan business leader Tom Kishchuk will serve as the new chair of the board of directors for the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation (Fedoruk Centre) at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). Kishchuk, vice-president of operational support at Federated Co-operatives Limited, earned bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from USask and is a graduate of the Ivey Executive Program at the Richard Ivey School of Business. The Fedoruk Centre board also re-elected USask Vice-President Research Karen Chad as vice-chair, a position she has held since 2011.

### Student support

The University of Saskatchewan has announced a new pilot project to support LGBTQI2S+ students. Starting in September, self-identified queer students living in the College Quarter residence may participate in a project in which they can choose to live with other queer students. The students receive customized support, service and programming while also integrating into, and benefiting from, all supports offered to members of the larger residence community. The Residence Services Office has been working towards continued expansion of supports and education to benefit all students and increased programming in areas of inclusivity.

FOR MORE UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS, VISIT: [news.usask.ca](http://news.usask.ca) @usask

# PEOPLE OF THE PLAN

The University of Saskatchewan's new seven-year plan through to 2025 is entitled *The University the World Needs* and has been gifted Indigenous names *nikānītān manācihitowinihk* (Cree) and *ni manachihitooaan* (Michif), which translate to “Let us lead with respect.” In each issue of *On Campus News* in 2019, we take a closer look at the 12 major goals of the new plan by profiling individuals involved in the university's commitment to Courageous Curiosity, Boundless Collaboration and Inspired Communities. In this issue we profile Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark, as he weighs in on the close connection between the city and the university.

**COMMITMENT: BOUNDLESS COLLABORATION**  
(Invigorate the impact of collaboration and partnership in everything we do through strategic goals.)

**GOAL: EMBOLDEN PARTNERSHIPS**  
(Foster, expand, and diversify local, national, and global partnerships—with governments, businesses, and civil society in rural, northern and urban communities—rooted in reciprocal learning and the co-creation of knowledge)

## Clark: Championing city-campus collaboration

JAMES SHEWAGA

University of Saskatchewan (USask) President Peter Stoecheff is a firm believer that great cities deserve and need great universities.

City of Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark clearly shares that conviction.

The city and the university are continuing to build closer connections and collaborations following the president and the mayor's 2018 signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that was truly unique in the country.

“We were the first city to sign an MOU with our local university as a partner that lays out infrastructure planning, land use planning, research projects, environmental protection goals, reconciliation—on all these different dimensions—with practical steps that we can take to work together,” said Clark. “We are talking about where we are at and what our future is together.”

The City of Saskatoon-USask MOU followed on the heels of similar agreements signed by the university with the Saskatoon Symphony Orchestra and the Rемаi Modern museum, both also the first of its kind in the country.

The strong relationship



City of Saskatoon Mayor Charlie Clark has been a strong supporter of the University of Saskatchewan.

SUBMITTED

between the city and the university has resulted in a number of collaborations, from leading-edge research on brain wave activity during symphony performances,

to the city contributing \$4-million in funding for the university's new Merlis Belsher Place facility that now annually provides 1,500 hours of much-needed ice time

for local minor hockey teams. The city and university are also currently working together on land development and urban planning proposals, including strategic infill

on university endowment lands.

“The MOU came out of the recognition that on all of these dimensions there is a chance for us to work more closely together for our mutual benefit and for the benefit of our citizens, so that made it very compelling and clear that while our partnership has been strong, there is a lot of room for it to become stronger,” said Clark, who has been an avid supporter of USask since entering civic politics in 2006. “Now that the conversation is going, I think we need to be able to show the outcomes very clearly and hold ourselves to account and make sure that it becomes tangible. If those relationships form and people see the shared opportunity, I think we are going to have tremendous outcomes together.”

For Clark, what's good for the university is good for the city, with the students of today becoming the city's leaders of tomorrow.

“The more students who bring their talents to the university and become part of our entrepreneurial community and part of our business and non-profit sectors and build lives here, that's good for everybody,” said Clark. ■

# New hydrology program opens in 2020

## Water security curriculum aligns with signature area of research

SHANNON BOKLASCHUK

The Department of Geography and Planning has “incredible strength” in water science teaching and research, says Dr. Krystopher Chutko (PhD).

It’s that strength that makes the department a great place to house the University of Saskatchewan’s (USask) new program in hydrology.

“In the future—around the world and in Canada—we need water scientists,” said Chutko, a faculty member in the College of Arts and Science. “We need people that know how water works, where it comes from, where it’s going, how it changes.”

Chutko played an integral role in leading a curricular change that has resulted in approval for the Department of Geography and Planning to replace its existing major in environmental earth sciences with hydrology. The college will begin accepting students into the hydrology program starting in the fall of 2020.

The purpose of the change is to create an undergraduate program that focuses on departmental strengths in water science and geomatics and that ensures new curricula meet the knowledge standards for professional geoscience accreditation in Saskatchewan.

Chutko said water is going to be “a massive topic going forward, considering everything that’s happening with climate change.” He noted the flooding that’s occurred in Ontario, the drought in Saskatch-



**Dr. Krystopher Chutko (PhD) helped lead the curricular change for the new hydrology program in the Department of Geography and Planning in the College of Arts and Science.**

AMANDA TERRY

ewan and the changing snowpack in the mountains.

“It all comes back down to water,” he said. “We’re trying to build that foundation (among our students).”

Water security is one of USask’s six signature areas of research. As a discipline, geography and planning plays a leadership role in hydrology research on campus and a collaborative role in providing hydrology training within interdisciplinary water security programming.

The new Bachelor of Science in hydrology program will leverage undergraduate research opportunities available through the Global Institute for Water Security, the Global Water Futures program, Canada Research Chairs, industrial chairs, and Canada Foundation for Innovation investments, to develop a pool of highly qualified undergraduate students capable of pursuing graduate research in physical hydrology and careers in the water industry.

“These ambitions align well with the University Plan 2025 as we seek to empower students to take on one of humanity’s greatest challenges—to ensure everyone has a sustainable supply of safe water,” said Dr. Peta Bonham-Smith (PhD), dean of the College of Arts and Science. “This new program also aligns with our college’s plan to 2025, which includes a commitment to new curricula. We will equip our students with the skills, knowledge and cultural competen-

cies needed for the 21st century.”

The new hydrology program will also support the university’s goals of Indigenization at the individual course level, through the development of inclusive curricula. This will be achieved through the integration of faculty research on Indigenous issues into teaching, including the use and acknowledgment of data generated on Indigenous land, the development of experiential learning opportunities in Indigenous communities, and through the involvement of Elders in water-related teaching topics.

Chutko said researchers and water scientists are currently concerned about how precipitation and water storage will be altered as a result of climate change. Although scientists understand what’s happening to global temperature—it’s going up—precipitation is much more variable and therefore not as well understood.

As for storage, Saskatchewan’s rivers currently get most of their water from glaciers, which “are melting fast and they’re going to disappear—maybe in our lifetime,” said Chutko.

“Water isn’t something that you can take for granted,” he said. “In some parts of the world you could, but everything’s changing.” ■

**Shannon Boklaschuk is a communications officer in the College of Arts and Science.**

# 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, we chat with former Saskatchewan Premier and USask Chancellor Emeritus Roy Romanow (BA'60, LLB'64).



Former Saskatchewan Premier Roy Romanow wrapped up his three-year term as chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan on July 1.

DAVID STOBBE

## Roy Romanow: Building the nation

TARYN RIEMER

Roy Romanow (BA'60, LLB'64) was always interested in politics, but it wasn't until the Saskatchewan doctors' strike of 1962 that his career path was solidified.

"The Medicare strike was a very, very contentious issue right across the country and especially in Saskatchewan. I mean, when all the doctors except three went on strike, that gives you an example about how contentious this was," said Romanow, who took the pro-Medicare side of the debate.

Romanow, now chancellor emeritus of the University of Saskatchewan (USask), would go on to a long and storied career in provincial and federal politics, culminating in serving as the 12th premier of the province of Saskatchewan from 1991-2001.

Back in the 1960s, Romanow was working on his law degree at USask when he decided to take

some time off to dip his toes into the political world. He ended up becoming an assistant secretary on the Royal Commission on Hospital Privileges headed by USask alumnus Justice Mervyn Woods, which looked into whether or not the doctors who had come overseas during the strike were qualified to be granted hospital privileges.

"That was a fascinating project, going around the province, listening to all of the evidence and being a small part in the preparation of the final report because it was Mr. Justice Woods' report," said Romanow. "After all that was over I resumed law."

When Romanow completed his law degree in 1964, he started working at the law firm of Goldberg, Taylor and Tallis. In 1967, Romanow decided to seek office for the first time and was elected to the Saskatchewan Legislature.

Romanow spent the next three decades heavily involved in Saskatchewan and Canadian politics. After holding the position of premier of Saskatchewan from 1991-2001, he served as the provincial chair—with Jean Chrétien being the federal counterpart—on the Constitution Act 1982 negotiations. Romanow also led the second Royal Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, and was a member of the Security Intelligence Review Committee (SIRC).

During his time in politics, Romanow was able to visit all of Canada and the biggest challenge he saw that the country faced 30 years ago, and today, is nation building.

"We are a large country from a land mass perspective, but we have a small population, 40 million people roughly, and it's unevenly distributed. We are north of one of the major powerhouses in the world,

the United States of America," said Romanow. "The challenge always for Canadians is to try and to build a country from shoreline, shoreline to shoreline."

Romanow said sticking to Canadian values, which he believes are sharing, caring and co-operation with each other, are how we'll continue to strengthen Canada as one nation.

Although Romanow has had a large influence on Canada as a whole, he always kept a close connection to his home province and to USask.

"Without this university I never would have had the experiences and the small contributions that I was able to make to the province and to the country," said Romanow.

So when he finished the Royal Commission on health care, he was thrilled when he was asked to become a senior fellow in public policy at USask in the Department of Political

Studies. In 2016, he was honoured to assume the role of USask chancellor, a term he completed on July 1.

Romanow has thoroughly enjoyed his term and his favourite moments have always come during convocation ceremonies.

"Every time I saw somebody coming towards me to get officially admitted to the university, I saw in their eyes hope, optimism, confidence and a belief that our university had really equipped them to take on the challenges of the world," said Romanow.

"It gives me great optimism that the future of Canada is in great shape. And it gives me confirmation that our university, in particular, remains as one of the leading universities in the country." ■

Taryn Riemer is a communications officer in Alumni Relations.

# Half a century and counting:

## A lifetime of achievement for College of Law professor

✍ SARAH TREFIAK

When Ronald C.C. Cuming began teaching at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in the 1960s, email, podcasts and video-recorded lectures did not yet exist, law classes were taught out of the Murray Library, and Otto Lang was dean of the law school. Over the past half century, Cuming has witnessed a world of change at the College of Law and has played a large role in changing laws around the world.

Growing up in Estevan, the son of a sheriff, Cuming's interest in the law was sparked by his father's career in law enforcement.

"It was probably in Grade 11 that I decided I wanted to pursue an education in law," he said. "The only catch was, I needed Latin to apply, but Latin wasn't offered in Estevan."

Luckily enough, a teacher from Italy offered to teach him Latin after class, and the rest, shall we say, is a long and storied history.

Joining the faculty at the College of Law back in 1966, Cuming is the longest-serving active professor at the university. Fellow USask law school alumnus Judge Samuel Goldstein—recently profiled in the latest issue of *Thrive* magazine—has spent 58 years teaching commercial law on a part-time basis as a sessional lecturer in the Edwards School of Business, with Cuming and Goldstein together providing a remarkable 111 years of legal expertise in education at the university.

During his tenure on campus, Cuming has taught thousands of students and has introduced more than a handful of new courses at the college, ranging from bankruptcy law to personal property security law. Outside the classroom, his contributions to the law have been felt across the globe in countries including



**Ronald C.C. Cuming of the College of Law is the longest-serving active professor at the University of Saskatchewan.**

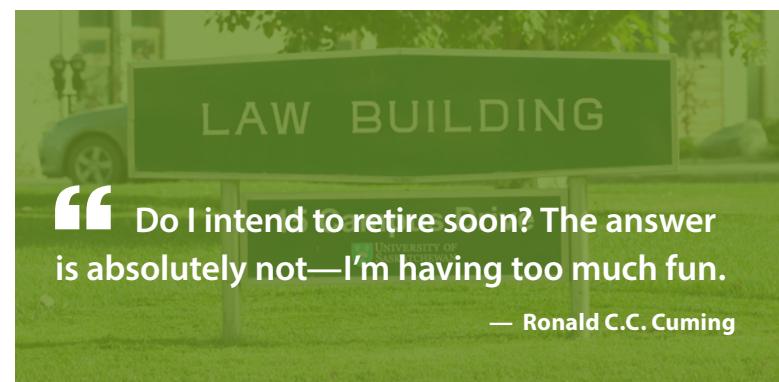
DAVID STOBBE

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Ghana, India, Iraq, Mexico, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

"I always say a professor has

three responsibilities: to teach, to research and to reform the law," he said.

And reform the law he has. Cuming was a principal drafts-



person of the Saskatchewan *Personal Property Security Act*, he co-authored the *Enforcement of Money Judgements Act*, and was a technical advisor to the Canadian Department of Transport in the preparation of the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment. Cuming has acted as technical advisor to the World Bank, the Organization of American States, the Asian Development Bank and other international agencies in the area of commercial law reform of developing countries, and in 2006 he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Canadian Bar Association.

In 2016, the College of Law celebrated Cuming's 50th year of teaching with a reception and commercial law conference named in his honour. That same year, he was bestowed the highest honour in teaching at USask—the title of distinguished professor. He has also received prestigious awards including the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award and USask's Distinguished Researcher Award.

So after half a century of researching, teaching and writing

the law, what keeps him coming back to work day after day? The answer is simple: "I love the job," he said. "Every day is a discovery, it's intellectually stimulating and I have the opportunity to associate with intelligent and decent people. It's a very pleasant place to work."

Cuming not only finds the motivation to keep coming back, he is usually one of the first people in the office, arriving every morning at 7:30 to teach his 8:30 am classes.

"By 10 o'clock I'm done teaching and have the rest of the day for research and writing," he said.

Cuming has used that time wisely, but even he couldn't have envisioned his lengthy career as a professor of law. In fact, he didn't really intend to become an academic until a few short years ago.

"I always had it in my mind that I was still just trying out law. That is until about five or six years ago when I thought 'maybe this is permanent,'" he said, with a chuckle. "And the question is, do I intend to retire soon? The answer is absolutely not—I'm having too much fun." ■

**Sarah Trefiak is a communications officer in the College of Law.**



USask Professor Dr. Dennis Lehmkuhl (PhD) spent decades researching aquatic life in the North and South Saskatchewan River systems.

📷 SUBMITTED



Dr. Dennis Lehmkuhl (PhD) celebrated 50 years of conducting research and teaching at USask on July 1.

📷 JAMES SHEWAGA

# Cheers to 50-year career for Lehmkuhl

📷 JAMES SHEWAGA

Dr. Dennis Lehmkuhl (PhD) came to the University of Saskatchewan 50 years ago as a young biology researcher eager to explore rivers and the life they sustain.

He never expected to still be here a half century later, now regarded as one of the world's experts on aquatic life in the Saskatchewan River system.

"I still can't believe it. I came for the interview back in May of 1969 and here we are today, 50 years later," said Lehmkuhl, who turns 77 on August 22. "I didn't anticipate being here this long, but I found such interesting aquatic biology here that it never occurred to me to leave."

July 1 officially marked retirement day after 50 years at USask for Lehmkuhl, who was the second-longest serving full-time employee on campus, trailing only law professor Ronald C.C. Cuming, who is in his 52nd year of teaching.

Raised in rural South Dakota, Lehmkuhl grew up exploring local

ponds as a youngster, collecting frogs and bugs in what started as a hobby and became a passion and a profession. Shortly after earning his PhD, he arrived in Saskatoon and immediately began exploring the South Saskatchewan River, documenting how pollution and pesticides and the new Gardiner Dam were affecting aquatic life up and down the river.

"It was summertime when I came and I went down to the river and started looking around and unfortunately I found the city's sewage outlet and then upstream I found something strange with the water so cold and clear, and of course that was the result of the new dam," Lehmkuhl recalled. "The Saskatchewan River system is one of the most unique systems in terms of aquatic insects, but a lot of species are now gone, unfortunately."

The Gardiner Dam was built in 1967 to control flooding, produce electricity and provide irrigation for

agriculture, as well as reliable water sources for urban populations like Saskatoon. Lehmkuhl's findings—published in 1972 in the *Journal of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada*, Volume 29—helped lead to dam engineering changes that regulated the temperature of water that is released, to protect aquatic life downstream on the river.

In 1987, Lehmkuhl also helped the provincial government use the naturally occurring bacterial pesticide *Bacillus thuringiensis* to control a chronic black fly problem in a large area northeast of Saskatoon, centred around where the North and South Saskatchewan River meet. The provincial agriculture department credited Lehmkuhl and his students working on the research project for eliminating the pests, which were feeding on and killing young calves, costing producers millions of dollars a year.

"The province was having a

real problem with black flies, which are terrible biting flies, and they were literally killing cattle," said Lehmkuhl. "But we found the way to control it. Our program produced several graduate students and there is no black fly problem in Saskatchewan anymore, so I am happy about that."

For Lehmkuhl, working with and mentoring graduate students is one of the things he is most proud of from his tenure at USask. He mentions the likes of Joseph Short-house, his first graduate student who went on to become the biology department head at Laurentian University, as well as Doug Smith, who has gone on to a successful 40-year career in the biology department at USask, and international student Rie Miyazaki, who followed up Lehmkuhl's research on the effects of dams on aquatic life in Japan.

In her 2006 thesis, Miyazaki credited Lehmkuhl's 1972 discovery on the need to regulate the tempera-

ture of water released from dams, with helping save a river system in Japan: "*The Hienuki River would be a dead river,*" she wrote. "*The river has been supporting life of local residents for thousands of years. Dr. Lehmkuhl saved our river.*"

So, what's next for Lehmkuhl? Retirement plans include travel, particularly to Japan, where his wife Makoto is from. But once a researcher, always a researcher, and Lehmkuhl hopes to do a little exploring out in the field—or along the river, to be precise.

"I will partly travel the world, Japan especially," said Lehmkuhl, whose three children all attended USask and whose son Paul now works on campus. "I'll be reading all the books that I bought and didn't have time to read, and I'll be checking out a couple of sample sites that I have been curious about and now have the time to do it. So, I am looking forward to it all." ■

# Love of collections keeps long-time librarian inspired

SEAN CONROY

When Donna Canevari de Paredes began her career as a librarian at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), she didn't actively set out to work at the same institution for decades, let alone live so far away from Connecticut where she grew up. But life rarely follows a carefully crafted plan.

"In the beginning, of course, I never intended to be either in Saskatchewan or at USask for this long," she said. "But, as with most of life, it just happens."

Now the head of the Murray Library, Canevari de Paredes came to campus in 1974 after completing her master's degree in library and information science at Columbia University in New York. Forty-five years later, after decades of advancements and enhancements in the University Library, and libraries in general, she is not only the longest-serving library employee, but the longest-serving female employee at USask.

Canevari de Paredes was inspired to pursue librarianship by the familiar factors that move so many: a love of reading, books, and research.

"My first degree was in history. It was during my undergraduate years that I considered and learned more about the possibility of librarianship as a profession," she said. "But the start was actually in my childhood, during which I was already an avid fiction and non-fiction reader and public library user."

Throughout her 45 years with the University Library, Canevari de Paredes has made a number of significant contributions. She has helped develop the library's humanities collections, especially in support of English, Slavic and history programs; worked as founding editor for a journal highlighting selected University Library collections; established partnerships with faculty to support under-



Librarian Donna Canevari de Paredes is the longest-serving active female employee at the University of Saskatchewan, with 45 years on campus.

JAMES SHEWAGA

graduate, graduate, and research programs; and served on multiple university committees as well as with the faculty association.

USask also holds a special place for Canevari de Paredes personally. It is here that she met her husband, Eudoxio Paredes-Ruiz, who is now librarian emeritus. Years later, she had the opportunity to work closely with her son, Felipe, a USask alumnus who earned degrees in law and classical, medieval, and renaissance studies.

"It was special for me to be a

research support resource for him during his university years here, and to be able to mentor him in navigating university library research in his studies beyond USask," she said.

As the role of the library and the librarian has changed through the years, Canevari de Paredes firmly believes that the importance of the library has expanded, along with the demands of supporting USask students and researchers.

"We have many employees and all are skilled in what they do: IT specialists, library assistants with

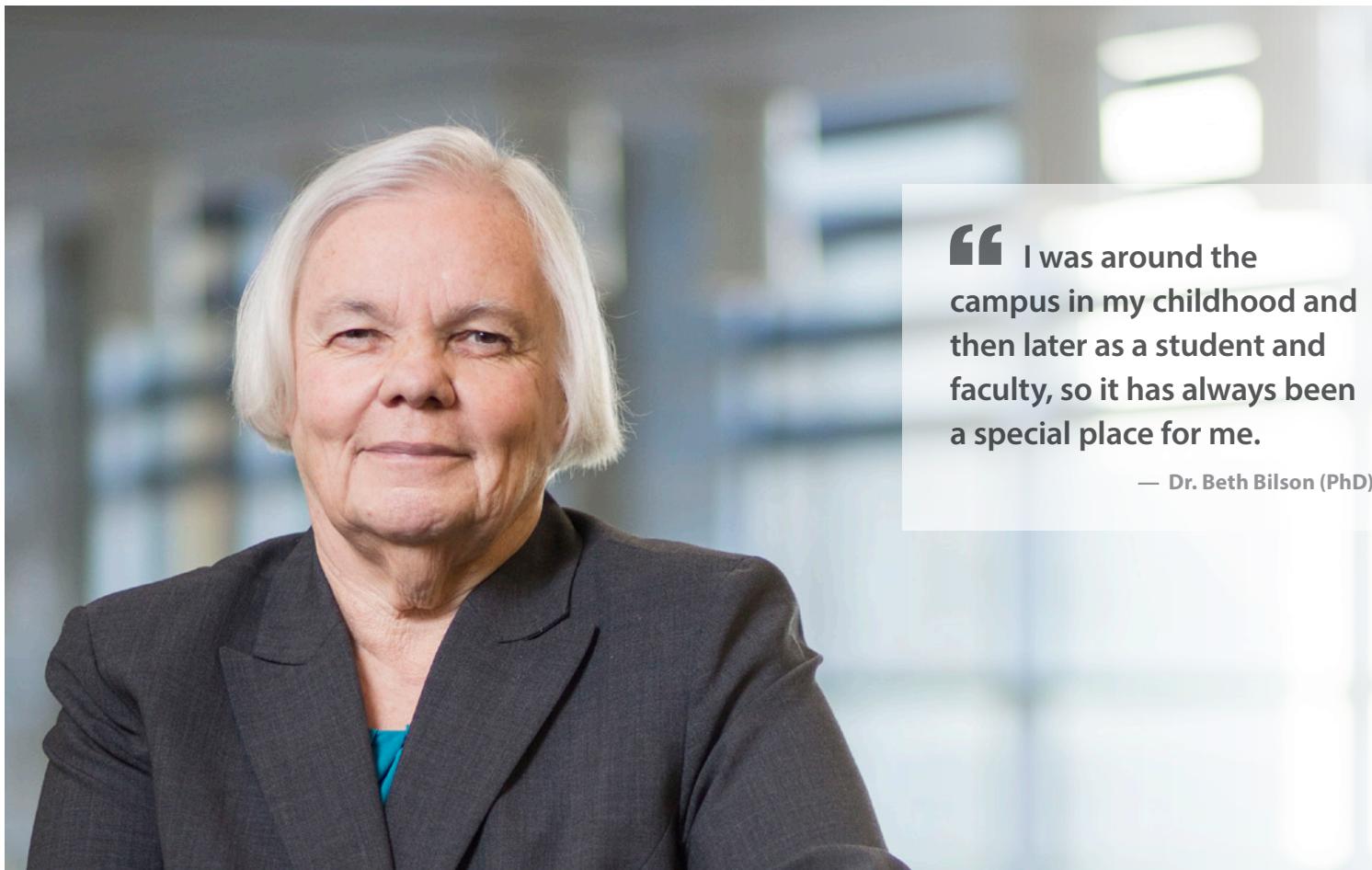
various educational backgrounds, student learning specialists, and librarians," she said. "For librarians, our professional practice is the key component of our position, as well as our involvement in research and scholarship."

After decades of service to the library and to the campus community, Canevari de Paredes has many motivating factors that continue to make her work rewarding.

"There are so many reasons why my position at the library is

still a positive part of my life," she said. "Those very much include the key components of what was important to me in the beginning: continued ability to use my professional judgement in many ways, and a continued role in the development and management of our collections, both traditional print collections and digital resources of all types, specifically in support of the humanities." ■

Sean Conroy is the communications officer at the University Library.



“ I was around the campus in my childhood and then later as a student and faculty, so it has always been a special place for me.

— Dr. Beth Bilson (PhD)

University Secretary and College of Law Professor Dr. Beth Bilson (PhD) has spent 40 years working at the University of Saskatchewan.

DAVID STOBBE

## USask has always been home for Bilson

JAMES SHEWAGA

Dr. Beth Bilson (PhD) first strolled onto the picturesque campus of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) when she was just six years old.

Little did she know that 66 years later she would be a key member of the university's leadership team, a leading law scholar and the longest-serving active female professor on campus.

“We first came here in 1952 when I was six when my father became the dean of the College of Commerce, so it has always felt like home here,” said Bilson. “I was around the campus in my childhood and then later as a student and faculty, so it has always been a special place for me.”

July 1 marked a remarkable 40 years as a faculty member in the College of Law for Bilson, who has spent the last two and a half years on secondment serving as University Secretary. Bilson began her time at the university 56 years ago as a young student when she earned the first of three degrees—bachelor's (1967), master's (1970) and law (1977), followed by a PhD (1982) at the University of London. Bilson began teaching law at USask in 1979 and 20 years later was named the first female dean of the college, a role

she filled three times throughout her illustrious career.

“(USask President) Peter Stoicheff always says the College of Law has had three female deans in its history and they have all been Beth Bilson,” she said with a chuckle.

Bilson's remarkable resume also includes serving as the first female chair of the Saskatchewan Labour Relations Board, twice serving as the first female acting dean of law, and one of only two individuals to serve as a dean on three separate occasions. A teaching trailblazer dedicated to supporting the advancement of women in academics and the legal profession, Bilson has been a role model and mentor for young female students and staff on and off campus for years.

“I didn't consciously set out to be a pioneer for women particularly, I just did things that seemed interesting to me,” she said. “As it turned out, I was the first woman in certain roles, and I am quite satisfied about that, and I have had women say that they were impressed by that and that was something that was meaningful to them. I wasn't setting out to demonstrate that women could do anything in particular, although I was quite confident that they could. But I think in retrospect, it has been an interesting career.”

Indeed. A highly regarded scholar and extensively published expert in administrative and labour law, Bilson has earned a number of honours and distinctions throughout her career, including

the YWCA Women of Distinction Award in 2014 and the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) Louis St. Laurent Award of Excellence in 2015.

A pioneer in her profession at a time when there were only three female faculty members in the College of Law when she started, Bilson was admitted to the bar in Saskatchewan in 1984, served as editor of the CBA's *Canadian Bar Review* for 10 years, and was awarded the designation of Queen's Counsel for Saskatchewan in 2000. As dean, she led the creation and implementation of the College of Law's first strategic plan, while also contributing off campus when she was appointed chair of the federal task force on pay equity in 2000.

During her more than half a century on campus, she has watched the university undergo expansion and transformation, both in its skyline and in its student body.

“There have been a lot of physical changes, but I would say the diversity of the university has been the biggest change, in terms of the students and also the faculty and staff,” she said. “Part of that is the huge increase in the number of Indigenous students and there weren't very many in my early experience at the university. So, it has been wonderful to see so many more and I think the university has been enriched by the increase in the number of Indigenous students, and also by the number of international students.”

So, what's next for Bilson? She would like to write about the history of the university, and the College of Law in particular. But Bilson is also currently enjoying her role as University Secretary, in which her wealth of institutional knowledge serves her well working in university governance with executive leadership and the members of the Board of Governors, Senate and Council.

“I think one of the things that I have always enjoyed about university-level activity is the different vantage point on the institution and having an understanding of how the institution as a whole operates and how complicated it is,” said Bilson. “It's been interesting work and I enjoy it.” ■

# Remarkable tenure for Kulshreshtha

✍️ JAMES SHEWAGA

Take a moment to turn back time 50 years to 1969: Pierre Trudeau was prime minister and Justin Trudeau hadn't been born yet, astronauts landed on the moon for the first time, the Saskatchewan Roughriders lost to the Ottawa Rough Riders in the 57th Grey Cup, and the No.1 song on the charts was "Sugar, Sugar" by The Archies.

It was also that year that a bright young agriculture professor taught his first course at the University of Saskatchewan (USask). Half a century later, Dr. Surendra Kulshreshtha (PhD) is still one of the first into the office and one of the last to leave, teaching, researching and mentoring young graduate students in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources.

While he has enjoyed his time on campus, Kulshreshtha never imagined he would still be here at the age of 78.

"If you had asked me that question 20 years ago, I would have said no way!" he said with a smile. "But I enjoy the job and I really like to do my research and talk to graduate students and train them and see them getting somewhere in their life. I look back on my graduate students who have achieved quite a bit and that brings me a lot of satisfaction ... And I have a graduate student now who will probably be here until 2021, so until then it is very hard to even think about retirement."

Officially, Kulshreshtha will celebrate his 50-year anniversary on Dec. 1.

"For me, it will be just like any

other day, unless it's a weekend," he said with a chuckle.

For the record, Dec. 1 is a Sunday this year, but no doubt he will be back in the office the very next day in the Agriculture Building, a stunning \$100-million facility completed in 1991 that Kulshreshtha cites as one of the major changes he has seen on campus during his tenure.

"Now we have all the departments in the same place and that was a good change for everybody," said Kulshreshtha, who was born in India and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees there before moving overseas to complete his PhD at the University of Manitoba.

As for the agriculture industry, Kulshreshtha has seen many positive changes, from diversification of crops to the implementation of



College of Agriculture and Bioresources Professor Dr. Surendra Kulshreshtha (PhD) will celebrate 50 years on campus at the University of Saskatchewan on Dec. 1.

JAMES SHEWAGA

sustainable practices by producers that support both economic development and environmental protection.

"The major change is that we are getting away from wheat dependence," said Kulshreshtha, who is a professor in the Department of Agri-

cultural and Resource Economics and also an associate member of the School of Environment and Sustainability. "Now there is more canola and lentils in the agriculture production system, which is a big change. And in biophysical sciences,

we are learning new techniques that are being adopted and serve the agriculture industry and save the environment at the same time."

Kulshreshtha has contributed to several international projects in India, Indonesia and Zambia, working with the likes of the Canadian International Development Agency and the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

"I worked on greenhouse gas mitigation with UNEP, and my India project was on subsurface drainage and water management, which is very important for all countries, including India," he said. "So those would be two things that were very important for me."

For his lifetime of service, Kulshreshtha was named a fellow of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society in 2004, arguably his most prestigious honour.

"That was one of the highlights, certainly," he said. "To me, it has always been important to give back and I am very proud of doing that." ■



# Cancer researcher retired but still inspired

✍ JAMES SHEWAGA

For someone who retired back in 2002, Dr. Jonathan Dimmock (PhD) sure has a funny way of not showing up for work.

The 82-year-old University of Saskatchewan (USask) researcher and professor emeritus celebrated his retirement on June 30, 2002 after 35 years as a professor in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition. Two days later, he was right back in his lab and office, where he has spent the past 17 years conducting cancer research full time. So, after 52 years on campus, what keeps him coming back every day?

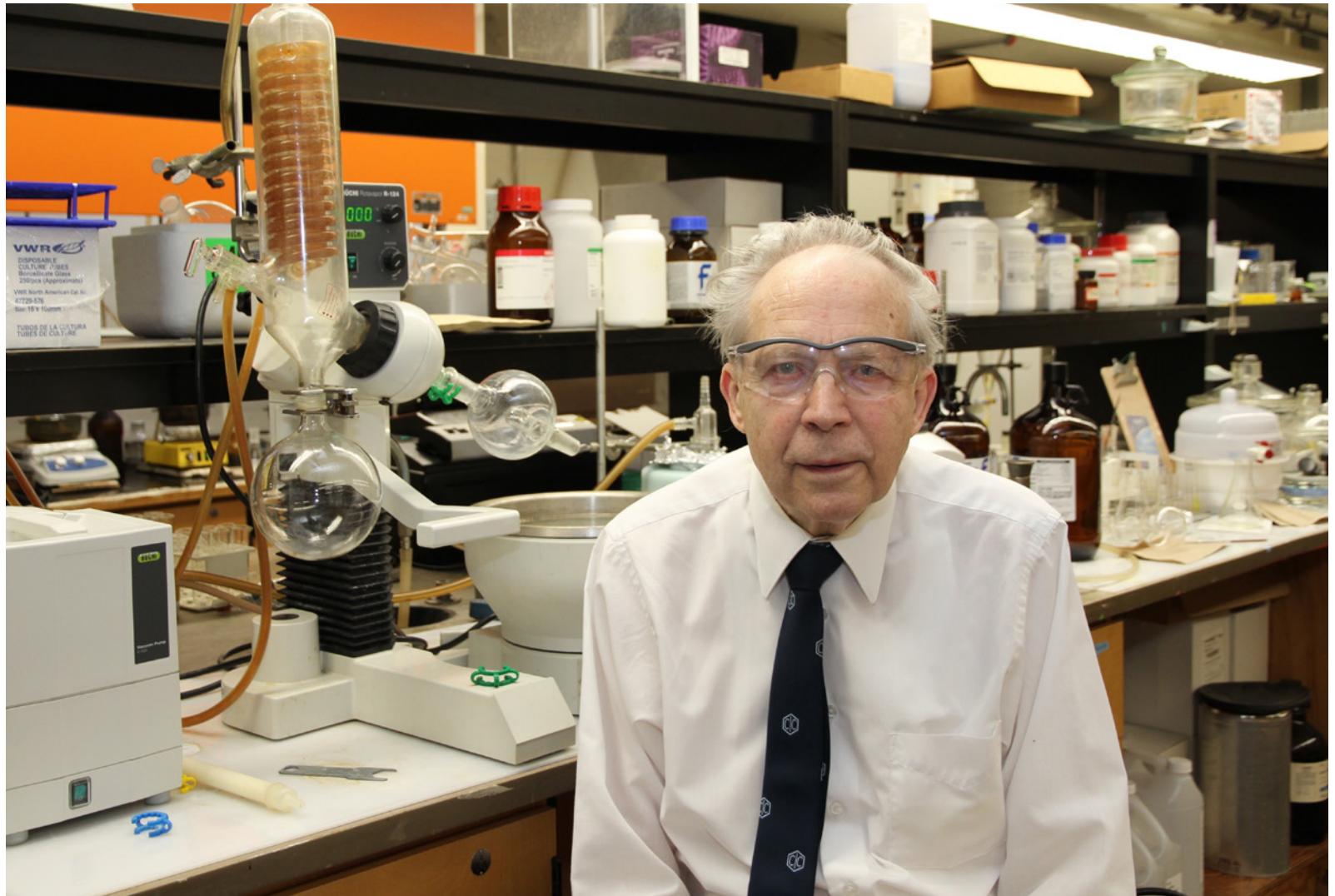
“It’s the research on anti-cancer drugs, that is what interests me and what we continue to work on,” said Dimmock, who walks to work and back home every day, 60 minutes in each direction, all year round. “Cancer is over a hundred different diseases and we have had some successes with drugs and surgery and so forth, but there is still much that needs to be done. And I will probably just keep going as long as I can.”

Dimmock has been honoured by the university for his ongoing commitment to research at USask, earning the 2017 University of Saskatchewan Retirees Association Continuing Contribution Award, recognizing retirees who continue to make research, scholarly, artistic or service contributions at an exceptional level.

For his part, Dimmock is appreciative of the support he continues to receive from the university and from external funding agencies.

“The University of Saskatchewan has been very good to me and they have allowed me to continue to have an office and to have labs to keep going. And since I retired, I have been funded externally, so I don’t think I cost the university very much,” he said with a smile.

Most recently, Dimmock was awarded \$180,000 in 2018 from



Fifty-two years after starting his career at USask, Professor Emeritus Dr. Jonathan Dimmock (PhD) continues to conduct cancer research.

✍ JAMES SHEWAGA

the Maunders McNeil Foundation Inc., in continued support of his research to create tumour-selective anti-cancer compounds for chemotherapy treatments, part of a \$450,000 research grant over five years. Dimmock said the research is proving promising.

“We are working on several projects, one of which has been to take a compound forward through a number of different screens,” he said. “We have shown that it kills cancer cells and kills them selectively. In other words, we have found that the compound is toxic to the cancer cells, but far less toxic

to non-malignant or non-cancerous cells, so we are pursuing this quite vigorously.”

Research is not only Dimmock’s passion, but also the biggest change that he has seen during his time on campus.

“The big change unquestionably, has been the emphasis upon research today,” he said. “When I came here 52 years ago, if my memory serves me correctly, in the 1967 era the total funding for the university for research from external grants and external contracts was about \$5.5 million dollars. In 2017 to 2018, it was \$642 million dollars

in research grants and contracts. So that is a massive change.”

Born in England, Dimmock began his career at USask in 1967 and rose to full professor in 1976, creating a course on drug design and co-authoring a book entitled *An Introduction to Drug Design* in 1997.

Throughout his career, Dimmock has collaborated with colleagues in Belgium, Japan and the United States at the prestigious National Cancer Institute, with his research group’s studies on malaria followed up at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Dimmock received the University of Saskatchewan

Students’ Union Teaching Excellence Award in 1998 and was awarded a Doctor of Science from the University of London in 2001.

“That was based on 119 publications and three patents and a book, so I was honoured to receive it,” said Dimmock, who has now been a part of 242 publications and received 5,523 citations throughout his career. “But I think the highlights for me have been working with the graduate students, the post-doctoral fellows and the research technicians. I have always enjoyed the research and working with our students.” ■

# Celebrating Sharma's record of research

 KRISTEN MCEWEN

When University of Saskatchewan (USask) researcher Dr. Rajendra Sharma (PhD, DSc) received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 2004, he thought back to one of the biggest supporters in his scientific career: his father.

While Sharma was growing up in small town in India, his father would read in newspapers about the discoveries that scientists were making around the world. He wanted his son to be one of them.

"He would say, 'You have to become a scientist,'" Sharma said.

His father's wishes came true. Sharma went on to complete his PhD in biochemistry at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, and later moved to Boston, Mass., for a post-doctoral fellowship at Tufts University.

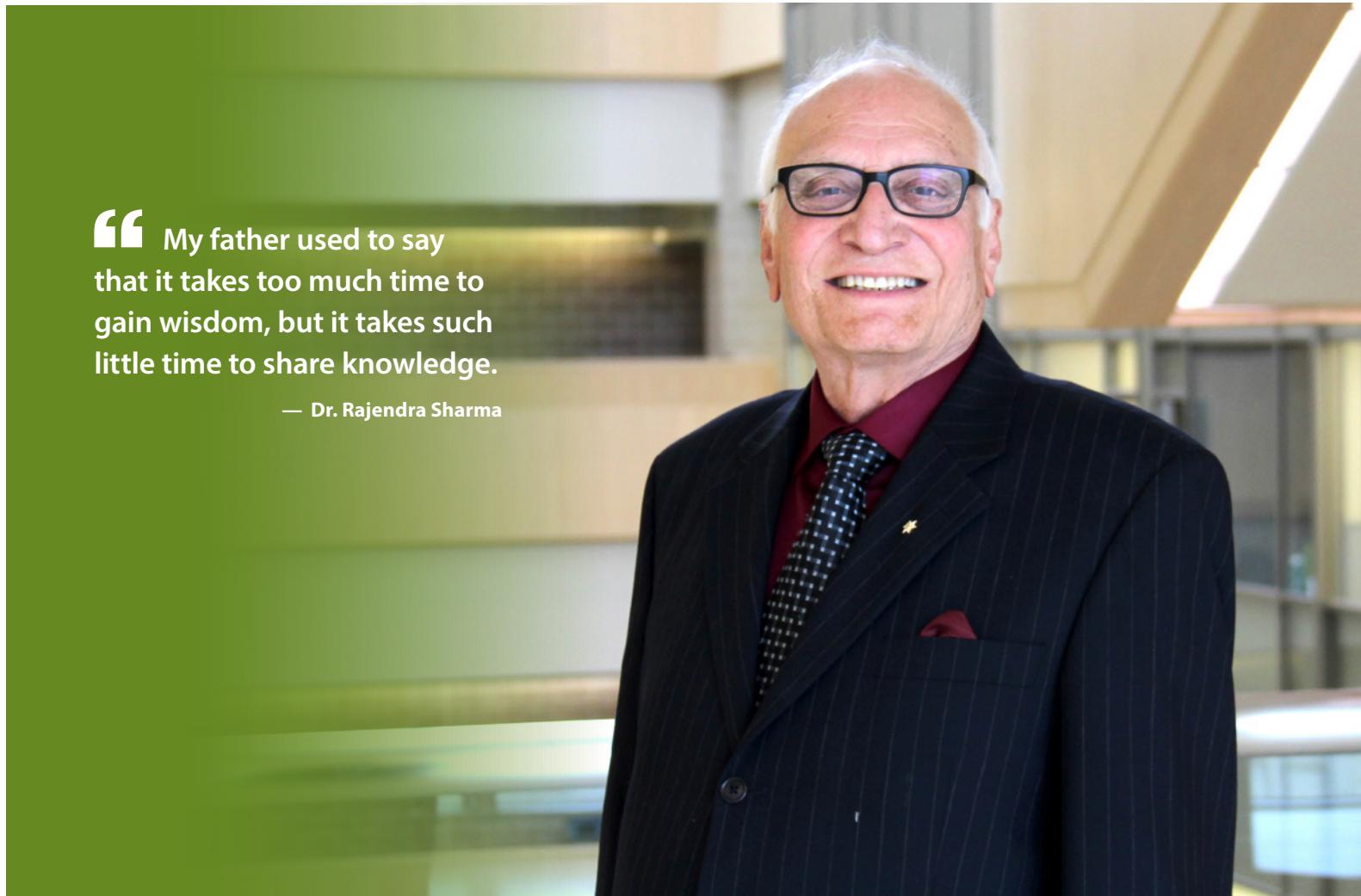
In 1976, he moved to Canada—first to Winnipeg and then to Calgary. Sharma was then hired at USask in 1991 to rejuvenate basic science research within the College of Medicine's Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.

Throughout his career, Sharma's lab has purified and characterized more than two dozen proteins from various species. Through the purification process, he discovered close to a dozen new activator and inhibitor proteins, and established their biological and physiological functions.

The distinguished professor continues to excel in the field of cutting-edge colorectal cancer research, among other areas.

In 1995, Sharma and his team discovered that a protein enzyme labelled N-myristoyltransferase (NMT) is active and present in cancerous colon tissues, and appears in the early stages of colorectal cancer, which has a high mortality rate worldwide.

"My idea was to identify a marker for the early detection of



“ My father used to say that it takes too much time to gain wisdom, but it takes such little time to share knowledge.

— Dr. Rajendra Sharma

College of Medicine Professor Dr. Rajendra Sharma (PhD, DSc) received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit award in 2004.

 KRISTEN MCEWEN

cancer. We can save lots of people from undergoing a colonoscopy, that is expensive and painful," Sharma said.

While there is no replacement for the procedure, Sharma and his team created a way to use the enzyme as a marker to see if colorectal cancer is present. This test has been licensed and is currently being developed at Bertech Pharma Ltd., an Edmonton company that is conducting clinical trials.

When it comes to research, collaboration is key, Sharma said. He has developed ties with numerous colleagues and

researchers around the world, to make milestone discoveries.

"My father used to say that it takes too much time to gain wisdom, but it takes such little time to share knowledge," he added.

Now 77, Sharma is currently serving as editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Molecular Biology and Therapeutics*. He has gained expertise in the world of scientific journals, publishing nearly 250 full-length papers and 154 national and international abstracts.

Four decades of his research have also been summarized in three review articles, one of which has

been published in the journal *Cell Calcium* (2018), and the other two published recently in the *Journal of Molecular Biology and Therapeutics*.

Sharma acknowledges the contributions and dedication of post-doctoral fellows, research assistants, graduate students and summer students in his laboratory.

When he does decide to finally step away from research, Sharma said he plans to spend time with his wife, his three daughters and their families. He would like to pass on the spark of research and the love of learning to future generations and he also wants to take up volunteer

work, visiting hospitals as well as long-term care centres which may not often receive visitors.

Sharma is very proud of his Indian roots and heritage and still makes visits to his hometown overseas.

"I'm very thankful to my colleagues at the College of Medicine who have supported me in my endeavours," he said. "I wouldn't be where I am today if it were not for my family." ■

**Kristen McEwen is a communications co-ordinator at the College of Medicine.**

# De Ciman spending summer with Rattlers

JAMES SHEWAGA

Chan De Ciman couldn't imagine having a better summer job.

The 21-year-old fourth-year player with the University of Saskatchewan Huskies men's basketball team and Edwards School of Business student is getting his first taste of professional basketball as a member of the new Saskatchewan Rattlers of the fledgling Canadian Elite Basketball League (CEBL).

"Right from the first day, it's been quite the experience, getting to know the guys, like (former Huskies star) Michael Linklater, seeing how they carry themselves every day and prepare as professionals," said De Ciman, a 6-foot-2 starting guard with the Huskies, who was picked by the Rattlers in the first round of the league's inaugural U Sports draft. "The whole thing has been a whirlwind for me just learning from pro players, how they travel, how they take care of themselves, their eating habits. It's been a great experience."

The CEBL's agreement with U Sports requires each team to dress one university player every game, with each player earning scholarship money—rather than salary—in order to keep their eligibility intact. For De Ciman, the scholarship support will be a huge help for the upcoming Huskies season.

"Every game I get a certain amount of money towards tuition, so it's a good situation," said De Ciman, who made the U Sports All-Rookie Team in his first year and started all 24 games last season, averaging 10.9 points and 4.5 rebounds per game while helping lead the Huskies into the conference semifinals.



Huskie men's basketball standout Chan De Ciman is suiting up for the Saskatchewan Rattlers this summer. GETMYPHOTO.CA

"The experience is great, so it's a good summer gig for me. There are a lot of things on my plate because I am taking summer classes as well and trying to balance the Rattlers with my Huskie practices and workouts, so it's a pretty full day. But all in all, it's been a good summer."

De Ciman suffered a sprained ankle during Rattlers training camp—held in the new Ron and Jane Graham Gymnasium at Merlis Belsher Place—and hasn't been able to start a game yet, but is training with the team every day and soaking up the experience.

"I haven't been able to play fully,

but just being at practice every day and learning from them has been a dream come true," said De Ciman. "They all have a lot of experience and I am just learning and picking up tips that I can take back to the Huskies."

De Ciman is part of a huge Huskie connection on the Rattlers, coached by former USask men's basketball head coach Greg Jockims, who guided the Huskies to a national title in 2010. Current USask head coach Barry Rawlyk and assistant Chad Jacobson are also on the Rattlers coaching staff, while Linklater is joined on the roster by former Huskie all-Canadian Shane Osayande, with

Huskie graduates Lawrence Moore and Evan Ostertag also members of the Rattlers' organization.

De Ciman said his summer with the Rattlers will help him step into a leadership role with the Huskies this fall.

"I think I will be a better leader and a better player, from going against these guys every day in practice," he said. "And obviously the leadership role is a big thing that I need to step into, going into my fourth year with the Huskies. I think we have a good young core of players and a bunch of guys who are team-first guys who like to share the ball and get up and down the court, so I think we will be a fast-paced, fun team to watch."

His first taste of pro basketball has left De Ciman hungry for more, and he hopes to pursue it in the future. But first, De Ciman is focused on leading the Huskies to a championship and on earning his commerce degree, after transferring from engineering to business last year.

"I definitely want to try the pro route, after I get my degree," said De Ciman. "I know I can't play basketball forever, so I would like to go into accounting or management or maybe start my own business. I have my options open, but I like business a lot. I have made a lot of new friends and I like the professors and the classes. My engineering skills and math skills and my organizational skills have really transferred over well, so I am happy with my decision." ■

## HUSKIE HIGHLIGHTS:

Megan Ahlstrom and Kyla Shand of the Huskies women's basketball team are suiting up for Canada at the 2019 FISU World University Games from July 3-14 in Naples, Italy. Track star Courtney Hufsmith and men's volleyball all-star Dylan Mortensen of the Huskies are also representing Canada, with USask students Kirsten Van Marion competing in fencing and Alayna Chan in table tennis.



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# Renovated psychology clinic improves experience

SHANNON BOKLASCHUK

Renovations to the University of Saskatchewan (USask) Psychology Clinic have made the space more user friendly—both for clients and for the PhD students who train there, says the clinic’s director.

“It’s just a nicer area to work in and to welcome clients into,” said Dr. Adam Stacey (PsyD), who is also an assistant professor in the College of Arts and Science’s Department of Psychology.

The \$265,000 renovation project, which began last summer, reconfigured the clinic’s layout, resulting in improved space for group therapy sessions and for teaching. There is also a waiting and reception area, three client meeting rooms, new washrooms and a kitchenette space. As well, the clinic is in the process of implementing an electronic health record system that will reduce its environmental footprint while enhancing the security of client information.

“I think our students really enjoy working in the space now,” said Stacey.

The clinic, which is housed in the Arts Building, looked dated prior to the renovations and was also less functional. It lacked private washrooms as well as up-to-date technology, meaning students in the clinical psychology program had to record client sessions on laptops. A new recording system was put in place during the renovation process.



Dr. Adam Stacey (PsyD) is the director of the newly renovated University of Saskatchewan Psychology Clinic.  CHRIS PUTNAM

“The one that we were using in the past just really wasn’t working at all,” said Stacey. “So this one allows us to record and code and re-watch videos of my students working with clients. I don’t actually see a lot of clients in this space; mostly I supervise our students. So that has made that role, which I actually really enjoy, a lot easier.”

Stacey said the courses in

USask’s clinical psychology PhD program are “quite applied in nature,” meaning students study areas such as child assessment and mental health counselling. They begin seeing clients during their first year of studies, which provides them with an opportunity to learn how to develop therapeutic relationships and to use assessment tools.

“Our third-year students

actually supervise our first-year students working with their first clients,” said Stacey.

Dyana Castillo is one of USask’s clinical psychology PhD students who just completed her second year of studies. Following her first practicum—at a rehabilitation program at Saskatoon City Hospital for people involved in motor-vehicle collisions—she enrolled in the

practicum with Stacey at the USask Psychology Clinic.

Castillo valued learning alongside her peers at the clinic, as well as from people with more experience and training.

“Overall, it had a really nice feel,” said Castillo. “It had almost a feel of private practice, just because Adam wasn’t in session with us and he gave us that autonomy. It was really great.”

Many of the clinic’s clients are USask students. However, the clinical psychology trainees also see clients from the larger community beyond campus borders, including both adults and children.

Stacey said having the clinic at USask is important for the clients accessing services as well as for the clinical PhD students who train there.

“I think it’s essential for our program to operate well,” he said. “You probably wouldn’t be comfortable going to surgery and seeing a surgeon who had only read about surgery from a book. So, it’s a similar thing. At some point, our students need to learn by doing. This space allows us to do that in a way that can be educational and helpful for our students, but then safe and beneficial for our clients as well. We really wouldn’t be able to run as a program without a space like this.” ■

Shannon Boklaschuk is a communications officer in the College of Arts and Science.

## Telling the university’s story

FROM PAGE 2

“The post-secondary environment has changed over the past couple of decades to be incredibly competitive, whether that is for research funding, or for students, staff, faculty, or for donors,” said Hunchak. “And what all of those groups want to know is what the university stands

for, what it’s great at, and why should they get involved with the university. If we tell the story properly, our goal is to have all of those groups excited about the prospect of being involved with the University of Saskatchewan. There are a lot of choices out there for students, for faculty, for researchers,

and for funders and donors. We want USask on the top of everyone’s list.”

The brand platform will feature striking, and sometimes unexpected, images and descriptions of the people of USask and their positive impacts on the world, grounded in the compelling call to action of “Be What The World Needs.” The unique typography, colours, and shape of the signature campus building signs are utilized as a subtle yet powerful visual connection to the location and roots

of the university. The platform will define the look and tone of USask’s external advertising, and all of the university’s digital channels, internally and externally. The transition to the new platform will roll out gradually over the last half of 2019.

Hunchak said a key consideration is to strike a balance between being grounded in the values and humble work ethic of the people of the province, while not shying away from taking a place among the great universities in the country and—in

key signature areas of research—be considered a global leader.

“The University of Saskatchewan is a world-leading university,” said Hunchak. “We are ranked at the top in food and water research, and we are recognized as a leader in our commitment to Indigenous Peoples and communities. These are only some of stories that we need to share. Our branding is about telling the university’s story, and inspiring others to be what the world needs.” ■

# University Staff Excellence Awards



## LANA ELIAS

Director of Science Outreach, College of Arts and Science

Lana Elias, in the very nature of her work as director of science outreach in the College of Arts and Science, embodies the university's Mission, Vision and Values.

Elias runs outreach programs that provide engaging, hands-on scientific experience for students and teachers, encourages creativity and builds connections with the community. Her commitment to reconciliation, diversity and sustainability shines through her work with Elders and school officials to indigenize curriculum by including culturally responsible science education.

As a former science teacher, Elias has a thorough understanding of the K-12 education system and draws on her

background to create original and exciting science programming for children. She ensures this programming aligns with provincial science curricula, in order for the university's science outreach activities to support the academic progression of the class. She has also raised almost \$1 million in external funding to help deliver innovative learning opportunities and pay for equipment for schools where limited financial resources could not provide for such opportunities.

Each year, Elias and her small staff train a team of more than 50 dedicated undergraduate and graduate students to work with roughly 8,000 school children on campus, in Saskatoon community schools and in Indigenous communities

in northern Saskatchewan. She oversees the Science Ambassador Program that deploys 22 science ambassadors who spend five weeks living in 12 remote Northern communities, sharing science experiments with more than 2,400 First Nations and Métis students and more than 100 teachers. Elias also co-ordinates Nutrien Kamskénow, a 13-week program that has reached more than 8,000 youth since she began as director in 2011. Her efforts have not gone unnoticed, as her programs have received numerous national and international accolades.

Elias's innovative, inspirational and impactful work make her a worthy recipient of the 2019 University Staff Excellence Award.



## DARRELL SOLIE

Mechanical Engineer, Infrastructure, Planning and Land Development

Darrell Solie's dedication to the campus community is evident in how he goes about his daily work.

Solie approaches each challenge from several perspectives, most notably from the client's point of view. He seeks out everyone's opinions to get the best possible outcome for all, building a positive team environment. He often challenges his co-workers to see "what they can bring to the table" and values everyone's opinion.

Many of the projects that Solie works on go unnoticed, but that means they are being done right, with minimal

disruptions. He works mainly with mechanical systems that are needed to keep our buildings running. He enjoys the challenge of finding creative solutions, with opportunities to work on buildings that range in age from nearly new to almost a century old. Solie is also committed to the sustainability of the campus. Whether it is looking for energy efficiencies or ways to reduce water usage, he uses his creativity to challenge assumptions and find solutions that are practical and cost-effective.

Solie's door is always open and he is

eager to help out when others seek his input or advice (which is a daily occurrence). If he doesn't know the answer, he uses his vast connections on campus, and in the community, to seek a solution. His ability to bring teams together and make everyone feel their opinions are valued and respected, does not go unnoticed amongst his peers.

Solie's determination, collaborative leadership and dedication to effective campus operations makes him a worthy recipient of the 2019 University Staff Excellence Award.

# 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](mailto:news@usask.ca).

*With files from University Archives and Special Collections.*

## JULY 1937

### UNIVERSITY'S FIRST PRESIDENT RETIRES

A new era in the history of the University of Saskatchewan began on July 1, 1937 when J.S. Thomson replaced the only president the university had ever known.

Walter C. Murray was hired as the university's first president back in 1908 and led the establishment and development of the university over the next 30 years until his retirement in the summer of 1937. Initially reluctant to take on the new role to start Saskatchewan's first university completely from scratch, Murray accepted the appointment on August 20, 1908, leaving Dalhousie University where he was serving as a professor to become the visionary president of a university that only existed on paper at that time.

After Saskatoon was chosen as the location for the university on April 7, 1909—selected over Regina, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert and the Battlefords—Murray quickly got to work in leading the foundation of the University of Saskatchewan, overseeing everything from planning and construction, to shaping



Walter C. Murray, the first president of the University of Saskatchewan, in his office in 1937.

A-5537

educational policies, to leading the hiring of the first faculty members.

In addition to leading the University of Saskatchewan, Murray served on a variety of local, provincial and national boards and organizations, played a leading role in two national Royal Commissions, and was one of the founding members of the National Research Council, helping bring much-needed research funding to campus. Murray also

served as a director of the influential Carnegie Foundation and was active in the church throughout his lifetime, playing a key role in the establishment of the United Church of Canada.

After three decades as president, filling his shoes was going to be no easy task, as Thomson noted in his installation address on Oct. 29, 1937.

"During its thirty years of life, this

university has had only one president," stated Thomson, who went on to serve 12 years as president. "My predecessor, Dr. Walter C. Murray, came without ceremony, almost unannounced, to make a university where no university existed. I doubt if he was ever installed in office. But the trust that comes to me today is his bequest."

Murray passed away in Saskatoon on March 24, 1945 at the age of 78.