



# On Campus News

ocn@usask.ca | news.usask.ca



## Tracking humans

Kevin Stanley (front) and Nate Osgood have developed a smart-phone app that tracks important human behavioural data, information that can be used to predict public health threats like diabetes, tuberculosis and the spread of flu viruses.

Read the story on Page 8.

KRIS FOSTER

# Getting engaged

## Community connections meaningful for all partners

by MICHAEL ROBIN

About 100 faculty and students gathered at the Neatby-Timlin Theatre April 30 to kick off Engaged Scholar Day, an event devoted to celebrating university collaboration with communities, from research and learning to teaching and funding.

“Success on the campus must be shared with those off campus,” said U of S President Ilene Busch-Vishniac in opening the event.

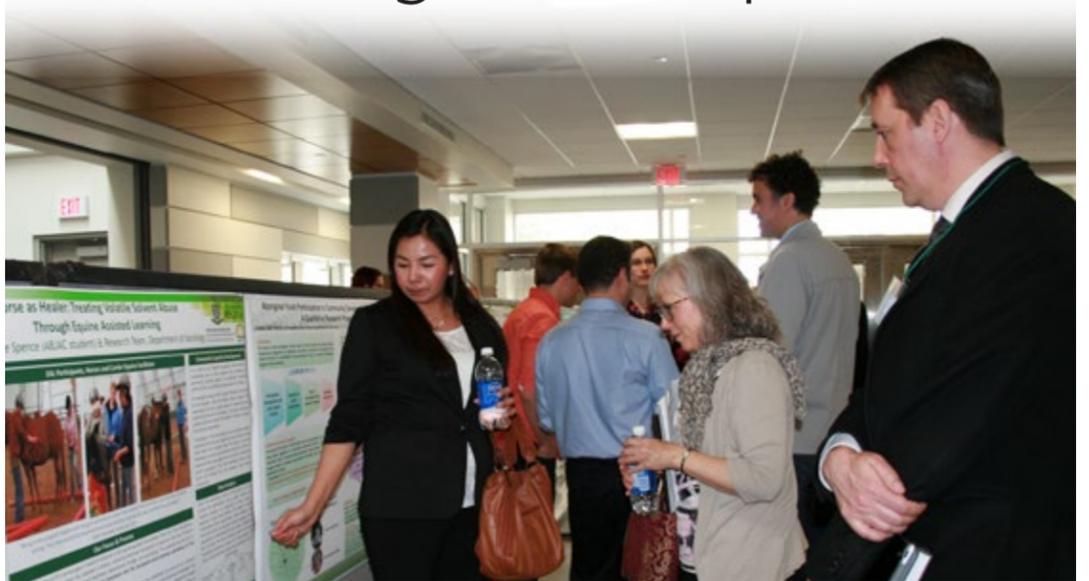
She explained the university has many community partners, from government and advocacy groups to industry and some of the most marginalized voices in

society. All want the university to “contribute meaningfully to their goals.”

“Partnering and engagement provide one important means of responding to these calls, and answering them in a manner that is academically rigorous.”

For the U of S, engagement offers new research and learning opportunities for both faculty and students, explained Keith Carlson, history professor and a leader of the engagement renewal in his role as special advisor to the VP advancement

See Benefits, Page 2



Keith Carlson, right, listens to Serene Spence describe her research during a poster session that was part of Engaged Scholar Day.

MICHAEL ROBIN

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# Benefits too big to ignore

From Page 1

on outreach and engagement.

Carlson announced a new funding package worth \$175,000 annually to support faculty and graduate student efforts to work with communities across the province and around the world. The money will fund research grants and awards, a doctoral fellowship, community-engaged teaching activities and an annual symposium on engaged scholarship.

Some elements are unique, such as The Engaged Scholar, a new academic journal, and a grants program to provide resources for faculty members to sponsor and co-author papers with graduate students, Carlson explained. Other initiatives include a seed funding program to help leverage other grants, as well as a K-12 outreach program to inspire students to pursue a university education. A new website has also been launched at [usask.ca/engagement](http://usask.ca/engagement).

Carlson said one of the founding principles of the U of S was to bring the university to the people. This has manifested itself over the years in early programs like the Better Farming train that travelled the province from 1914-1922. He also cited more recent examples like the Centre for Study of Cooperatives and the Saskatch-

“I think there’s a lot of potential here, and it’s a way for us to distinguish what we do to attract students.

Keith Carlson

ewan Population Health and Evaluation Research Unit.

Carlson described outreach and engagement as two overlapping terms that sometimes need to be viewed separately. Outreach, if done as a one-way push to audiences, runs the risk of creating problems even as it tries to provide solutions.

“Outreach that is not based on strong partnerships, that is outreach that did not involve the affected communities ... ran the risk of having goals that were misaligned with the desired outcomes.”

He cites the Green Revolution as an example: while new crop varieties and production methods made it possible for developing countries to grow far more food, it also made it necessary for farmers to use commercial fertilizers and crop protection products and disrupted local economies.

In the past 40 years, Carlson said there has been a shift to embrace the engagement model, citing U of S examples like the Community-University Institute for Social Research. Other examples from the Colleges of Engineering, Law and Medicine underlined his point.

That said, he acknowledged

barriers. Some disciplines, having paid their dues and won the trust of communities through long effort, are reluctant to collaborate. Other concerns such as those surrounding tenure and advancement are more immediate.

For example, engaged research produces both process and results, but results are what need to get published. Carlson said it demands a strategic approach. Also, as research has gathered momentum, the research and scholarly publishing industry has begun to react.

“We’re seeing the rise of new journals that publish on the process, but we’re also seeing older disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals be much more open to that cross-pollination.”

Carlson said the benefits of engaged scholarship are, in the end, too great to ignore, offering benefits to communities, researchers and their students.

“I think there’s a lot of potential here, and it’s a way for us to distinguish what we do to attract students. You can come here, and we can guarantee that you’re going to experience something that sets this campus apart.” ■



Colleen Dell and her dog Anna-Belle during an Engaged Scholar Day conversation café.

MICHAEL ROBIN

## Time necessary for successful engagement

Engaged scholarship demands strong relationships that must be built before any research can proceed, according to experienced faculty featured at a conversation café held as part of Engaged Scholar Day on April 30.

The café began with short presentations by researchers, followed by round-table conversations. About 45 people attended – an overflow crowd.

In his presentation, environmental anthropologist Clint Westman explained his work with northern communities, particularly in Alberta.

“You have to have long-term

relationships with communities,” he said, adding that researchers must be prepared to balance many different viewpoints. “Some people oppose the oil sands while others want the benefits of economic development. Communities are not homogenous.”

Researcher Colleen Dell related how she is using animals like horses and dogs to help people overcome addictions.

“There’s an animal-human bond,” she said. “There’s something there, and I want to find out more about it.”

Dell explained her work with horses near Prince Albert also taught her about the relationship local First Nations people have with the animals. Elders advised her that her program needed to include the proper dance and ceremony.

Community engagement is even more challenging when the question that needs to be asked is too sensitive.

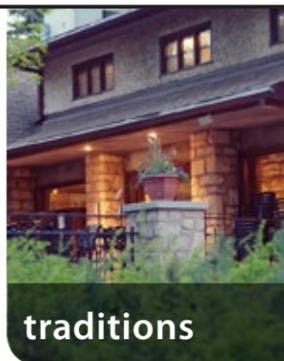
In a separate presentation, M.J. Barrett from the Department of Curriculum Studies, explained she would like to ask how to incorporate the concept of ‘spirit’ in decision-making. For some First Nations cultures, spirit is not talked about openly – it is a given that guides all discussion.

Understanding this guidance has enormous potential application, from designing school curricula with communities to forging resource development agreements that First Nations can embrace. Barrett said getting there means gaining the trust of the community, face-to-face.

“Ideally, we should use many ways of knowing to make decisions,” she said. ■

### Correction

In the April 26 issue of *On Campus News*, a photo of Lois Berry was incorrectly identified in the Around the Bowl column. *On Campus News* apologizes for this error.



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# U15 data exchange provides benchmarking numbers

✍ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

The U of S will play host May 15 and 16 to university representatives from across the country who collectively provide the information needed to advance the mandate of the U15, Canada's leading research institutions.

Called the data exchange, the group is made up of two people from each U15 member university, explained Pauline Melis, assistant provost of institutional planning and assessment, who, with Troy Harkot, director of institutional effectiveness, serves as the U of S delegation. Like Melis and Harkot, exchange members are directly involved in institutional research, planning or analysis at

their home institutions.

The exchange manages a growing number of projects, each a separate data set that allows member universities to benchmark themselves against each other, said Melis. An example of one project is National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) results. By participating in exchange projects, the U15 universities "are able to look very respectfully at each other's results. That allows us to compare apples to apples and to talk about issues of common interest."

For the University of Saskatchewan, participation in the data exchange "has



Melis

increased our understanding that the U15 is our comparator group," she said. Data exchange projects do not cover all aspects of university operations, Melis added, and are moving toward "a more pointed focus on research." But it is information valuable in planning for

improvement, and "a rising tide lifts all boats."

The U of S was invited to join the U15 in 2011 and although "it's still relatively early days for us, we are now participating in all the data exchange projects. I think one of the big things for us will be the future directions of the data exchange and potentially, drawing more closely together our planning and research functions."

U of S President Ilene Busch-Vishniac will address the data exchange meeting on behalf of her U15 counterparts, and, for the first time, the group will also meet with directors of research services from each U15 institution as part of its annual meeting in Saskatoon.

What is now the U15 began in 1991 as the Group of Ten (G10) made up of Alberta,

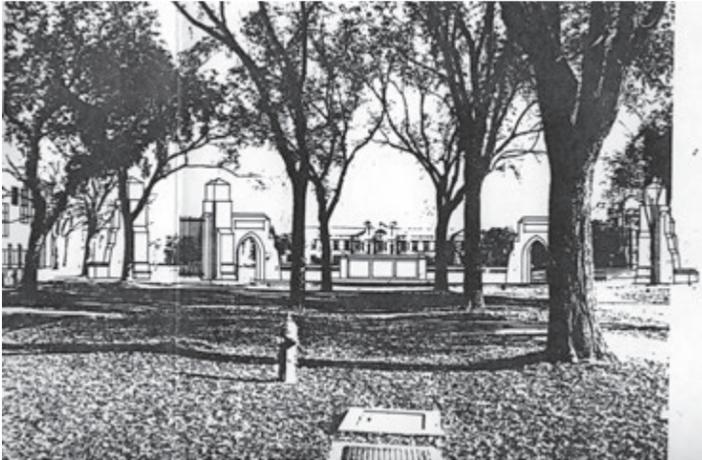
UBC, Laval, McGill, McMaster, Montréal, Queen's, Toronto, Waterloo and Western. In 2006, Dalhousie, Calgary and Ottawa were invited to join what then became the G13. The U of S, along with Manitoba, was invited to join in February 2011 to create the U15.

The U15 is directed by university executive heads and has four committees: academic affairs, consisting of provosts of member universities; research, consisting of vice-presidents for research; the data exchange; and a data exchange steering committee. In 2012, the executive heads created a secretariat and hired its first executive director. The U15's purpose is to advance the cause of the country's research universities in areas like national research, academic policies, funding and partnerships. ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## Grand entrance

✍ PATRICK HAYES, U OF S ARCHIVES



U of S Archives, MG 2001 SVI.

The Memorial Gates were dedicated on May 3, 1928. The location corresponded to the university's main entrance as laid out in the original campus plan. By the 1960s, the gates were no longer the primary access to campus; it had become the primary roadway to the Royal University Hospital, and in the late 1980s, various plans were considered to help ease the flow of traffic through the area including moving the gates to another area of campus. In the end, it was decided to leave the gates intact and construct entrance and exit traffic lanes west of the gates. The above image is a representation of one of the nine alternative sites for the relocation of the Memorial Gates. ■

# For the record

## New policy guides record keeping

✍ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

Tim Hutchinson likes to say that records management is like insurance – "nobody's really interested until it's too late."

But now, with a new university-wide policy that formalizes the practices of record keeping and clarifies who has authority to decide what to keep, for how long and when it can be destroyed, the U of S is closing some of the gaps in the preservation of relevant documents.

Hutchinson, the university archivist, said the U of S has never had an over-arching records policy before and though several other policies make reference to records, "they're often contradictory. This new policy is an attempt to bring all those threads together. It's a framework for a more comprehensive set of procedures."

The policy will be overseen by a records committee that will recommend and approve procedures, particularly retention schedules, said Hutchinson. Such schedules indicate where official copies of records are held and their disposition after a specific length of time. Hutchinson said disposition could be permanent retention, destruction, transfer to the archives "or anything in between."

There are well-established



Hutchinson

procedures already in place for some university records, financial being one example, he said, "but records management usually happens when your filing cabinet is full. It's a matter of going schedule by schedule and focusing on areas that are generating lots of records." Hutchinson said he will be developing a work plan for addressing records management "to see what's possible to achieve."

One of the challenges, he explained, is that record keeping has become more decentralized. Another is developing better guidelines for handling email records. "Every email is a memo, and there is lots of business transacted electronically. Categories have to be identified – what's ephemeral

“Records management usually happens when your filing cabinet is full.”  
Tim Hutchinson

and what's documenting a transaction. It's very complicated, and long-term storage of electronic records is a different type of challenge altogether."

The value of good record keeping cannot be overstated. In addition to documenting the history of the institution, records are important from a risk management perspective, he said. "They make freedom of information requests easier to deal with and they're critical in formal procedures like grievances that require document continuity. It's also important to document why there are no documents. If we get a freedom of information request and the answer is that the documents were shredded two years ago, it's helpful to have a policy and a formal retention schedule to explain that decision." ■



PAWSITIVE PRACTICE

Dressed in sarongs and sandals, a group of students in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine spend their lunch hour practising their tropical dance moves and relaxing. It's not what you expect to see, but it's all part of Pawsitive Practice — an innovative initiative aimed at promoting student wellness.

Read more online.

news.usask.ca

## Survey says ...

It's been a long time since we last asked you to give us some formal feedback about University of Saskatchewan news, and with so many things having changed so much, spring 2013 seems like the perfect time to ask again.

I hope you noticed the promo for a news survey on Page 1 of this issue of OCN. It's a quick one (less than 10 minutes to complete) that asks you, the consumers of University of Saskatchewan news and information, whether you are getting what you need to know when you need to know it through various channels.

### Editor's Note

The last survey we did, in 2009, asked questions only about On Campus News but since then, an awful lot of work has gone into beefing up our online news presence with news.usask.ca and, more recently, creating a vehicle that goes directly to U of S employees – the email digest of news and information called On Campus Now that shows up in your inbox every two weeks.

As you'll see in the survey, each has a little bit different mandate. The idea is to try to reach as many people as possible in as many different ways as possible. We know some of you like to consume your news at home on their mobile device. Others like to fit it into the busy workday at your desk computer. And some U of S folk prefer to sit on a bench in the Bowl and read the paper. No one size fits all. We hope we've got a good mix of delivery vehicles but we won't know until we ask.

Most surveys start with a general hope that something interesting will emerge. I personally hope I'm not about to survey myself out of a job, but whatever you tell us will be valuable as we refine our efforts and our news and information delivery vehicles.

I encourage you to take a few minutes to share your preferences and comments at usask.ca/newssurvey. And if my encouragement isn't enough, how about this: survey respondents are eligible to enter to win a private, chef-prepared luncheon for eight at the University Club on a date of your choosing. What more enticement could you need?

On a totally separate note, this 10-digit dialing business has created a bit of consternation. Actually, it's 11-digit dialing if you count the '9' needed to get an outside line. Too many numbers. The trick I've developed to avoid the automated lecture by the SaskTel lady is to focus on the 9 and the 306 first, then totally shift mental gears to the seven-digit number I want. Maybe some day I'll be able to combine the two operations into one.

Ten-digit dialing has also necessitated a revision to the U of S Editorial Style Guide. The guide says the area code should be in (parentheses) in front of the phone number. Now that it's a requirement, we have to drop the parentheses and insert a dash, as in 306-966-6610. I'm finding it's a lot easier to remember the dash than to remember to dial 10 digits.

Ed

MORE STORIES, PHOTOS  
AND COMMENTS ONLINE

news.usask.ca

 On Campus News

*On Campus News* is published 18 times per year by University of Saskatchewan Communications. It is distributed to all U of S faculty, staff, graduate students and members of governing bodies, as well as to others in the university community, related organizations, some Saskatchewan government officials and news media. Subscriptions are available for \$20 per year. Story and photo ideas are welcome. Advertising rates are available online or on request. *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 University of Saskatchewan community.

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

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## Retirees recognized

The University of Saskatchewan will honour its retiring employees with a reception and banquet May 23 in Marquis Hall. For information about the event, call 966-2999.

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### Albert Barth

Western College of Veterinary Medicine

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### Shelly Wolf-Lake

University Library

### Tom Wishart

Research (AVP Office)



Beth Williamson, university secretary

KRIS FOSTER

# University secretary takes office

## Beth Williamson brings legal background to the job

✍ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

To say that Beth Williamson hit the ground running in her new job could be described as a true understatement.

In just her first month as the new university secretary, Williamson provided administrative support to meetings of the General Academic Assembly (GAA), University Council, University Senate and the Board of Governors. “That’s all four of the major meetings,” she said with a smile. “I started April 8 and the GAA was day three for me.”

Having survived the crash course in university governance, Williamson is settling in to learn all she can about how the U of S operates and her role as secretary. “I don’t have work experience at the university so I expect the learning curve to cycle through a whole year.”

As secretary, Williamson’s job is varied, from the meeting support she has already experienced to participation at convocation ceremonies, oversight of Council and Senate elections, and administration of

student academic, student non-academic and faculty appeals. She also has administrative oversight of audit services.

When asked what drew her to the job, she laughed. “It was advertised in the paper, and I applied.”

Born into a large family in Outlook where her father was a physician, Williamson is a graduate of Aden Bowman Collegiate in Saskatoon. She spent a year overseas in bible school before enrolling at the U of S and earning a commerce degree in 1987. She gave up her effort to become a chartered accountant in favour of a work visa in Australia. Upon her return, Williamson enrolled at the University of British Columbia where she graduated with a law degree in 1992.

Williamson spent her articling year in Toronto before taking a position with the law firm MacPherson Leslie and Tyerman in Saskatoon. After that, she eventually moved to Cameco where, as in-house

“In an academic environment, we may have the tendency to over-complicate things and if what we’re telling people is not understood as we’ve meant it to be, that’s our mistake.

Beth Williamson

counsel, she worked directly with its board.

“What I really liked was seeing decisions being formulated,” she said, “seeing high-level decision makers from different backgrounds and how they approached issues, challenged management, or didn’t, and how it all came together. It was a very good learning experience.”

After more than 12 years with Cameco, Williamson felt it was time for a change and, with an interest in the social sector, was attracted to the idea of moving to a non-profit, an organization more focused on its contribution to the province.

“Corporations do that as well,” she added, “but it’s not their main focus. I was looking for a change, but I still want to bring something to the table.”

And what she brings to the table, she said, are analytical and writing skills along with the ability to break down issues, to get to the root of the problem, “all complemented by my experience as a lawyer. When people work with me, they’re not terribly surprised to learn I’m a lawyer.”

While Williamson admitted she does not yet know what her biggest challenge as secretary will be, she has identified a couple of areas where her particular skill

set could be brought to bear. One is clear communication in all aspects of her office’s mandate.

“In an academic environment, we may have the tendency to over-complicate things and if what we’re telling people is not understood as we’ve meant it to be, that’s our mistake.”

She also sees Senate “as an opportunity we may not be capitalizing on the way we could. This is a group of people who are volunteering, who are putting their names forward, coming to meet with us and saying, ‘how can we help?’” Williamson wants to explore how to better use this important conduit for information to communities the university serves.

Williamson added one other observation, and it was that her predecessor, Lea Pennock, “developed this office into a really well-oiled machine. The staff is knowledgeable and extremely capable,” she said, “and the office has a lot of respect throughout the community. That’s really helpful.” ■

# E-journal publishes education scholars

✍ LANA HAIGHT

Education matters – it’s a phrase that evokes meanings as varied as the people involved. Even within the College of Education, *Education Matters*, a new open-access e-journal published through the college, is meeting different needs.

“This is an endeavor for new scholars as well as senior scholars,” said Bev Brenna, assistant professor of curriculum studies with a literacy specialization and the editor of *Education Matters*.

For graduate students, the journal is a stepping stone between their academic studies and the research world, added student editor Lisa Gaylor, a graduate student in the college’s school and counseling psychology program.

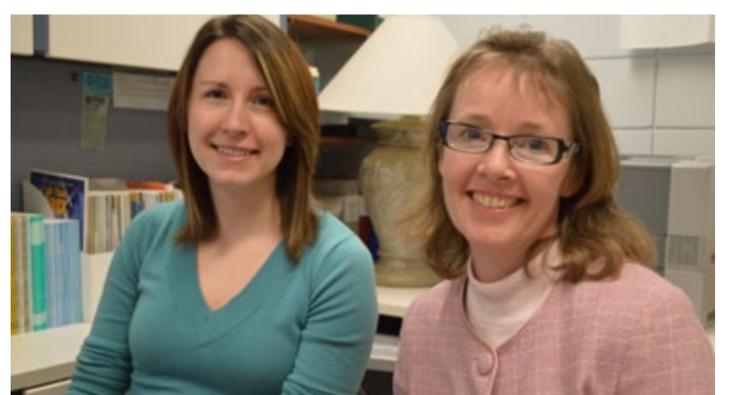
The first issue of *Education Matter* was published in April on the Synergies website hosted by the University of Calgary. Its development was supported by a start-up grant from the U of S College of Graduate Studies

and Research.

Gaylor, who works part-time as the student editor, is available to mentor graduate students seeking to publish for the first time, tapping into what she learned while working on a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology at the U of S. About 500 students are enrolled in full- or part-time graduate studies in the College of Education.

“Instead of applying to get

See Journal, Page 9



Lisa Gaylor, left, student editor of *Education Matters*, and editor Bev Brenna.

LANA HAIGHT

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Pilot testing of the online travel and expense tool will begin this June. Starting next fall, we will gradually roll out the new process—with training—to colleges, schools and administrative units across campus. Once available, you will access the online tool simply by logging in to PAWS. We hope to have the roll out completed by April 2014.

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**BACKGROUND**

FSD's customers identified travel claims as an area for improvement in the December 2012 FSD Customer Survey, echoing results from the Service and Process Enhancement Project (SPEP). Efforts to develop a more automated process for the university's travel and expense management needs have been underway for some time, with a request for proposal process last spring and board approval this past December. The project is now part of the Maximizing the Value of University Spend category in the 2012-16 Operating Budget Adjustments initiative.

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## Go Dogs

The U of S Huskies held spring training camp May 2-5 on the turf at Griffiths Stadium in PotashCorp Park in preparation for another season of exciting university football. Among those vying for a spot on the roster were quarterback Matt Bonaca (right) and running back Jarvis James (above) while defensive lineman Dylan Kemp (#47 below) went head to head with linebacker John Malcolm during a scrimmage. The Huskies open their season under the lights Aug. 23 in a game against the UBC Thunderbirds. The Huskies are playing five home games this season. Visit the Huskies website for details and to purchase tickets.



JOSH SCHAEFER PHOTOGRAPHY

## Business education offered to high school students through distance learning

The Edwards School of Business will introduce a new credit course for high school students in the fall designed to give young people an understanding of the role of business in the world and of career potential in the field.

To be offered through distance learning in the Sun West School Division in west-central Saskatchewan, Introduction to Business will educate students "about the various roles and functions of business, and about the types of personal skills and qualities they need to succeed in business," said Keith Willoughby, associate dean academic in Edwards. "They'll not only learn to identify these skills and qualities in themselves but the course will also give them the chance to practice and refine those skills."

The course will be taught in nine modules with U of S professors and instructors presenting a series of online lectures, he explained. There

will be hands-on activities and group projects along with self-directed research in areas like the global marketplace, business ethics, entrepreneurship, human resource management, marketing, and finances and financial institutions.

Using the entrepreneurship and small business module as an example, Willoughby explained students will interview local business owners and entrepreneurs to explore trends and experiences in business. What they find will then be compared to documented trends, challenging the high school students to think critically about what is shaping entrepreneurship and small business ownership today.

"Our objective is to ensure that each student has the opportunity to acquire, practice and refine their skills and experiences in a way that will help them succeed in post-secondary education and future employment." ■

## NEW TO US

NEW TO US highlights the work of new faculty members at the University of Saskatchewan. If you are new to campus, or know someone who is, please email [ocn@usask.ca](mailto:ocn@usask.ca)



Reproductive science researcher **Daniel MacPhee** joined the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in August 2012, drawn from the Memorial University of Newfoundland's Faculty of Medicine to what he describes as an exciting research environment.

"I was impressed and excited about the research environment in reproductive science and medicine here at the U of S," he said. "It is an established group that has made some important discoveries."

MacPhee, with the Department of Veterinary Biomedical Sciences, has his lab set up and is recruiting graduate students to continue his work to learn more about how the uterus and placenta form and function during pregnancy. He hopes the work, funded in part by the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, will identify ways to predict when processes go awry—and in the process help protect the health and lives of both babies and mothers.

"Our work on stress proteins and other signaling proteins in these tissues has really excited us and holds great potential," he said.

The work also informs his teaching efforts in embryology, the subject that first attracted him to research.

"The thought that I could explore a research problem or fill in a gap of knowledge and try to make a difference in a research field or disease was, and still is, very appealing to me." ■

# Researcher finds social media site to be decidedly unsocial

✍ KRIS FOSTER

Pinterest is the fastest growing social media site in the world, but to one researcher it seems particularly unsocial.

“It has 18 million unique monthly visitors,” Barb Phillips said of Pinterest, the third largest social-media site behind Facebook and Twitter. “But no one has really done much research on it.”

That was until Phillips, marketing professor and Rawlco Scholar in Advertising at the Edwards School of Business, decided to find out exactly what people are doing on Pinterest, and why.

She described the site as a virtual bulletin board, a place where users can “pin” pictures from around the web for others to see. “It’s the consumption of immateriality. It’s like flipping through a women’s magazine—we like looking at images whether it’s an ad or not,” she said.

So Phillips, in her quest for understanding, examined 20 Pinterest boards and close to 2,300 images that had been

“It’s playing with the future. It’s imagining the possible future self.”  
Barb Phillips

pinned in four commonly used categories: kitchen, wedding, kids and miscellaneous. What she found was a bit surprising.

“It’s described as a social network, but people aren’t using it socially and it’s not really about creating a community. For one, there are no personal pictures on the boards I looked at, not even in the kids’ category.”

Another unsocial aspect that Phillips discovered was that users on the site rarely changed or personalized captions on the pictures they pin. “People don’t change it for their own preference; they post or repin images with the same captions or comments.”

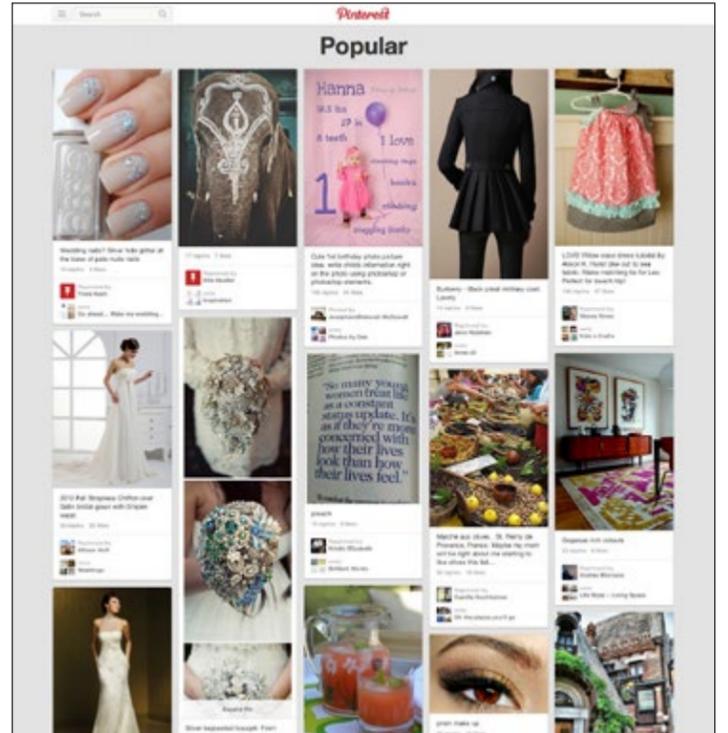


Phillips

Phillips said the user demographics on the site are a bit surprising as well. “About 70 percent of users are women and women were the early adopters on this site while typically men are early adopters of tech stuff,” Phillips said.

While users may not be socializing or consuming material things on Pinterest, Phillips continued, “they are discovering their personal tastes, like ‘if I get married, I want this type of napkin, or when I redo my kitchen I like these cabinets.’ It helps people play with their tastes.”

The site is also very future orientated. “It’s playing with the future. It’s imagining the possible future self – ‘What would it be like to have a baby girl?’ It’s not the ideal self, but rather based on reality and future possibilities,”



A sample page from Pinterest.

PINTEREST.COM SCREENSHOT

she explained. “It is always about the future, but not aspirational or (unrealistic) luxury items. The closer people are to purchasing, the more realistic the images are.”

The process of collecting all the images “is a lot like treasure hunting. People enjoy looking at pictures they like. It’s been called the digital crack for women. They get addicted to looking at images and collecting them for free.”

“Just show me pictures I like in a place I can store them for the future. It’s different from scrap-

booking because that is about making memories tangible. This is about future planning.”

Phillips believes she is one of the first to present findings on Pinterest-related research, and her work is attracting a lot of interest because learning how consumers plan for future purchases could mean a big shift in how businesses use Pinterest as a marketing tool.

“Right now, most companies and many marketers are having a tough time with it.” ■

## Campus Incidents

Selected incidents reported by the Department of Campus Safety. Report all information about these and other incidents to Campus Safety at 306-966-5555.

### April 22-29

Among the tickets issued were:

2 for speeding

- 1 for failing to yield to pedestrian at intersection/marked crosswalk
- 1 for operating an unregistered vehicle
- 1 for being intoxicated in a public place
- 1 for a minor possessing beverage alcohol
- 1 for disobeying a stop sign
- 1 for driving while suspended

• Between April 19 and 22, someone stole seven large candy dispensers from their frame in the Arts tunnel. The approximate value of the theft and resulting damage is \$3,000.

• A 50-year-old man who had been charged several times in the past year for trespassing was located in a locked bathroom in Kirk Hall at 5 am on April 23. The man was turned over to police and charged with mischief and breach of probation.

• On April 23, the residence office reported damage to a stairwell wall in Pine Hall.

• A 21-year-old male was asked to leave the PAC after inappropriate comments to a lifeguard led to a disturbance; alcohol may have been a factor. The subject left without further incident.

• A bike was reported stolen sometime between March 25 and April 26 from a bike stand near the Arts Building.

### April 29-May 6

Among the tickets issued were:

- 3 for speeding
- 3 for operating an unregistered motor vehicle
- 1 for using electronic communications device while driving
- 1 for having sunscreen coating on front side windows
- 1 for disobeying a stop sign
- 18 warning tickets were written for a variety of traffic violations

• Between May 3 at 11 pm and May 4 at 8 am, seven vehicles parked at McEown Park had windows broken and some had items stolen from inside.

• At 6:35 pm on April 30, an unknown person made a false alarm of a fire by pulling the fire alarm pull station located in the Engineering Building. The false alarm led to a response by Saskatoon Fire and Protective Services.

• A 25-year-old woman received a 24 hour driving suspension after being stopped on Wiggins Road and blowing a “warn” on the approved screening device for alcohol.

## reach out & learn

Centre for Continuing & Distance Education  
University of Saskatchewan Language Centre



There’s a real synergy when farmers and students work together to look at practical scenarios; it’s a win-win situation for both groups.

**Brenda Frick PhD, PAG**

Instructor, Weed Control in Organic Agriculture (PLSC 234)

Weed Control in Organic Agriculture (PLSC 234) is an online class offered by the College of Agriculture and Bioresources and the Centre for Continuing & Distance Education. Enrolment is a mixture of undergrad students taking it for credit towards a degree, and farmers taking it as a non-credit class.

### We partner with colleges and units to provide

- development and delivery of distance learning and off-campus degree and certificate programs,
- conference and event planning with online registration services,
- professional development and training to campus staff, groups and units, and,
- academic preparation, English language and intercultural education to international students.

# Smartphone app showing potential to combat threats to human health

✍ KRIS FOSTER

Smartphones are on the cusp of being an important tool to combat public health threats in Canada and the world.

Nathaniel Osgood, associate professor, and Kevin Stanley, assistant professor, both in the Department of Computer Science, have developed a smartphone app that collects important behavioral data that can be used to predict health risks — from causes of obesity and diabetes, to how tuberculosis and flu viruses may spread.

About four years ago when H1N1, or swine flu, first became a health concern in Canada and Saskatchewan, Osgood and Stanley began working together.

“I’ve worked for decades on computer simulation models, particularly health related,” explained Osgood. “Through modeling, I want to improve the quality of health decision making and policies.”

“Yeah, Nate was doing it when I first came to the university to do sensor networks and mobile gaming work,” said Stanley, whose research integrates GPS technology into gaming to affect and track physical activity levels. “When H1N1 came out, we

started thinking about how our research could be used to answer health questions.”

The two areas of research fit together perfectly and the two came up with iEpi, a Google Android smartphone app that is capable of collecting personal information including physical activity, geographic location, the number of people an individual comes in contact with and for how long, and much more.

“Smartphones are amazing devices,” explained Osgood. “The sensors can track information like where you go for a morning walk, which grocery store or pharmacy you shop at and information on contact patterns. WiFi, Bluetooth, accelerometer and GPS can be used to collect this information through iEpi. It also has a triggered survey component to determine situational context.”

That data can then be fed into simulation models that can predict, for example, how a flu like H1N1 would move through a population like the Department

of Computer Science—the pilot community Osgood and Stanley tested—or Saskatoon.

“We run groundhog day simulations hundreds of thousands of times based on a set of disease parameters and a set of personal contacts to come up with a probability of someone getting sick,” explained Stanley.

“We’re observing people in the wild and not controlling effects for behaviour.”

Kevin Stanley

“We test health policies, like staying at home when sick or getting vaccinations, to test if it makes a difference.”

This behavioral information is critical to models, but is not considered because it is historically unreliable and expensive, said Osgood. “Recalling the last five people you saw or your activity levels is unreliable. The lack of hard evidence makes it marginalized

(in policy making).”

“That’s what’s missing – biomedical pathways, the behavioral and social context that’s hard to measure,” continued Stanley. “We’re observing people in the wild and not controlling effects for behaviour. We find that people are inordinately predictable, but not in the same way. Everyone does their own thing over and over again.”

That iEpi can capture data on so many aspects of an individual’s activity and behavior to predict, for example, how a disease might spread based on location, number of people who come in contact and other factors makes it a unique and valuable technology.

“This is a pretty competitive application. There’s nothing like this as far as we are aware. All this data makes the models more reliable and robust,” said Osgood.

And iEpi is getting attention from other researchers. Some at Columbia University have used it in a study that tracked individual results of moving

from low-income housing to mixed-income housing. They sought to understand results from a previous study showing that young women who made such a move experienced reduced obesity, improved graduation rates and lower crime, whereas young men had slightly higher crime involvement.

“We can use this to figure out why,” said Osgood. “Is it because young women got more exercise because it was safer or had access to parks and better food options? Did the young men go back to their old neighbourhoods?”

Closer to home, Osgood and Stanley are working with Drs. Jill Newstead-Angel and Roland Dyck from the College of Medicine on gestational diabetes outcomes in Saskatchewan.

“Our modeling suggests that gestational diabetes may be responsible for a large number of diabetes cases in Saskatchewan,” Osgood said. “We are looking at how the burden of diabetes is shaped by a number of risk factors with an eye to prevention and control strategies. This is aimed at informing policies and what’s most effective; what’s the best way to prevent disease.” ■



## Funding for community engagement and outreach

We are pleased to announce \$175,000 in new funding for faculty and graduate students that will support the growth of community engagement and outreach at the University of Saskatchewan. New initiatives include:

- seed money for community-engaged research;
- funding for an annual symposium on community engagement;
- creation of a new journal, *The Engaged Scholar*, the first of its kind in Canada and one of only three in the English-speaking academic world;
- and many more.

For more information about these initiatives, please visit [usask.ca/engagement](http://usask.ca/engagement)

# Admission by degree

## College of Medicine changes requirement for class of 2015

✦ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

A change to the rules is going to eliminate what the director of admissions calls hedge hopping by students seeking a coveted seat in the U of S College of Medicine.

New admission qualifications will mean that students entering the college in the fall of 2015 will be required to have a four-year baccalaureate degree rather than rely on their grade point average (GPA) from their best two years of post-secondary education. "It's that little four-letter word 'best' that's been causing progressively more problems," said Barry Ziola.

What has been happening, he explained, is that despite the college requirement that students be progressing toward a degree, many are moving from program to program looking to drive up their GPA calculation for admission purposes. He gave one example of an applicant who spent one year in the Edwards School of Business, one year in arts and science and one year in kinesiology, taking junior classes in each program. That applicant was denied because he did not have two years toward a degree.

"This kind of gamesmanship," said Ziola, "is distorting the true GPA that leads to selection for an admission interview. It gives an unfair advantage to those students who enter a degree program and progress steadily

through toward completion."

Ziola illustrated his point with figures: in 2007, the GPA required for an admission interview was 78 per cent; by 2013, that number had climbed to 84.3 per cent. At the same time, the number of students admitted with degrees fell to 36 per cent of the class this year from 46.4 per cent five years ago and a high of 67 per cent in 1999.

In addition to the pressure on the admissions process by "hedge hoppers," Ziola said student advising resources in the college are being taxed. "The word on the street is that if you start switching programs, you'd better have it approved, and that's keeping us extraordinarily busy with advising."

The degree requirement, which cleared its final approval hurdle April 20 at University Senate, is the first change to academic requirements for admission in 25 years and brings the U of S program in line with most other medical schools in Canada. The change has been public for some time and although most medical faculty, medical students and lay people support it, Ziola has heard some dissenting views.

One concern is that requiring a degree is just going to add time and cost for students, to which Ziola responds that "once they get into medicine, these kids don't worry about money. And I believe we've got



Barry Ziola, director of admissions in the College of Medicine.

KRIS FOSTER

a social obligation to the 80 per cent of applicants who don't get in each year to ensure they have a plan B." He speculates that with a degree in hand, many of those denied admission to medicine "would do something with it," whether that is graduate programs, research and other new opportunities.

Some people have also said the degree required for admission should be in the health sciences "but we want diversity among our physicians. We want them all to be good people with good cognitive and academic function and that can come from any degree program." Ziola added the degree requirement is expected to raise the average age of incoming students by 1.5-2 years, bringing added maturity and worldliness that is beneficial for both students and the college.

In addition to the new degree requirement, Ziola said

“I believe we've got a social obligation to the 80 per cent of applicants who don't get in each year to ensure they have a plan B.

Barry Ziola

discussion is underway about bringing back the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) as a requirement for all college applicants. Currently, U of S students can opt to write the MCAT or take a number of prerequisite classes. Students applying from outside the province, including Saskatchewan residents studying elsewhere, are required to write the test.

The exam, administered by the American Association of Medical Colleges, has recently undergone a complete revision;

the new version will be available in January 2015. "I think the new MCAT format is wonderful," said Ziola. "It's very good for assessing behavioural, social science and humanistic aspects of medicine, verbal reasons, biological and physical science, and critical analysis."

He added the discussion about re-instituting the MCAT is in its infancy and the change requires many levels of approval "so you've got to figure it will be at least 18 months before approval is finalized, if everything goes well." ■

## Journal features essays, narrative

From Page 5

something published in an academic journal outside of the university where they might face outright rejection and not have a good research experience, they can communicate with us and actually be helped toward publication rather than doing it on their own," she explained.

Gaylor's role begins when working with graduate students to show them that their research is worth publishing. Not everyone needs to wait until they have completed their research projects. Sometimes, even a portion of the research will be sufficiently robust for an academic article. Gaylor then works one-on-one with students to help them follow the standards of academic publications.

The focus of Education Matters is broader than articles

about academic research, which are peer-reviewed prior to publication, said Brenna.

"It's also open to deep thinking about education in the form of scholarly essays. It's also open to poetry and narrative. I think there are many different lenses you can use to shed light on the field of education. We wanted to make sure our lenses were wide open."

As an open-access journal, Education Matters is available free of charge to anyone with access to the internet.

"It's about equal access to education," said Gaylor.

With the first issue under their belts, Gaylor and Brenna are looking to the next publication due for release in September.

Education Matters can be found at [em.synergiesprairies.ca/index.php/em](http://em.synergiesprairies.ca/index.php/em)

Lana Haight is a Saskatoon freelance writer.

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# Coming Events

## ■ Courses/Workshops

### Introduction to Teaching Online

- Beginning May 13 and continuing for six weeks, the Gwenna Moss Centre is offering an Introduction to Teaching Online short course. The course, facilitated by Heather Ross and Ryan Banow from the GMCTE, is completed entirely online and is free to any U of S faculty, instructor, staff or graduate student. To register, visit the course page at [usask.ca/gmcte/courses/teaching\\_online](http://usask.ca/gmcte/courses/teaching_online)

### Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

For more information, visit [www.ccde.usask.ca](http://www.ccde.usask.ca) or call 966-5539

### Business and Leadership Programs

- Business Writing and Grammar Workout, June 5-6
- Introduction to Procurement (Tuesday evenings, 13 weeks), Sept. 17 – Dec. 10
- Managing Conflict – Level I, Oct. 16-17
- Leadership Development Program, Tues. only, Oct. 29-Nov. 26
- Leadership for Managers and Supervisors, Nov. 12-13
- Leading Innovation, Inspiring Creativity in the Workplace, Nov 18, 2013

### USCAD Spring Classes

- Visual Arts Survey I, May 16, 24-26 and June 7-9
- Drawing II and III, May 24-26 and June 7-9
- Pinhole Photography and Alternative Process I, June 8-9

### Community Music Education Program

Spring parenting with music and Suzuki early childhood classes are open for registration. Summer music camps are also open for registration. For more information, visit [www.ccde.usask.ca/community-music](http://www.ccde.usask.ca/community-music)

### Crucial Conversations for U of S Employees

- A two-day course will be offered June 7 and 14 in the Williams Building. Fee is \$490. Register online or call 966-5539.

### U of S Language Centre Programs

- Multilingual Conversational Language Classes
- French levels 1 to 6: \$195 (GST exempt)
- Italian Level 1 and 2: \$204.75 (GST exempt)
- Spanish Levels 1 to 5: \$204.75 (GST exempt)
- German Levels 1 and 2: \$204.75 (GST exempt)
- Japanese Levels 1 and 2: \$204.75 (GST exempt)
- Textbooks and workbooks are extra. Register at [ccde.usask.ca/learnlanguages](http://ccde.usask.ca/learnlanguages) or call 306-966-4351.

### Educational Travel

For more information see [ccde.usask.ca/edtours](http://ccde.usask.ca/edtours)

- Athabasca Sand Dunes Wilderness Ecology Camp July 7-12 with tour guides Greg Fenty and Melanie Elliott. Cost: \$2050. One spot left.
- Churchill Manitoba Polar Bear Ecology Family Tour with Susan Blum Nov. 7-14. Cost: \$2495 adult (includes GST), \$2195 child under 12 years. Information night will be held June 6, 7-8:30 pm in the Williams Building.

### WSEP Safety Training Courses

Register at [usask.ca/wsep/web\\_course](http://usask.ca/wsep/web_course)

- Biosafety: classes available online
- Fire Safety: May 28, June 18, 1:30-3:30 pm
- Standard First Aid with CPR A: June 5 and 6, 8 am-4:30 pm
- Laboratory Safety: May 22, May 27, 8:30 am-4 pm
- Laboratory Safety for undergrad students: May 13, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
- Radiation Safety: June 10, 8:30 am-4 pm

- Safety Orientation for Employees: May 14, 1-4 pm; May 23, 8:30-11:30 am
- Safety Orientation for Supervisors: June 17, July 10, 1-4 pm
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods (Receiver): June 17, 11-noon

### Continuing Education and Development for Nurses

For more information, go to [www.usask.ca/nursing/ccedn](http://www.usask.ca/nursing/ccedn)

- June 13 – 14, Tuberculosis Symposium, Saskatoon, registration required

### Edwards School of Business Executive Education

For information call 966-8686, email [execed@edwards.usask.ca](mailto:execed@edwards.usask.ca) or visit [edwards.usask.ca/execed](http://edwards.usask.ca/execed)

- May 31- June 7, The Effective Executive Leadership Program, Waskesiu
- June 24-26, The Project Management Course, Regina
- Sept. 15-20, The Labour – Management Relations Course, Saskatoon
- Sept. 16-18, The Business Analysts' Course, Saskatoon
- Sept. 30-Oct 2, Team Leadership Skills for Project Managers, Saskatoon
- Oct. 21-23, The Project Management Course, Saskatoon

### ICT Training Services

For information or to register, email [training@usask.ca](mailto:training@usask.ca) or visit [training.usask.ca](http://training.usask.ca)

- Adobe Dreamweaver - Introduction, June 26 and 27, 9-noon, \$125 students, \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe Illustrator - Intermediate, May 28 and 30, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students, \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe Illustrator - Introduction, June 18 and 20, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students, \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe Indesign - Introduction, June 4 and 11, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students, \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe Indesign - Intermediate, July 3 and 10, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students, \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe Photoshop - Introduction, May 13 and 15 OR June 5 and 12, 6-9 pm OR July 25 and 27, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe Photoshop - Intermediate, May 21 and 23, 1:30-4:30 pm OR June 25 and 27, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- Adobe Photoshop - Photo Retouching, July 9, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$75 students; \$100 staff and faculty; \$125 others
- BBLearn/ U of S Course Tools - Fundamentals Seminar, May 10, 2-3:30 pm OR May 22, 10-11:30 am, \$0 staff and faculty, n/a others
- BBLearn/ U of S Course Tools - Instructor Workshop, May 24, 1:30-4 pm, \$0 staff and faculty, n/a others
- Introduction to Visualization (for researchers), May 23, 9 am -3 pm, \$0 students, staff and faculty; n/a others
- Make the Most of Your Mac - Introduction, May 14, 1:30-3 pm, \$0 students, staff and faculty; \$75 others
- MS Excel Fundamentals, June 17 and 18, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- MS Excel Fundamentals Plus, May 28 and 30, 9-noon, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others
- MS Outlook - Fundamentals Plus, May 16, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$75 students; \$100 staff and faculty; \$125 others
- Research Posters Using Adobe Illustrator, May 15, 3-4:30 pm, \$0 students; \$50 staff and faculty; \$75 others
- Security: Network Penetration Testing and Countermeasures, July 22-26, 9 am-4:30 pm, \$2250 students, staff and faculty; \$3800 others
- Security: Secure Programming Designing and Developing Defensible Web Applications, May 13- 17, 9 am-4:30 pm, \$1950 students, staff and faculty; \$3250 others

- Faculty Workshops: contact [training@usask.ca](mailto:training@usask.ca) or 966-4866 for more information on these workshops geared to faculty.

- Online Training Library: free videos from Lynda.com now available. Check the PD and Training Tab, Online Training Library Channel in PAWWS for details.

- IT4U - Computer Training and Support for Students, contact <http://it4u.usask.ca>

Many courses are available to off-campus users. Visit [training.usask.ca](http://training.usask.ca) for more information.

## ■ The Arts

### Creatures in translation

A solo exhibition of new sculpture and prints by Saskatoon artist Susan Shantz entitled *Creatures in translation* opens May 10 with a reception from 4:30-7:30 pm in the Kenderdine Art Gallery in the Agriculture Building. The show, curated by Kent Archer, continues until Aug. 30.

### Making a Scene!

The Department of Drama is offering four one-week-long Making a Scene! summer drama camps for children between the ages of 10 and 17. The camps focus on improvisation and characterization as well as voice and movement techniques. No experience needed: just an active imagination! Camps begin July 8. Cost: \$200 per child. For registration information call 306-966-5188.

### Snelgrove Exhibition

On view in the Gordon Snelgrove Gallery May 16-23 is *Ellen Moffat: she i her*, the artist's continuing exploration into the relationship of sound, image and personal experience. There will be a reception May 23 from 7-10 pm.

### College Art Galleries

On view May 28 and continuing throughout the summer in the College Art Galleries is *William Perehudoff: The Mural Room*, an exhibition of wall-painted murals commissioned by Fred Mendel for a reception room of the now-demolished Intercontinental Packers Ltd. building.

### STM Gallery

On view in the STM Gallery until June 28 is *After a Long Winter*, paintings by Michelle Yuzdepski. The gallery, located on the second floor of St. Thomas More College, is open 8 am-5 pm Monday to Friday.

## ■ Miscellany

### Financial Town Hall #5

The U of S will host the fifth in its series of financial town hall meetings June 13 from 12:30-1:30 pm in Convocation Hall. Information about university finances can be found at [usask.ca/finances](http://usask.ca/finances)



### Joint Convocation

The Saskatoon Theological Union will be holding its 12th joint convocation May 10 at Zion Lutheran Church beginning at 7 pm. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be 16 students graduating this year – four from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, nine students from Lutheran Theological Seminary and three from St. Andrew's College. Emmanuel and St. Chad will be conferring two honorary degrees: a Doctor of Divinity degree to The Rt. Rev. Adam Halkett and a Doctor of Canon Law to Vanessa Charles. St. Andrew's will be conferring two Doctor of Divinity degrees, to The Rev. Bernice Saulteaux and The Rev. Patricia Wotton.

### U of S Retirement Banquet

The annual banquet to honour U of S retirees will be held May 23 starting at 6:15 pm in Marquis Hall. To purchase tickets, visit [tinyurl.com/usask-retire-2013](http://tinyurl.com/usask-retire-2013) or call 966-2999.

### Science Rendezvous 2013

Science Rendezvous, a non-profit organization that partners with Canada's top research institutions to bring people and science together, will host a public festival May 11 from 9:30 am-3:30 pm in the Thorvaldson and Agriculture Buildings on the U of S campus. The day includes hundreds of events and interactive demonstration as well as exhibits from across Canada. Events include: SpectaCOLOUR Chemistry, hands-on activities and demonstrations on colour reactions; Glow Room, fun with fluorescence and phosphorescence; BOOM-bastic Science, activities that create popping sounds; and more. For more information, visit [www.sciencerendezvous.ca](http://www.sciencerendezvous.ca)

### Breakfast with the President

Ilene Busch-Vishniac is hosting President's Breakfasts at the University Club starting at 7:30 am on the following dates in May: May 17 and May 31. Call 966-7775 to make a reservation.

## ■ Seminars/Lectures

### Mobilize! For our Community's Wellbeing

- May 13, 6:30-8 pm, Station 20 West, Community Health and Epidemiology presents Mobilize! For Our Community's Wellbeing with featured speakers Connie Clement, scientific director, National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health; Laurel Rothman, national co-ordinator, Campaign 2000; and Ed Buller, member of Canadian Council for Social Determinants.

### Libraries Conference Speakers

The Canadian Health Libraries Association annual conference in Saskatoon includes two presentations that are open to the public with a \$25 admission fee. Both take place in the Centre Ballroom of the Sheraton Cavalier Hotel. For more information, contact Ashley Farrell at [ashley.farrell@rqhealth.ca](mailto:ashley.farrell@rqhealth.ca) or visit [www.chla-absc.ca/conference](http://www.chla-absc.ca/conference)

- May 23, 9 – 10:15 am, Dr. Brian Goldman, an emergency physician at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital and the host of the CBC radio show White Coat, Black Art
- May 25, 10:30 – noon, André Picard, the national health reporter from the Globe and Mail, will discuss the challenges of writing and communicating complex health issues to the public, particularly in the era of social media.

### Library Dean's Research Lecture

- May 24, 9:30-11 am, Centre Ballroom, Sheraton Cavalier, the 2013 Library Dean's Research Lecture, held this year in conjunction with the Canadian Health Libraries Association annual conference, features Dr. Anita Palepu, an internal medicine specialist at UBC who was actively involved in the launch of, and is co-editor of, an independent, open-access general medicine journal. Her address is entitled Open Medicine: Challenges at the Frontlines of Medical Publishing.

## ■ Conferences

### Radiology Conference

The Department of Medical Imaging and the Division of Continuing Professional Learning is hosting a radiology conference for family physicians, emergency physicians and nurse practitioners June 14 and 15 in B450, Health Sciences Building. For information: [www.usask.ca/cme](http://www.usask.ca/cme) or e-mail [cme@usask.ca](mailto:cme@usask.ca).

### Summer Institute

The Dept. of Curriculum Studies' Educational Technology And Design Summer Institute will take place July 3, 4 and 5. The institute is a research-focused gathering with all participants staying at St. Peter's College in Muenster. There will be scheduled sessions, unstructured collaborative time and opportunities to generate research ideas. For more information, visit [usask.ca/education/ecur/etad/ETADstudio/](http://usask.ca/education/ecur/etad/ETADstudio/)

## Submit Coming Events

Next OCN: Friday, May 24, 2013

Deadline: Thursday, May 16, 2013

Send your events to [ocn@usask.ca](mailto:ocn@usask.ca), or visit [news.usask.ca/submissions](http://news.usask.ca/submissions)

## Spring cleaning

Conservator Sharon Deason cleans the Lesya Ukrainka statue in preparation for its relocation to a new garden that is under construction outside the main entrance of the Murray Library. The 16-foot bronze statue of the celebrated Ukrainian literary figure was commissioned in 1976 and serves to recognize Ukrainian heritage and culture on the U of S campus.

 SUBMITTED

# The view from above

## Tweeted photos from space add to geological knowledge

✍ KRIS FOSTER

It is a dark picture with a smattering of lights scattered in a seemingly random manner. Some areas are brighter and bigger than others, some have fine lines of light and other areas are completely black.

The aerial photo of England at night was taken from the International Space Station and tweeted by Commander Chris Hadfield to his more than 675,000 followers on Twitter. Hadfield's shots have caught the attention of many, including Kevin Ansdell, professor in the Department of Geological Sciences.

"See there, that's London, that's Liverpool and Manchester. Here is Sheffield where I grew up," said Ansdell, pointing to the photo on his computer screen that is geographically identifiable by the concentrations of light.

It was in Sheffield where one of Ansdell's high school teachers first got him hooked on geology as a field of study. And seeing these photos "absolutely reaffirms that I'm in the right

“Present is key to the past, and the past is key to the future.”

Kevin Ansdell

field," he said.

"I hadn't paid much attention to Hadfield's photos, but now that I have seen them, they are spectacular shots. Aerial shots at this scale are great at showing geological features on a large scale. I would really like to see images of the Himalayas because it is the biggest and most recent mountain range in the world. An erupting volcano would be neat too."

The shots from space also got Ansdell thinking about how to use the images in class. "The shot at night of England lit up by lights gets me thinking about natural resources and energy production from coal, oil and

uranium," he explained. "It emphasizes how much energy is used. Where does London get electricity, where does Toronto get power? The photos would make for good discussion topics in a first-year class."

The images, he continued, really illustrate "the number of cities and all the lights. A few thousand years ago, there was nothing."

Ansdell scrolls through the images, stopping at one of San Francisco. "Look, you can see the fault lines. This would be especially useful in a first-year class talking about earthquakes and faults like the San Andreas. You can trace the fault lines on the photos."

He is also interested in what non-city shots illustrate.

"Every single natural shot without cities shows the shape and margins of coastline and islands, and the complexity of rivers and mountains. They show how Earth has been shaped by natural processes. It shows how the whole planet is being

continually affected by nature's geological processes."

From aerial views of geological images from space to a single rock, geologists are always looking for answers as to how the Earth has formed and evolved, Ansdell continued, and the Hadfield photos are a record of present time.

"Present is key to the past, and the past is key to the future. What is going to happen to San Francisco during a major earth-

quake in the future? What about Seattle and Vancouver if there is a major volcanic eruption? Could we have another Pompei?"

While Ansdell isn't sure what the geological future holds, he is sure of one thing: "I would imagine that people seeing these now have more of an appreciation for Earth. Maybe they might create more interest in geological sciences, but more likely an increased interest in space exploration." ■

## Around the Bowl

The Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic has announced the following:

• **Greg Marion's** term as acting head of the Department of Drama has been extended for an additional one-year term, to June 30, 2014.

• **Dr. Ken Sutherland** has been appointed acting dean of the College of Dentistry for the period of July 1 to June 30, 2014.



Marion



Enns

**Monica Enns**, waste prevention co-ordinator in the Facilities Management Division, was the recipient of a Saskatchewan Waste Minimization Award for 2012. The award recognizes individuals whose work has had a measurable impact on reducing waste and promoting "the conserver ethic."

*Reconciling Sovereignties: Aboriginal Nations and Canada* by **Felix Hoehn**, assistant professor in the College of Law, received the Luther and University of Regina Arts Award for Scholarly Writing at the recent presentation of the Saskatchewan Book Awards. The book was published by the Native Law Centre at the University of Saskatchewan.



Hoehn

**Emmy Neuls** has joined the International Centre for Northern Governance and Development as the centre's first international project officer to work on research projects and circumpolar network building. Until recently, Neuls was the Arctic science and international business officer with the Canadian International Center for the Arctic Region located in Oslo, Norway and under the auspices of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.



Neuls

**Kevin Veitenheimer** has joined the Office of the Vice-President Research in the position of senior financial officer. Veitenheimer, who took up the new position March 18, came to the U of S from the provincial Ministry of Advanced Education.



Veitenheimer

**Bryan Bilokreli** has moved from the position of director of institutional capital planning in Institutional Planning and Assessment to director of capital planning in the Office of the Vice-President Finance and Resources. His role will support the development of a capital plan that is aligned with the university's academic mission.

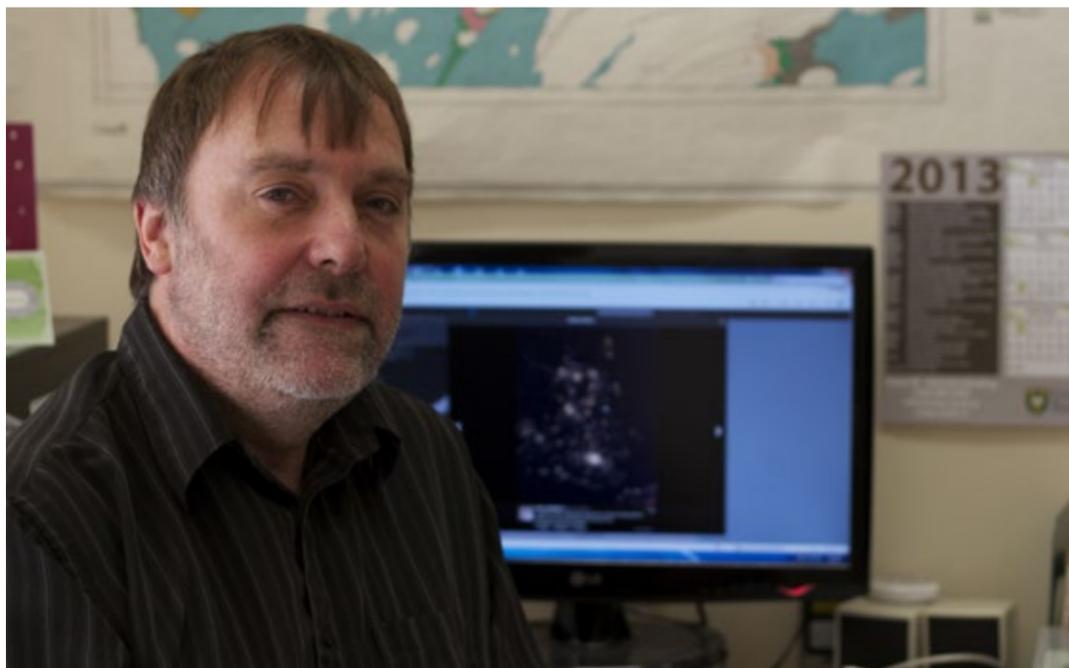


Bilokreli

In Institutional Planning and Assessment, **Troy Harkot**, formerly director of ICT Data Services, has accepted the position of director of institutional effectiveness where he will be responsible for the university's Achievement Record, key performance indicators, and comparators and benchmarks. Also joining the office is **Tanya Robertson-Frey**. Previously with the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute, Robertson-Frey will take on the position of research analyst starting May 13.



Harkot



Kevin Ansdell, professor of geological sciences.

✍ KRIS FOSTER

## Research funds awarded

Four U of S researchers have received \$100,000 each from Grand Challenges Canada to develop portable technologies to help doctors diagnose heart, lung and bowel disease, as well as help migrant workers access health care.

Electrical and Computer Engineering professor Anh Dinh is working on a low-cost device to pre-diagnose heart disease. Using portable sensors and a laptop computer, it is designed to produce data to be either used on-site or transmitted to a doctor's office.

Dinh's device can extend the benefits of electrocardiograms to millions of people

who cannot afford conventional cardiograms.

Khan Wahid, associate professor in the same department, is working on an improved video endoscopy capsule, a kind of "camera pill" that gives doctors a clearer, more complete picture of bowel diseases. Information is exported right onto patients' smartphones to be shared with their doctors.

"Doctors are not satisfied with the current image quality from endoscopy capsules. We are working to improve the technology in several ways," Wahid said.

Nazeem Muhajarine from the Dept. of Community Health

and Epidemiology, is developing MHealth, a service that harnesses cell phones to deliver essential health information via text messaging in Vietnam.

"We provide tailored health information delivered directly into the hands of participants," Muhajarine said.

Dr. Darryl Adamko, from the Dept. of Pediatrics, is developing a test to diagnose different lung diseases, which can be particularly dangerous, especially for children, in the developing world.

"We have a test that uses a simple urine sample that we think is applicable to a typical doctor's office setting," he said. ■

# Sneak peek

This year, *On Campus News* is using the back page to explore places on campus that are off the beaten path—often behind locked doors—and to introduce you to the people who work in them. Suggestions for this feature are always welcome; email [ocn@usask.ca](mailto:ocn@usask.ca)



## Heavy metal

Deep within the University Services Building on Maintenance Road, you can find Allan Stuchenko, Jeff Van De Voord and Ryan Klassen bending, shaping, cutting and welding all types of metals to fit the needs of the U of S campus.

The three tinsmiths, along with welder John Graham, work with a wide range of metals—galvanized and stainless steel, aluminum, cooper and a bit of brass—and an even wider range of machinery to fabricate whatever someone on campus needs, explained Van de Voord.

“We do a lot of ductwork and venting for air distribution and exhaust, bracket plates, counter tops and fume hoods,” he said. “We have a project coming up that we need to build a water tank for horses to help them cool down.”

One of the bigger projects the team recently completed was the installation of a set of 20 downdraft tables, including the fabrication and installation of the corresponding ventilation system, that faculty and students in the Western College of Veterinary Medicine use to examine animals.

“Pretty much every day is a different project on a different part of campus. Each project we take on from start to finish, from building to installation. It’s rewarding because it’s necessary. People call with a problem and we come up with a solution.”



Jeff Van De Voord and Ryan Klassen

KRIS FOSTER



**Jeff Van De Voord will lead a video tour of the metal fabrication shop in the May 17 issue of On Campus Now.**