A BOLD NEW DIRECTION

The University of Saskatchewan has introduced its new university plan, to guide the institution’s direction for the next seven years through to 2025. The progressive plan, entitled The University the World Needs, was unveiled on Oct. 10, the conclusion of two years of extensive consultation both on and off campus. We take an in-depth look at the pillars of the plan and how they will serve as the foundation for building the university of the future.

SEE PAGE 8-9.
Edwards alumna walks the road to reconciliation

By CHRISS MORIN

For Gabrielle Scrimshaw, reconciliation isn’t a destination. It’s a generational process.

As a business leader who plans to start a firm to invest in tribal businesses and Indigenous entrepreneurs, Scrimshaw aims to make lasting changes throughout Canada, starting with her family in her home community to throughout the business world.

"Reconciliation is for everyone, but it will only work if everyone is involved," said Scrimshaw during a speech in her recent return to her alma mater at the University of Saskatchewan. "Truth and reconciliation means consultation and access to jobs and employee training. It’s having the courage to look beyond the resume."

Scrimshaw’s appearance on campus was part of the Edwards School of Business All-Years Reunion and the college’s centennial celebrations on September 20-22. In addition to delivering a keynote, Scrimshaw took part in a panel discussion on reconciliation in the workplace, alongside business leaders and fellow U of S graduates Kelly Lendsay and CeCe Baptiste, in addition to Craig Murray. The event served as a vigorous discussion on Indigenization and reconciliation in the workplace, and also recognized Edwards’ 100-year milestone, with a number of graduates and business professionals returning to campus to take part.

A proud alum who graduated in 2010, Scrimshaw said, as an Indigenous person whose family was greatly impacted by the legacy of the Canadian residential school system, she counts herself fortunate to be the first of her family to attend university.

“The day I got my acceptance letter, I remember crying,” recalled Scrimshaw, adding that she was 17 when she left home to study at the U of S. Growing up in a single-parent family in Hatchet Lake First Nation, Sask., Scrimshaw said she never knew what it was like to have a mother.

Attending the U of S gave her an opportunity to explore her familial roots and culture, and allowed her to learn more about herself as an Indigenous Dene woman.

"I was very lucky to go to Edwards because the college had recognized that investing in Indigenous students was an integral part of success before most other business schools across Canada," said Scrimshaw. "Because of that, when I started here there was an Aboriginal Business Student Centre and there was a safe space for myself and other Indigenous students who were maybe going through some of the same things that I was going through. Because of that centre, I was able to get my first jobs, find my first mentors and, importantly, have a safe space to learn more about myself as an Indigenous person.

"Being removed from my community, I realized how important it was to who I am. It gave me the ability to work in finance and business. That journey all began here at Edwards."

Since graduating from the U of S, Scrimshaw has attended the University of Toronto and co-founded the Aboriginal Professional Association of Canada. Now a number of graduates and business professionals have attended the University of Saskatchewan, 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.

The golden touch

A start-up company formed by University of Saskatchewan researcher Stephen Foley, with two of his former students and a business partner, struck gold on the Sept. 20 episode of CBC’s Dragons’ Den. The panel on the reality TV show offered to chip in a total of $1 million for a stake in the venture, Excris Works. Foley, an associate chemistry professor, and his team has developed an innovative method to extract gold from electronic waste.

Waiser honoured

Bill Waiser, distinguished professor emeritus of the University of Saskatchewan, has been awarded the prestigious J.B. Tyrrell Historical Medal by the Royal Society of Canada for outstanding contributions to the field of Canadian history. Waiser, a former faculty member for more than 30 years, is the author, co-author or editor of 17 books. The Tyrrell Medal, awarded every two years, will be presented to Waiser at a ceremony Nov. 17 in Halifax.
Merlis Belsher Place opens to rave reviews

Alumnus Merlis Belsher said he is humbled to be a part of the university’s “thoughtful and brilliant” effort to bridge the needs of the Huskies, minor hockey players, and the Saskatoon community in the new sports facility on Preston Avenue.

When Merlis Belsher toured the university’s new multi-sport complex in advance of its opening, he said he was overcome with “extreme gratitude” for his alma mater.

“The education I received at the University of Saskatchewan enabled me to have an enjoyable career in a city and province I love,” he said.

This sentiment is at the heart of his multi-million donation to found Merlis Belsher Place.

Belsher gave $12.25 million to kick-start the Home Ice Campaign to replace Rutherford Rink—the largest single donation in U of S history. The drive to replace the aging rink had surfaced numerous times in the decades before, but had not gained traction until a concerted effort by the university and its volunteers began in 2016.

“When I was approached about the campaign, I determined it was going to take a substantial contribution to gain momentum,” he said.

Indeed, more than 400 alumni, community members and organizations followed his lead, collectively raising $29-million towards the $51-million facility. It opened for the start of hockey season on Oct. 1, with the official grand opening ceremonies set for Oct. 26-27.

Completing construction of the facility in a relatively short period of time was due to a true team effort, said Belsher. He recognized that the university prioritized decision-making on this venture and Wright Construction—with its diligent team, including sub-trades—ensured the ambitious deadline would be met.

“Imagine what must have been accomplished for this facility to be functional for October 1, 2018, when the first shovel in the ground was on May 7, 2017,” he commented.

Belsher said one of the most satisfying experiences was being included in the design process and seeing the architecture plans unfold.

“The front entrance was the most important to me,” he said, noting that when the design team revised the entrance-way to a curved facade, it looked more elegant and welcoming—on par with the rest of the university’s buildings.

When Belsher attended a facility tour hosted by Edwards School of Business for its centennial in September, he was happy to see that many alumni noticed the tremendous level of detail that went into the project.

SEE GRAND, PAGE 15
Relocating the national Institute of Indigenous Peoples’ Health (IIPH) to the University of Saskatchewan (U of S) from Sudbury, Ont., opens up exciting opportunities for both the institute and the university to advance health research and reconciliation, according to IIPH Scientific Director Carrie Bourassa.

The Oct. 1 move to U of S enables the institute, one of 13 of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), to continue serving northerners as well as other Indigenous populations and advance the institute’s leading role to improve and promote First Nations, Métis and Inuit health through research.

“The University of Saskatchewan is a pretty amazing hub of activity in Indigenous health, and has great infrastructure in place,” said Bourassa, who joined the College of Medicine as a faculty member Sept. 1. “It is a natural fit for the institute.”

Hosting the IIPH will build upon the university’s strengths and profile as a growing hub for Indigenous health research, said Bourassa, who will split her time evenly between the U of S and IIPH.

“IIPH develops partnerships nationally and internationally, so although we don’t generate research directly, we help to create a positive research environment that helps to recruit and retain Indigenous health scholars, and engage and support Indigenous communities in Indigenous health research,” she said.

The U of S is a longstanding partner in the Indigenous Peoples’ Health Research Centre, along with the First Nations University of Canada and the University of Regina. In 2017, the U of S appointed its first research chair in Indigenous health, Dr. Alexandra King, who holds the Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health.

Bourassa said IIPH will support the U of S-based Saskatchewan Centre for Patient-Oriented Research (SCPOR) by providing consultation and advice, engaging with CIHR-funded researchers on knowledge translation, and making connections with other researchers and community members. SCPOR’s Scientific Director Malcolm King, recruited last year to the College of Medicine, was formerly scientific director at IIPH.

Bourassa plans to begin working with graduate students at U of S next year. She still supervises two graduate students in Sudbury and one in Regina, where she was a professor in Indigenous Health Studies at First Nations University of Canada for more than 15 years before joining IIPH.

As a researcher in community health and epidemiology, she hopes to move the Cultural Safety Evaluation, Training and Research Laboratory, for which she was awarded $205,000 by the Canada Foundation for Innovation in 2016, to the U of S from the Health Sciences North Research Institute in Sudbury next year.

Cultural safety involves addressing institutional discrimination, racism and the effects of colonization, and examines how personal biases, authority and privilege of non-Indigenous health-care providers can influence their relationship with Indigenous patients. The lab aims to create a standard for culturally safe environments from a patient’s perspective, evaluate effectiveness from an Indigenous perspective, and evaluate health programs for harmful cultural practices.

Bourassa expects to launch the new IIPH strategic plan early in the new year, along with detailed...
The University of Saskatchewan’s Fall Convocation will be held on Saturday, Oct. 27 at TCU Place, with ceremonies scheduled for 9 am and 2 pm. In addition to the degrees received by students, the following awards and honorary degrees will be announced:

ALEXIS DAHL  
UNIVERSITY SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD
As director of the Programs Office in the College of Arts and Science, Alexis Dahl’s knowledge and expertise enhances the student experience and reinvigorates curriculum. Alexis helps facilitate often complex and highly technical institutional changes with exquisite tact. She recognizes the needs for curricular change and development that embrace a diversity of ways of knowing, community engagement, interdisciplinarity, reconciliation and academic freedom. Her advice has been widely sought by numerous units and programs. She has the respect of everyone who works with her, not just for her knowledge, but also for her collegiality and thoughtfulness.

ANTHONY KUSALIK  
DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE SUPERVISOR AWARD
A faculty member at the U of S since 1985, computer science professor Anthony (Tony) Kusalik has an unwavering commitment to his students. A regular collaborator with experts in engineering and life and health sciences, Kusalik’s colleagues point to his supervisory style influencing their own supervision strategies, showing his impact extends well beyond his own students. Kusalik is known for his compassionate efforts to help students through personal difficulties as well as academic ones; his unparalleled knowledge of bioinformatics; his passion for research; and for guiding students through the process of completing their graduate degrees.

JEFFREY MCDONNELL  
DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHER AWARD
The world’s most cited field hydrologist, Jeffrey McDonnell is associate director of the Global Institute for Water Security and professor in the School of Environment and Sustainability. McDonnell’s research worldwide, including Chile, China, Japan, New Zealand, Sweden, the United Kingdom and United States, has fundamentally advanced the global understanding of how landscapes store and release water—critical to predicting the impact of climate change and land use on water resources. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Geological Society of America, the American Geophysical Union, Royal Geographical Society and the International Water Academy.

RAJ SRINIVASAN  
GEORGE IVANY AWARD FOR INTERNATIONALIZATION
Professor Raj Srinivasan joined the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the U of S in 1988 as a tenure-track faculty member. Since 2004, he has served as head of the department and spearheaded its renewal process. Through MITACS initiatives, he has worked on projects and supervised post-doctoral fellows in industrial projects with NORTEL and ALCATEL. Recently, he has been involved in College of Arts and Science internationalization efforts with India to establish summer workshops, undergraduate internships, faculty exchanges and collaborative teaching. His research interests lie in applied probability, queueing theory and queueing networks.

KATHRYN LABELLE  
NEW RESEARCHER AWARD
Since joining the U of S Department of History in 2012, associate professor Kathryn Labelle has earned an international reputation for her work in Indigenous history, focusing on the Wendat (Wyandot) Diaspora, Confederation of Four First Nations with communities in Quebec, Ontario, Michigan, Kansas and Oklahoma. Labelle is the author of the award-winning book *Dispersed, But Not Destroyed: A History of the Seventeenth Century Wendat People*. She is now working with Indigenous leaders to explore the roles of Wendat women across four centuries, in a collaborative project with the Wendat Longhouse Women entitled *Daughters of Aataentsic.*

HARRY COOK  
HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS
Born on the family trap line in 1943 in Stanley Mission, Sask., Harry Cook began his career as a journeyman welder and went on to become Chief of the Lac La Ronge Indian Band and helped develop it into one of the most successful and effectively managed bands in the province. Cook was elected Chief in 1987 and served for 18 years. Cook was also a member of the Board of Directors for Cameco Corporation for 16 years, and now serves as a Senator for the Lac La Ronge Indian Band, the Prince Albert Grand Council, and the Federation of Sovereign Indian Nations. Cook was also named to the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business Hall of Fame in 2007.

BRAD WILDEMAN  
HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS
Raised on a farm near Lanigan, Sask., Brad Wildeman is president and chairman of Pound-Maker Agventures Ltd., and a former chair of VIDO-InterVac at the University of Saskatchewan. Wildeman has been involved in several industry associations, including serving as past president of the Canadian Cattlemen’s Association, and Canada Beef as well as working with international trade advisory committees. He has been awarded the Governor’s General Award, the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee medal, and the Saskatchewan Centennial Medal. He has been inducted into the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame and is an honorary life member of the Saskatchewan Agrologists Association.
Dazawray Landrie-Parker joined the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy (JSGS) two years ago, hoping to develop a better understanding of policy issues in northern and Indigenous areas.

Now, as the first graduate of the Joint Master of Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas (GENI) program, Landrie-Parker will join over 900 JSGS alumni worldwide when she takes part in University of Saskatchewan Fall Convocation on Saturday, October 27.

“The GENI program was such a whirlwind and life-changing experience,” said Landrie-Parker. “I learned a tremendous amount, not only from the coursework but also from my fellow students.”

Landrie-Parker’s Métis ancestry fueled her focus on Indigenous communities and inspired her undergraduate degree in Native Studies from the U of S. After learning about the GENI program, offered jointly by UiT The Arctic University of Norway and the JSGS, she knew it would be a great opportunity to study in an area that benefits northern and Indigenous communities.

For Landrie-Parker, the program’s innovative structure offered the tangible benefits of working within the communities and seeing positive changes take place. She appreciated the field school components in northern Norway and Saskatchewan, with each location posing differing but equally valuable lessons on northern governance and entrepreneurship.

“GENI students are able to immediately take what they’ve learned from the field schools and apply it in their own communities,” said Landrie-Parker. “It encourages people to think differently about some issues, building the capacity for new solutions.”

Landrie-Parker said that spending time discussing and listening to her classmates’ unique perspectives enabled her to develop lasting relationships, both personally and professionally.

“The program’s structure offers a holistic learning environment where I had the opportunity to hear from many individuals, all with different backgrounds and life experiences, creating very diverse conversations.”

As the culmination of her program, Landrie-Parker researched and built a community engagement framework for nuclear energy engagement in northern communities. Nuclear energy is just one of the many potential solutions to addressing the alarmingly high cost of energy in northern communities.

“This research was key in generating conversations regarding the potential implementation of this new energy source for the North,” said Landrie-Parker.

Landrie-Parker is using the skills and knowledge she gained through the GENI program in her current position as a community engagement manager with the City of Saskatoon, a career she will continue after convocation.

“Having prior experience mostly in Indigenous communities, I thought the transition to focusing on larger municipalities would have been difficult. However, with the skills I gained through the GENI program and the community engagement framework I created as part of my project thesis, I was able to transform my learning and apply it within my day job,” she said.

With convocation on the horizon, Landrie-Parker is excited for what the future holds and is thankful for the incredible experience and support she received from the JSGS.

“The dynamic between students, faculty and staff is unheard of. You won’t get an experience like this anywhere other than the JSGS.”

Kimberlee Litzenberger is a communications and marketing assistant with JSGS.
As a member of our campus community, you understand that students face several financial obstacles. With your annual support, U of S students can pursue their education without interruption or compromise. By supporting ALL IN FOR STUDENTS, you help to fund scholarships and awards.

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The new university plan: University of Saskatchewan moves in a bold new direction

It is an innovative and inspirational document designed to shape the future of the University of Saskatchewan over the next seven years.

The new university plan to carry the institution through to 2025 is entitled The University the World Needs, and has been gifted Indigenous names nikanitān manācīhī-tonihk (Cree) and ni manachī-hí-toonaan (Michif), which translate to “Let us lead with respect.”

The plan serves as a bold new departure, a new approach to integrated strategic planning to position the university as a leader not only locally and nationally, but also internationally by conducting research that provides worldwide impact, and training students to be engaged global citizens. And just as importantly, the new plan is about better communicating and celebrating those successes.

“It is a bold new direction for us and I think it is unique as plans go,” said U of S President Peter Stoicheff. “We talk a lot about boldness in the plan, and about our three key commitments: courageous curiosity, boundless collaboration, and inspired communities. And when we use that kind of language, it is not meant to contradict the humility that is so important to the institution.

“From me, humility is always knowing that you could be doing better than you already are. It is language to suggest that we can and should be working to take our rightful place among the greater institutions in the country, and in select ways, in the world.”

Two years in the making, the plan draws on extensive consultation from both on and off campus, and was launched Oct. 10 after being approved by the U of S Board of Governors, Senate and University Council. The plan builds on the 2016 Mission, Vision and Values document, and is deeply rooted in the principles of connectivity, creativity, diversity and sustainability.

“As we were building the Mission, Vision and Values document, I was struck by the fact that 60 per cent of our faculty have been hired in the past 10 years,” Stoicheff said. “So, this plan is not just about people like me who have been here for many years now, it’s about our new faculty. It’s about the people who are en route to tenure or are newly tenured, and they are the ones who were saying specific things about what they wanted this university to be. I found that really compelling and those are things that were incorporated into this plan.”

One of the key pillars of the plan involves Indigenous impact, which has been woven throughout the entire plan, guided by contributions from Indigenous Elders, traditional Knowledge Keepers, and Language Keepers, who gifted the plan with its Indigenous names during a special ceremony on campus in August. In addition to its ambitious goals and commitments, the new plan provides guideposts and targets to drive priorities and progress through to 2025, while featuring a fundamental commitment to reconciliation and Indigenization.

“Indigenization is not a separate commitment on its own, it runs through every single commitment that we have,” Stoicheff said. “And that’s the university of the future.

As we talk more and more about reconciliation and Indigenization, the people who really know what that needs to look like include the Indigenous communities and the Indigenous leaders and the Indigenous students and the Indigenous Elders. And they have played, and will continue to play, an integral role throughout this entire process.”

Goals of the new seven-year plan range from increasing enrolment, peer-reviewed funding, and interdisciplinary and collaborative programs and partnerships, to improving academic rankings, enhancing alumni engagement, and being recognized as a leader in Indigenization locally, provincially, nationally and internationally.

Stoicheff said the progressive plan provides five key areas of impact that the university will aspire to achieve and accentuate over the next seven years: transformational work leading to reconciliation, productive collaboration, meaningful impact, developing distinguished learners, and earning global recognition.

“We want to make a difference in the world, based on what we are doing at this university,” Stoicheff said. “We want to have an impact, and not just the impact that we believe communities and the world needs, but the impact the world needs us to have. And that led to the formulation to become ‘the university the world needs.’ We are determined to be an engaged university, a university that is boldly exploring the major challenges of our time, that we are equipped to explore and help solve.

“One example of that is our Global Institute for Water Security, which is ranked by the Shanghai Academic Rankings of World Universities as No.1 in the country, No.6 in North America and 18th in the world. And I would strongly suggest that those numbers beyond Canada will even improve.”

So how will the university define success seven years from now? For Stoicheff, the institution will be firmly focused on the future, designing disruptive technologies and preparing students to take their place in an ever-changing workplace environment.

“We will be a university that not only trains students for the workplace, but prepares them for the challenges that the future workforce will face,” Stoicheff said. “Disruptive technologies are leading us to the point where we need to understand that we are training students now in skills for jobs that neither the students, nor we, can imagine. By 2025 we will be a university that is comfortable with disruption and comfortable with disruptive technologies, and that is also contributing to it in the research that it does.

“To that end, we will govern ourselves not only on the basis of what we want to be, but what the world needs us to be.”

U of S President and Vice-Chancellor Peter Stoicheff.
Nobody can tell our story the way our alumni can tell our story.

— Debra Pozega Osburn

The discovery process:
Becoming the university that the world needs

With the updated Mission, Vision and Values statement establishing its path, along with the framework from the existing three integrated plans, the new university plan began to take shape in 2016.

"Those first three integrated plans plus the Mission, Vision and Values allowed us to look at a university plan that was outwardly facing and focused not on what we want to be as a university, but on what the world needs us to be as a university," said Debra Pozega Osburn, vice-president of University Relations at the U of S.

From those building blocks, the plan underwent extensive consultation. Pozega Osburn calls this phase the discovery process. Community groups, University Council, leadership teams, Indigenous leaders, students and alumni, among many others, were given the opportunity to provide insight, knowledge and feedback on what they thought the university plan should be.

“We wanted to bring the community into the formation of this plan in some really powerful ways," said Pozega Osburn, who maintained that listening was the key factor in building the guiding commitments of the plan. “As we were prompting these conversations and listening, the three commitments developed. These are words that were brought forward when talking about the plan and these are the major ideas that we heard over and over again.”

The three commitments of the university plan were then framed from the conversation resulting in Courageous Curiosity, Boundless Collaboration, and Inspired Communities. From each of these commitments, goals were built, guideposts were developed and aspirations were established. All of the layers were built based on the input from the discovery process.

"What people are telling us and what we heard through this whole discovery process is that people expect great things of us. They think that there are things that we can accomplish, areas in which we can lead, areas in which we can collaborate and partner, things we can do to inspire that will make a big difference in the world," said Pozega Osburn.

Pozega Osburn said U of S alumni played a valuable role by bringing their expertise to the table during the discovery process. Alumni can act as ambassadors, she said, and she is excited for the group’s involvement as the university gets to work moving the plan forward.

“It became clear that alumni want to be involved in our university in new ways, in mutually beneficial ways and in productive ways. That is so important for a university to succeed. It’s a gift to us that our alumni want to be a part of our future,” said Pozega Osburn.

"Nobody can tell our story the way our alumni can tell our story."

Leslie-Ann Schlosser is editor of the Green and White magazine and communications specialist in Alumni Relations.

Courageous Curiosity:
“We’re not afraid to ask the questions that need to be asked. We’re not afraid to confront the things that need to be confronted. You can do that at a big research university, and at the University of Saskatchewan you can do it in a powerful way because we have our deep roots in Saskatchewan and we have a certain set of values.”

Boundless Collaboration:
“We collaborate and we forge partnerships no matter what we’re doing. Boundless means exactly what it says; there is no limit to our ability and willingness to collaborate.”

Inspired Communities:
“The more we can work with and for our communities to inspire the world, the more we can work with and for our communities to address society’s needs for the next generation.”

nīkānītān manāčihiwakeyihk (Cree) | ni manachihitoonaan (Michif)
(English translation: “Let us lead with respect”)
Erin Wasson is the veterinary social worker in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the U of S.

**WCVM practicum highlights animal side of social work**

*Taryn Riemer*

Veterinary social work is a relatively new field in Canada, but Erin Wasson has made it a staple at the University of Saskatchewan’s Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

Wasson implemented social work services at the college in 2014 as part of her Master of Social Work program. She became Canada’s first veterinary social worker in 2015—a role that became permanent this year after the success of the pilot project.

Now Wasson is passing on knowledge to the next generation of social work students. Earlier this year, fourth-year students Samantha Ervin and Erin Bolt from the University of Regina’s School of Social Work spent two days a week for four months during a work placement practicum at WCVM.

“Human-animal interactions and the incorporation of animals into social work is a really interesting and new part of social work that’s getting a lot of traction,” said Wasson. “There’s quite a high demand: social work students want to attend placements where they’re going to have a good opportunity to engage in the human-animal interface.”

The WCVM placement was a surprise for Ervin. While students in her program can express interest in certain areas, they don’t choose their placements.

“Erin has this phenomenal talent of challenging you while helping you to still feel like you’re in a safe environment and you won’t be out of your depth in what you learn,” said Ervin. “The veterinary team was so welcoming and willing to share their knowledge. I got to meet a lot of really great people that really made the experience amazing.”

The students worked on research and clinical skills during their practicum, and had learning agreements outlining the individual goals they wanted to complete at WCVM.

“They were both so eager to learn that it was a real pleasure to work with them. I always felt as though they were coming in with their game face on, and that they were excited to be here,” said Wasson. “They were happy to do whatever was available, they were both really engaged in the work, and the work that they produced was amazing.”

The students worked on learning goals, including a literature review on caregiver fatigue that will help to inform future research. They created an outline for a pet loss support group and practised some clinical skills while attending appointments with veterinarians and students.

For Ervin, the experience demonstrated how social workers can be integrated into veterinary practice.

“There’s not a lot of awareness with the mental health issues that veterinarians may face within their careers, and I think veterinary social work will help not only with awareness but also with tools in which to address these issues,” she said.

Results from a recent study supported by Merck Animal Health and the American Veterinary Medical Association showed about one in 20 veterinarians suffer from serious psychological distress. Depression, burnout and anxiety were common, and 25 per cent of respondents also indicated they had thought about suicide.

Ervin said social workers can help strengthen communication lines between veterinarians and animal owners. As in all healthcare settings, social workers can be a valuable part of the team, providing support around communication and co-ordination of services.

Wasson hopes her work with students in social work and veterinary programs will encourage greater cross-pollination between the health professions.

“You already see that sort of thing between family doctors and mental health … and, truthfully, veterinarians are just the other family doctor,” she said. “I anticipate you’ll see a mirroring of those relationships.”

Taryn Riemer is a communications co-ordinator in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine.

**A personal and professional passion**

*From Page 2*

she holds an MBA from Stanford University, is completing her Master in Public Administration at Harvard and delivers engaging speeches across North America on reconciliation in the workplace—a topic that is a source of passion for her both personally and professionally.

“I view reconciliation as an investment that we need to make because we have a sense of the dividends it will pay,” said Scrimshaw. “On one hand, there is the moral imperative. It aligns with our values as Canadians. But the other side is the economic imperative, in that we are simply leaving money on the table by not investing in Indigenous Peoples. If you look at the skills and education gaps, if we were to close that, it would add hundreds of billions of dollars to the Canadian economy in the next 25 years. There are many studies out there that make informed estimates on this. And we are missing out on that if we do nothing at all.”

But Scrimshaw said it’s more than just a discussion that needs to happen in the boardrooms in the workplace, it also needs to happen around the supper tables across Canada.

“Reconciliation is living in that uncomfortable space and asking questions,” said Scrimshaw. “It’s courage to ask how we got to where we are today and how we will change the next 100 years.”
Collaborative public health key to fighting epidemics

Steven Jones says it takes more than an Ebola vaccine to prevent disease outbreaks and unnecessary deaths. Interdisciplinary collaboration and communication are critical.

“So, tell me about inventing the Ebola vaccine.”

It’s a question that Professor Steven Jones has been asked countless times since he and two former colleagues at the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg developed what is now known as VSV-EBOV to successfully combat Ebola—an incredibly virulent infectious disease with a mortality rate of up to 90 per cent.

“It’s interesting to talk about the vaccine,” said Jones, who received his PhD in immunology and microbiology. “But I’m more interested in discussing the broader context of why Ebola is a problem—particularly in the African health-care setting—and what we can learn from investigating how infectious diseases emerge and spread.”

Prior to joining the University of Saskatchewan as executive director of the School of Public Health, Jones spent nearly two decades studying and controlling diseases such as Ebola and its equally lethal sister virus, Marburg.

During that time, Jones gained insight into a number of issues surrounding the contraction and transmission of these and other diseases—particularly in countries where limited resources and a combination of environmental and social factors can contribute to large-scale outbreaks.

“People usually get infected with Ebola by accident through exposure to bats,” said Jones, “or quite often through the human consumption of bush meat from Great Apes—gorillas and chimpanzees that have been exposed to infected bats.”

Human encroachment into relatively untouched ecosystems increases the risk of human exposure to Ebola-infected animals according to Jones. So too does the impact of climate change on the expanding geographical areas occupied by these virus hosts.

Once the Ebola virus has been transmitted from an animal host to a human host, human-to-human transmission can spread fast, leading to outbreaks such as the 2014 West African epidemic responsible for more than 11,000 deaths. Most recently, the World Health Organization confirmed more than 100 people have died in a new Ebola outbreak that began in August this year and continues to spread in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

In these outbreaks, communicating transmission risks and developing stronger government reporting processes is critical when dealing with epidemics in the context of developing countries.

“The African health-care setting is so resource deprived that, by the time the local government realizes there is a problem, it’s already a very big problem,” said Jones. “We need to control the disease before it ever gets to that point. But, in order to do that, there are several factors that need to be addressed by public health professionals.”

“Building capacity in communities, working with community health workers and village leaders to develop government reporting and response mechanisms—that’s what’s required. And that’s what students in our university public health programs are learning,” said Jones.

Understanding the social determinants of health—such as food insecurity and education—and collaborating with specialists in those areas is also fundamental, according to Jones.

“Ebola outbreaks are caused by poverty. Poor people. Poor education. Poor health systems,” he said.

Jones also believes that interdisciplinary collaboration in the fight against Ebola should be leveraged in order to view health issues through a planetary health lens.

“Leaders in the fight against infectious disease need to work with social scientists, specialists in climate change, local economy, government relations and more,” he said. “Vaccines such as VSV-EBOV are a fundamentally important public health intervention, but preventing infectious disease in the developing world takes more than focusing on one approach.”

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

St. Thomas More College

Chair of the Anglican Institute of Canada, a national, not-for-profit organization commissioning research and opinion polls on issues that matter to Canadians.

Tracking Religious Trends in Canada: A Conversation with Angus Reid

Thursday, October 18 4:00 PM
Fr. O’Donnell Auditorium, STM
Reception to follow stmcollege.ca
Rural retention key to new MD student course

Three U of S College of Medicine students are taking part in a first-of-its-kind provincial program this year.

The MD students began placements in the new Saskatchewan Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (SLIC), recently launched by the College of Medicine. They will spend all 48 weeks of their third-year program in a single location, rather than moving through a series of six-week specialty-based rotations in a variety of urban, rural and remote locations.

SLIC Director Dr. Tara Lee, who practices family medicine in Swift Current, has seen first-hand the benefits when medical learners are part of health-care delivery in regional and rural settings. She led the establishment of the family medicine residency program in Swift Current, and saw it dramatically change that community’s ability to attract and retain physicians, while improving the strengths and competencies of the care providers who worked with and trained the residents.

“The two main reasons I became SLIC director are to improve our retention of Saskatchewan-trained doctors in our rural areas and smaller centres, and be part of introducing this much-needed approach to medical education here,” Lee said.

What differentiates the SLIC from rotation-based learning is the opportunity for students to be a long-term member of a health-care team, to follow patients over a continued course of care, and to gain substantial, uninterrupted rural medicine experience.

“While this is not new in Canada, it’s new to Saskatchewan and for our students,” Lee said. “It’s an excellent way to learn. These students become immersed in these communities and the relationships they form—with their physician supervisor and other health-care providers, with patients, and with the community—are an integral part of the experience and their learning.”

Starting this year, students are now being placed every year in Estevan and Meadow Lake. In Estevan, Lindsay Richels was interested in working with the same group of physicians and not have to re-orient to new teams and new locations during the course of her third-year learning. She had previously worked as a pharmacist and drew on her experience in that field when she decided to apply for a SLIC placement.

“I am originally from rural Saskatchewan and love living and working in small communities. I have been a rural relief pharmacist for years and always looked forward to varied patient interactions and the huge difference you can make in an area where sometimes resources or services are limited,” she said.

Braydon Hager applied for a placement in Meadow Lake to experience more patient-centred care and for the longer-term learning environment with the smaller team the program offers. Through SLIC, he said he believes he can “get a well-rounded, concentrated experience in a rural environment” to help him discover the areas of medicine he’s most interested in and suited for, and that he can “work in a rural setting while experiencing a wide range of patient needs.”

Also in Meadow Lake is Evan Mah, who was originally interested in orthopedic surgery and found his focus shift to rural family medicine during his medical studies, in part due to experiences in Wolseley and Indian Head, and by talking with rural physicians.

“I want to be able to experience fully what it is like for a rural physician to have a full practice, from procedures in the operating room, on-call in the emergency department, managing in-patients, seeing patients in clinic, and possibly even participating in out-post clinics,” he said.

Kate Blau is a communications specialist in the College of Medicine.

Setting the health research agenda

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findings from the Canada-wide community engagement process the institute recently undertook. That process indicated a strong desire by Indigenous people for self-determination and to set their health research agenda, Bourassa said.

“A lot of communities are research savvy, and they are telling us what works and what doesn’t when they apply for grants. They want an option for community members, Elders and Knowledge Keepers to be able to hold grants and lead grants,” Bourassa said. “If we are talking about reconciliation, then that means communities need to be in leadership roles. It’s time to realize that communities that live and breathe the issues also have solutions.”

Sarath Peiris is assistant director, Research Profile and Impact, at the U of S.
Medical student Greg Buckley is proving to be just what the doctor ordered, if you will, for the U of S Huskie men’s soccer team.

After a year away from the team while adjusting to the demanding course load in his first year in the College of Medicine, the talented goalkeeper and future physician has returned for his final season of eligibility. After losing last year’s goalkeepers—starter Patrick Pranger returned to Austria after one year as an exchange student, while fourth-year backup Kyle Moore graduated and moved on to do his master’s—Buckley’s return has been key for the Huskies, serving as a team leader while successfully balancing athletics and academics.

“We are busy pretty much every day during the season, training or playing or travelling, but I’ve been able to work my schedule around with our coaches,” said Buckley, who is on pace to graduate with a Doctor of Medicine in 2021. “Huskie Athletics has been really great with this and the College of Medicine has also been helping out as much as they can.

“Personally, it’s just a matter of making the most of my time. Time management is something that I learned as an undergrad while competing with the Huskies and it really helped me in first-year medicine and it’s a big key in being able to do what I want to do this term.”

Buckley has helped put the Huskies in playoff contention, while also serving as a role model in the classroom.

“When you have a young person like Greg in his second year of medicine, which is obviously a massive load academically, and see him able to commit to an athletic goal as well, it really shows the character and ability that he has,” said Huskies head coach Bryce Chapman. “We have 10 first-year players this year, and when they see what his schedule is like and how he can manage it and balance it, it’s a great example for our players. Greg is a great ambassador for our program.”

A four-time U Sports Academic All-Canadian (for academic averages over 80 per cent), Buckley said the teamwork and work ethic he developed as a student-athlete helped prepare him for medical school.

“I think athletics has helped me develop as a person and has really transferred over to the world of medicine, in terms of the work ethic and staying positive and being able to work with other people because I am always working with different groups all the time,” said Buckley, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Physiology and Pharmacology before moving on to med school. “Soccer is a big team sport, so there is definitely a lot of things that have transferred over now that I am in medicine.”

On the field, the 23-year-old from Saskatoon is now in the top two in multiple career categories for goalkeepers, including games started, minutes played and most saves, as well as third in shutouts and wins. “He is very close to a number of Huskie (goal)keeper records, which is not his priority. He just wants to put us in playoff position. But it does show what he has done for our program,” said Chapman.

After beginning his Huskies career with back-to-back trips to nationals in 2013 and 2014, Buckley hopes to cap his career by leading the team to another shot at a title. “In my first two years, we made it to nationals two years in a row, which was a really neat experience and that is certainly what the goal is now,” said Buckley. “But there are lots of things that you have to do as a team to get there, and that’s my focus right now.”

From saving goals to saving lives, Buckley is focused on the task at hand. “I don’t know if I would be trusted to save someone’s life yet,” he said, with a grin. “But give me a few years.”

Future physician in key position for Huskies

University of Saskatchewan Huskies student-athlete Greg Buckley is in his second year in the College of Medicine.
Still serves as St. Thomas More interim president

“The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.”
– Thucydides

As a philosopher, professor Carl Still may very well have pondered the reality of this historian’s words as he agreed to a one-year appointment as interim president of St. Thomas More College (STM) at the University of Saskatchewan (U of S). Still has a lengthy history with the college both as member of the faculty and senior administrator, so acceptance of this role bore no naiveté as to the responsibility involved.

“We are so pleased that Dr. Still has agreed to step into this position while the Standing Committee continues in the search for STM’s next president,” said Bev Hanson, vice-chair of the STM Board of Governors and chair of the Standing Committee for the Appointment of the President. President Emeritus Terrence Downey oversaw the transition process before his retirement in June.

Well-known and respected at STM and at the U of S, Still joined the philosophy department at STM in 1995 and later served as department head, followed by the role of dean of STM from 2006-2016. Still received his bachelor’s (honours) from the University of South Carolina and his master’s and PhD from the University of Toronto. He teaches and publishes the history of western philosophy.

“My fall classes were scheduled and teaching plans were in place before this opportunity was presented,” said Still. “I instead find myself reacquainting with members of our senior administration and moving forward on identified plans for the year ahead.”

Still said the college is moving forward with a number of initiatives in the 2018/19 academic year.

“We’re continuing full speed ahead in pursuing the goals of our strategic plan: optimizing the student experience, advancing Indigenization within our college community, fostering a culture of discovery, and building a sustainable future. All of these aspirations arise out of our educational mission as a Catholic college and at the same time are well aligned with the strategic directions of the University of Saskatchewan.

“I am both humbled and excited to have this opportunity to lead St. Thomas More College during this time of renewal and growth in the college’s more than 80-year history on campus.”

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

Memorial bench dedication Nov. 8

To mark 100 years since the end of the First World War on Nov. 11, 1918, the University of Saskatchewan’s Great War Commemoration Committee will unveil a new memorial bench on campus next month.

The bench dedication ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 8 at 11 am, the culmination of four years of work by the committee to honour the 345 students, staff and faculty members from the U of S who served in the First World War.

“We wanted to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of First World War with a permanent monument—simple, graceful and respectful—dedicated to the men and women of the campus who served their country from 1914 to 1918,” said committee chair Bill Waiser, a distinguished professor emeritus of history at the U of S.

The bench will be unveiled in the plaza located between the two original campus residences, just south of the Bowl and immediately north of the Memorial Union Building. The dedication ceremony will be followed by a reception in Louis’ Loft at noon. The bench was designed and created by local artisan Ryan Watson of Rocco Masons, with the committee’s fundraising goal for the project set at $20,000.

“The bench location was an important consideration,” said committee member Patrick Hayes, of University Archives and Special Collections. “We wanted it to be in the heart of the original campus—a place that would have been familiar to the volunteers of the time.”
COMING EVENTS

CONFERENCES

Wichitowin Aboriginal Engagement Conference
Oct. 17-18, TCU Place, 35-22nd St. E. The Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy is pleased to partner on the fourth annual Wichitowin Aboriginal Engagement Conference. This year’s event focuses on issues concerning Aboriginal engagement and human service delivery. The conference will provide resources to authentically engage Indigenous people as employees and volunteers; support organizations working to incorporate Aboriginal values within program and service delivery settings with the goal of creating culturally respectful organizations; and highlight reconciliation efforts in Saskatoon. For more, visit: afs.ca/pages/wichitowin.html

SEMINARS/LECTURES

Department of Psychology’s monthly colloquium series
Oct. 19, 3–4 pm, Arts 153. Chelsea Ekstrand, U of S PhD student, cognition and neuroscience, will give an open talk entitled Where Words and Space Collide: The Neural Relationship between Reading and Attention in the brain using functional magnetic resonance imaging, to extend our understanding of how these two processes interact. Call Peter Grant at 306-966-6675 or e-mail: peter.grant@usask.ca

Philosophy in the Community
Oct. 19, 7 pm, The Refinery, Emmanuel Anglican Church basement. 609 Dufferin Ave. Derek Postnikoff, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, presents on re-envisioning the liberal arts. For much of history, pursuing higher education meant studying the liberal arts. Many still endorse the viewpoint that a liberal arts education is the bedrock of a democratic society. On the other hand, a growing faction views liberal arts programs as elitist, subversive, and detrimentally impractical, championing vocational and professional training instead.

Seven nights of historical villainy
Oct. 17, 6 pm, Hoxe and Hydrant Brewing Company. Mr. Burrows: The tunnels of Moose Jaw’s fictional villainous laundry owner. U of S historians examine villains throughout history. Questions and discussion are encouraged. Free admission. For more, visit artsandscience.usask.ca/news/events.php

Backpack to Briefcase: Personal brand and social influence
Oct. 22, 4pm, Louis’ Loft. The U of S alumni family is here to give our students and graduates helpful tools to become the leaders the world needs. Join us to hear alumnus Ricky Forbes (BComm’10) and alumna Danielle Stasiuk (BFA’10) offer advice on social media while learning how to maximize your personal brand. Attendees will receive a professional head shot. Tickets are $10 and students receive a co-curricular record for attending. For more information and tickets visit: https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/backpack-to-briefcase-tickets-49714663898

Literature Matters
Oct. 24, 7:30 pm, Grace-Westminster United Church social hall, 505 10th St. East. In this series of community talks, members of the Department of English explore diverse literary topics. Oct. 24 discussion: How does your culture shape your reading of literature?

McKercher Lecture Series
Oct. 23, 7pm, MLT Aikins Lecture Theatre (Room 150), College of Law. Orlando Da Silva, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General presents Saskatchewan Law Review Lecture, Fostering Support: Mental Health Among Lawyers. Oct. 29, noon, MLT Aikins Lecture Theatre (Room 15), College of Law. The Honourable Justice Catherine Wedge, BC Supreme Court, presents Judge and Jury: A Remarkable Pact.

Leslie and Irene Dubé Chair for Catholic Studies Lecture Series
Oct. 18, 4pm, Fr. O’Donnell Auditorium, St. Thomas More College. The Open Circle: A Collaborative Concert

Play It Forward: A Collaborative Concert
Oct. 19, 7:30pm, Quance Theatre, Education Building. Featuring the U of S Jazz Ensemble, Greystone Singers and U of S Wind Orchestra. Tickets $20, or $10 for students, sold at the door.

COURSES/WORKSHOPS

Edwards School of Business, Executive Education
Call 306-966-8686, emailexeced@usask.ca or visit edwards.usask.ca/execed. Registration is open to the public and all university employees for upcoming programs:
• Oct. 11–February 16, 2019: MASTERS Certifi cate in Project Management – Saskatoon
• Oct. 17 and 24, The Powerful Presenter in You – Saskatoon
• Oct. 25, Networking: The Art of Building Relationships – Saskatoon

THE ARTS

Greystone Theatre presents Arcadia
Oct. 10-20, 8pm, John Mitchell Building. Described in The Times as the “perfect marriage of ideas and high comedy,” this award-winning play is considered to be Tom Stoppard’s best. His 19th-century country-manor characters resonate across time with present-day academics as everyone wrestles with the mysteries of order and chaos, thermodynamics, enlightenment and romance. Tickets: https://artsandsscience.usask.ca/drama/greystone/greystone-theatre.php

MISCELLANY

Merlis Belsher Place
Grand Opening Weekend
Come join the celebration as we officially open the new Merlis Belsher Place multi-sport facility. Oct. 26, 7pm: Huskie’s hockey game. Oct. 27, 10am-2pm: Community Open House. Oct. 27, 7pm: Huskie’s women’s hockey game.

Next OCN: Nov. 9, 2018
Deadline: Oct. 26, 2018

Grand opening weekend events scheduled

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“The common sentiment I heard that weekend was ‘They’ve thought of everything,’” noted Belsher.

Notable design elements include a wide concourse that wraps all the way around the Huskies’ rink, spacious equipment storage and laundry areas, and increased spectator seating for the future. There are also unique features in the Huskies’ team rooms that cater to the specific needs of the men’s and women’s players and their coaches—which all point to the collaborative nature of the planning process. Belsher said the university gathered input from all those who would benefit from the facility, including coaches, athletes, students and partners, to ensure their needs would be met for decades to come.

As plans are finalized for the grand opening weekend, which will include Huskie men’s and women’s hockey games as well as a community open house, Belsher said he is most excited to see the reactions of fans visiting the new complex for the first time.

“ ‘There’s been such widespread interest by the Saskatoon community for this facility,” he said. “It’s going to be fantastic to see the facial expressions and hear the comments of spectators!’”

For more information about the grand opening festivities, please visit usask.ca/merlisbelsherplace.

Jessica Elfar is a development 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.

OCTOBER 1986
FIRST FEMALE CHANCELLOR

Thirty-two years ago, the Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk became the first female chancellor of the University of Saskatchewan, one of many firsts in a remarkable career that began right here on campus.

Fedoruk, who was installed as chancellor at the Fall Convocation ceremony on Oct. 25, 1986, graduated with bachelor’s (1949) and master’s degrees (1951) in physics at the U of S and went on to become a key member of Dr. Harold Johns’ research team that developed one of the world’s first Cobalt-60 units to treat cancer.

In all, she worked on campus for 35 years, serving as a professor of oncology and then the director of physics services at the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic, before retiring in 1986.

In addition to serving as chancellor from 1986-1989, Fedoruk won the first Diamond D national women’s curling championship (now known as the Scotties Tournament of Hearts) as a member of Joyce McKee’s rink in 1961, was the first woman to serve as a member of the Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada in 1973, and became the first woman to serve as Saskatchewan’s Lieutenant Governor (1988-1994).

Fedoruk was awarded the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in 1986, earned the prestigious honour of being made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1987, and was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 2009.

A former Huskie athlete during her time on campus, Fedoruk was inducted into the Canadian Curling Hall of Fame, the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame and the Saskatoon Sports Hall of Fame. Born in Canora, Sask., on May 5, 1927, Fedoruk passed away on Sept. 26, 2012 at the age of 85.