



# On Campus News

ocn@usask.ca | news.usask.ca

## Art dealer

**Michael Peterson, a familiar face in the Department of Art and Art History, is co-owner of a new Saskatoon art gallery that caters to emerging artists, including U of S students. Read more about void gallery and its efforts to help artists learn professional practices and establish a sales history on Page 6.**



KRIS FOSTER

# Centre construction set to begin

## Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre will be a hub for services

MEGHAN SIRED

After almost two decades of planning, construction of the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre at the University of Saskatchewan will begin in June.

The centre, designed by world-renowned architect Douglas Cardinal, will be a hub for Aboriginal student services, including the Aboriginal Students' Centre and Indigenous Students' Council, with additional space for learning, gathering and ceremonies.

"I look forward to seeing the new centre rise in the core of our campus on Treaty 6 land," said Ilene Busch-Vishniac, U of S president and chair of the project's steering committee. "Over time, I hope this centre will become a symbol of student support, success, learning and cultural understanding—the centre is intended to be so much

more than just a building."

The student centre will be located in Wiggins Court between the Arts Building and the Murray Building with connections to both the Arts Tunnel and the Health Sciences Building. The 17 elm trees that will be removed to make room for the centre will be incorporated into the design of the central gathering area inside the building.

Private ceremonies with members of the Gordon Oakes family, local Elders and university and community leaders will be held before the public groundbreaking. The date for the public groundbreaking ceremony has yet to be finalized.

The contract for construction of the building is expected to be awarded shortly, according to information provided by

the steering committee. The approved project budget is \$17 million. More than \$12 million of that total has been raised so far with \$4.7 million of that total coming from private donors and the rest from internal sources including parking revenue, the Academic Priorities Fund, year-end surpluses from previous years and investment income.

Busch-Vishniac said she is confident that the Gordon Oakes-Red Bear Student Centre will help Aboriginal students feel supported at the U of S as they pursue their educational and personal goals. For many Aboriginal students, the university campus is the biggest community they have been a part of, she added. More than 1,700 U of S students have voluntarily self-declared as Aboriginal.



Rendering of the student centre's main interior space

SUBMITTED

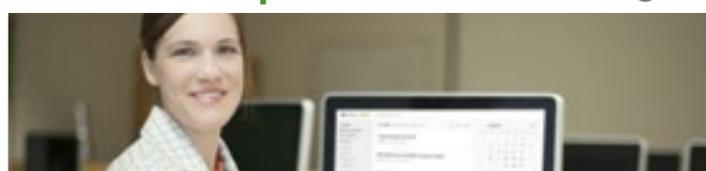
"The U of S Students' Union has one of the largest numbers of First Nations and Métis members of all student unions in Canada and we take pride in that," said Max FineDay, USSU president who is also a member of the steering committee. "The placement of the centre in the

heart of campus is a great first step in showing First Nations and Métis students that they are valued and recognized at our university." ■

*Meghan Sired is communications co-ordinator in Student and Enrolment Services Division.*

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# Budget adjustment update

✍ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

The two highest profile initiatives in the university's multi-faceted operating budget adjustment (OBA) project are moving forward apace and other efforts to address a projected deficit will soon be gaining both visibility and momentum.

The effort to prioritize academic programs and support services across campus—called TransformUS—is about four months into its 11-month mandate, said Pauline Melis, assistant provost of institutional planning and assessment, and its two task forces are making good progress. Both are in the process of presenting lists of academic programs and support functions that will be evaluated against recently publicized criteria, she said. Along with the list will be the form the groups will use to collect the program and service information needed for the prioritization process.

"Both the lists and the template will be released shortly," said Melis. "The next big element will be piloting the template with select groups. Once it's launched to the general community, then the really big job for the task forces is the evaluation itself. It's taken a bit longer than I would have liked to get the templates ready but I expect they'll be out soon."

Melis, whose office of Institutional Planning and Assessment is directing the overall OBA project, said the summer months will be spent collecting information that will ultimately lead to recommendations from the task forces about which programs and services should be maintained, which require more resources and which it suggests be eliminated. The task force reports are due in the Office of the President on Nov. 30.

"What's occupying my

time right now is considering what happens when the final reports are submitted," Melis said. "What is the timeframe for decisions? Who is going to make those decisions? We want a process that will be led by the president and the provost, and which will also involve Council, the Board of Governors and unit leaders from across campus."

Melis said her office and others involved in OBA hope to have all preliminary decisions about the fate of programs and services made within three months of receipt of the task force recommendations.

A second major undertaking is workforce planning, which is being led by the Human Resources Division. That effort, to reduce salary and benefit costs and ensure jobs at the U of S are strategically aligned with institutional priorities, is coming to the end of its second phase, said Melis. So far, the savings achieved through workforce adjustments are pegged at about \$6.3 million.

At the end of phase two, likely in June, "we hope workforce planning will turn into an ongoing people planning process" whereby every job to be filled is carefully considered along with what kind of staff complement we need to support our mission as a university."

With Transform US and workforce planning underway, attention will turn to five other areas of potential budget savings, all of which were generated by suggestions submitted by employees when the budget adjustment project was first announced. Melis said obvious themes emerged when the suggestions were considered and those themes form the basis of additional projects.

"Where we're going next

we think is exploring the theme of maximizing the value of the university spend," ensuring the U of S uses its spending power to generate savings and discounts. Some work in this area, like a new institution-wide travel booking process, is already in place.

Another theme is total compensation and rewards, which Melis said requires "a very deep conversation with the Board of Governors."

A number of ideas were grouped into the theme of reducing the university's footprint. In addition to all suggestions related to sustainability, "we're looking at things like reducing space and lease costs in order to generate savings."

Revenue generation is another OBA theme "and here we're looking at ways to amplify the operating budget." One example is taking steps to retain more students between first and second year, which Melis said could, with the right retention strategies in place, realize about \$3 million in additional annual revenue.

The final theme gleaned from OBA suggestions is organizational design. Melis expects the initial focus will be on optimizing administrative work common to both central and distributed operations. Some organizational design changes may result from TransformUS, she added.

Taken together, the various approaches to trimming expenses and boosting revenue in the university's annual operating budget "are a huge undertaking. We've got lots of parts of the university working on this but we can't do it all at once so the themes will roll out at various times and at various speeds." ■



Submitted

## Pedal patrol

Special Constable Michael Chapple weaves his way through an obstacle course in early May as part of a training course sponsored by the Law Enforcement Bike Association. A number of Campus Safety officers, along with their Saskatoon Police Service colleagues, traded in their long pants and car keys for shorts and helmets to participate. The four-day course included classroom work and time on bikes where they covered a wide range of topics from physical fitness and emergency braking to defensive tactics. Campus Safety has seven officers dedicated to bike patrol on the U of S campus.

## Added responsibilities, new name for unit

What was called University Advancement has been given responsibility for two key files at the U of S, and a new name to reflect the new scope of activity within the unit.

President Ilene Busch-Vishniac has announced that administrative responsibility for government relations would move immediately to the portfolio of Heather Magotiaux, who is also responsible for development, alumni relations, marketing and communications, the Office of First Nations and Métis Engagement, and community outreach and engagement. To create more co-ordination of activities dedicated to First Nations, Métis and Inuit faculty, staff, student and community success, the special advisor on Aboriginal initiatives will also now report to Magotiaux. That position previously reported directly to the president.

Busch-Vishniac also announced that the new name for Magotiaux's unit is Advancement and Community Engagement. ■

## Leadership Conference 2013 Centre for Continuing & Distance Education



President's Panel, May 8

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# Operating budget 2013-14

## Making choices that are deliberate, realistic

✍ COLLEEN MACPHERSON

As operating budgets go, the university's 2013-14 one was a challenge to prepare but in the end, there is some comfort going into the new fiscal year.

Piya Sen, director of budget and special projects in the Financial Services Division, said it took some time "to harness everything that is going on within the university and boil down into reasonable projections in the budget." Those projections include revenue of almost \$468 million and expenses of just over \$471 million, leaving a deficit of \$3.25 million for the year.

The Board of Governors approved the budget May 9.

Sen said it is important to keep in mind that the budget numbers are a "best guess." As efforts are made to reduce the university's operating budget through initiatives like workforce planning, those savings will play



Sen

a part in whittling down the deficit. "We know what actions are underway even though at this point, we can't cost them out with complete accuracy," she said. Savings might also come in areas like utility costs "but we can't predict the weather.

"In the absolute, we know that \$3 million is a lot of money but relative to the whole operating

budget, it's 0.7 per cent. We could have made choices that would have eliminated the deficit but what we chose to be was realistic and deliberate, recognizing the efforts that are underway to address a much larger deficit projected for 2015-16."

In addition, the board maintains an operating reserve that could be used to deal with any small deficit that remains at the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Without the efforts already underway, she said, the deficit would have been much higher. The two most significant are about \$10 million in completed permanent budget reductions including workforce changes, and a deferral of \$2 million in spending on the RenewUs infrastructure renewal project.

"Our goal is to put \$5 million every year into RenewUS," Sen said, "but at this early stage, that money is not yet critical so

\$3 million was appropriate for this year." She stressed the term deferral was chosen carefully "because we fully intend to reach to the \$5 million mark in subsequent years."

Looking at the approved budget, the university's projected revenue is up almost five per cent over the previous year, due to both an increase in provincial funding and a jump in tuition revenue. Sen said the tuition revenue increase is a combination of higher tuition rates and additional students attending the U of S.

The operating budget

revenue is only about half of the total money the university receives in a year. The remainder comes in the form of funding for specific purposes like capital and research.

On the expense side, the cost of salaries and benefits are expected to climb by 1.66 per cent, to \$304 million across all employee groups.

The Board of Governors will consider the university annual capital plan at its June meeting.

Additional information about the 2013-14 operating budget can be found at [usask.ca/finances](http://usask.ca/finances) ■

FROM THE ARCHIVES

## First employee

✍ PATRICK HAYES, U OF S ARCHIVES

## Professors recognized for distinguished work



Billinton



Classen



Leong



Rajput

The designation distinguished professor has been conferred on four individuals at the U of S, recognition of their achievements in research, scholarly and artistic work.

Three professor emeriti – Dr. Ali Rajput in the Department of Medicine, Che Kan Leong in the Department of Educational Psychology and Special Education, and Roy Billinton in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering – along with Hank Classen in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science join 10 others who have received the designation since the Distinguished Professorship program was established in 2010.

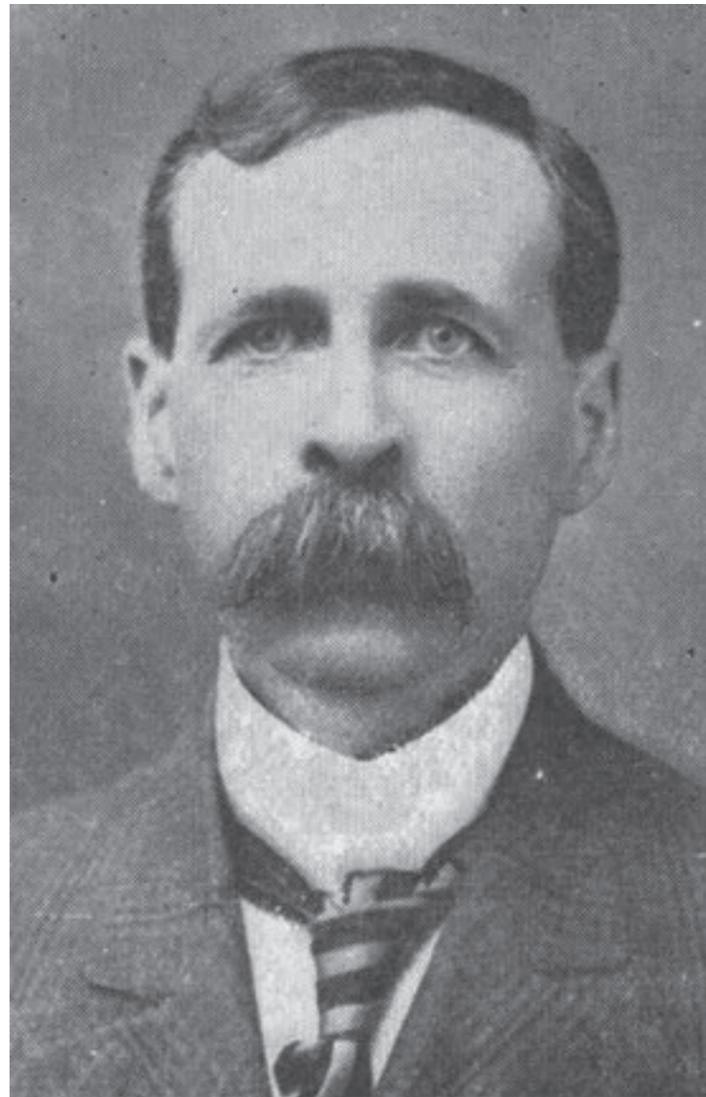
Rajput is a world-renowned expert on movement disorders. He has undertaken critical investigations in the causes of Parkinson's disease and is part of an international research team that recently discovered a gene mutation that can lead to Parkinson's. At the U of S, Rajput established one of the world's largest banks of autopsied brains from Parkinson's patients, which draws scientists from all over the world to his laboratory for research and collaboration.

Leong is a leading expert on the science of reading and development dyslexia. His work has broadened the understanding of the cognitive processes involved in reading and learning to read. In recent years, he has become one of the first researchers to study the processes involved in reading Chinese and to examine the similarities and differences between reading different languages and scripts.

Classen's contributions to poultry welfare, nutrition and management have had a significant effect on the industry with regards to improving animal health and introducing cost-saving measures. He investigated the processes involved in nutrient absorption and is a world authority on lighting regimens, demonstrating that lighting influences the feeding behaviour and health of poultry. Classen has also demonstrated that poultry transport conditions have a serious effect on the welfare, mortality and meat quality.

Billinton is an internationally recognized leader in power system reliability, economics and performance. He developed a wide range of techniques to evaluate the reliability of power systems and has made significant contributions to the development and application of techniques to measure past performance and predict power system reliability. Billinton is co-founder of the Power System Research Group at the U of S, which has become known internationally for pioneering research in the field.

"The contributions of these four scholars are outstanding," said Jim Germida, vice-provost of faculty relations. "Researchers of this calibre advance the U of S as a world-class institution." ■



U of S Archives, ASM-5

The first university employee was Registrar Duncan P. McColl. This was one of two administrative positions named in the *University Act* of 1907. The other was president, which would not be filled for another year.

McColl had been appointed Deputy Minister of Education in 1905 and would remain so until 1912. When named registrar, the university was just a concept - there were no buildings, no faculty and no staff. McColl was seen as an able administrator and quickly began the work of establishing convocation. This in turn elected the Senate, which would create the Board of Governors. He resigned as registrar in 1914 and was immediately named secretary of the board where he served for another two decades. In 1928, McColl was awarded an honorary degree and died in Vancouver in 1949. ■

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[usask.ca/newssurvey](http://usask.ca/newssurvey)

## Another year over and done

### Editor's Note

This issue of *On Campus News* marks the end of our 20th year of publishing and it's time to thank everyone who contacted us with story ideas, shared their knowledge and passion for their work, submitted to interviews, and stood still for photos. (Another year is over and we are still waiting to meet a single person who does *not* say, "I hate having my photo taken.")

As we wrap up one publishing year, we are already preparing for another. Below you will find our publishing schedule for 2013-14. Keep it handy – our deadlines are carved in stone.

We will start the new publishing year by reporting back to you on the results of our news reader survey, which you can complete at [usask.ca/newssurvey](http://usask.ca/newssurvey). We are looking for your views on whether you are getting the news and information you need in the format you prefer.

And, over the summer months, we will continue to publish *On Campus Now*, which will appear in your inbox every other Friday, and news and information will continually be updated on the news site – [news.usask.ca](http://news.usask.ca)

Ed.

## ocn Publishing Schedule 2013-14

No.	Issue Date	Deadline Date
1	Aug. 30, 2013	Aug. 22, 2013
2	Sept. 13, 2013	Sept. 5, 2013
3	Sept. 27, 2013	Sept. 19, 2013
4	Oct. 11, 2013	Oct. 3, 2013
5	Oct. 25, 2013	Oct. 17, 2013
6	Nov. 8, 2013	Oct. 31, 2013
7	Nov. 22, 2013	Nov. 14, 2013
8	Dec. 6, 2013	Nov. 28, 2013
9	Jan. 10, 2014	Jan. 2, 2014
10	Jan. 24, 2014	Jan. 16, 2014
11	Feb. 7, 2014	Jan. 30, 2014
12	Feb. 28, 2014	Feb. 20, 2014
13	March 14, 2014	March 6, 2014
14	March 28, 2014	March 20, 2014
15	April 11, 2014	April 3, 2014
16	April 25, 2014	April 17, 2014
17	May 9, 2014	May 1, 2014
18	May 23, 2014	May 15, 2014

## ocn 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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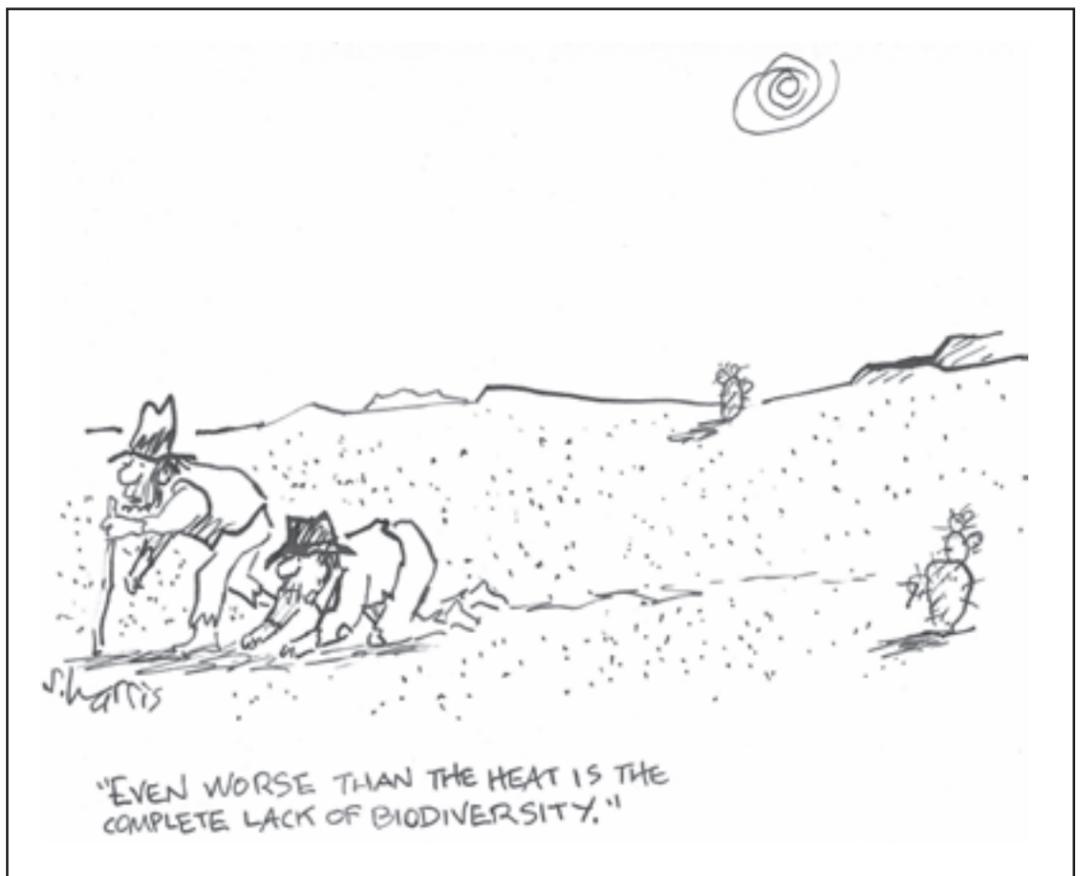
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ISSN: 1195-7654

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# Thoughts about change in academic institutions

Since he took office as provost and vice-president academic, Brett Fairbairn has made it a point to deliver an annual address to the community, a lecture of sorts that allows him to explore the issues beyond the day-to-day activities of his office or the university as a whole. This year, as an alternative to a presentation in Convocation Hall, the provost sat down for an interview with *On Campus News* editor Colleen MacPherson to explore one idea that has been on his mind – universities and the process of change.

### OCN: Do you view universities as institutions that adapt well to change?

**Brett Fairbairn:** Universities are pretty stable organizations. It's one of our characteristics and it's one of our strengths. We don't aim to change everything from week to week although we do aim to be responsive to big trends in society. Right now, there's a lot of change going on in universities, including our own.

### OCN: What's driving that change?

**BF:** There's change in the public-policy environment, in the expectations of government, in funding, in the expectations by parents, the public and the media. That's pretty pervasive. I've recently been looking at universities in England for example, where they're facing a completely different environment and a need to be responsive to student demands in ways they never have been before. And in ways we haven't seen here.

This is an abridged version of the interview. To read the full version, visit [usask.ca/vpacademic](http://usask.ca/vpacademic)

### OCN: Are we feeling those pressures here?

**BF:** The trends are similar throughout the developed world but the intensity and the exact combination of things are different in different places. I think the media, the public, parents, students and governments actually have similar interests everywhere and those interests get expressed in different policies, in different decisions, in different countries, so I can see similarities in what's going on in Saskatchewan with what's going on in the United States, in Europe and in other provinces in Canada.

### OCN: You say the U of S has been sheltered. Do you think that will always be the case?

**BF:** We don't know the future but my hope is that we'll continue to be exposed to moderate demands and expectations from the external public. What's also nice about that is that when the pace of change is a little bit more moderate, we are in a position to be more deliberate and take our time to think about things. There are things we do under financial pressure but there are things we can also take the time to think about and do right.

### OCN: What is it about universities as institutions that make significant change so difficult?

**BF:** We take a long-term view of things because when we have a transaction with a client, that's



Fairbairn

usually a four-year interaction with a student to get a degree. That's different from health care or a business when a transaction may be a minute, or five minutes, or a few days. We also take a long-term view because we have alumni out there and the value of their degrees, even though they finished studying years ago, depends in part on what our university does today. So, we have long-term responsibilities to bodies of knowledge, to professions, to disciplines, to communities of people. That's all inherent in being a university.

### OCN: Are there some things about universities that cannot or should not change?

**BF:** That goes back to the definition of what a university is. There are things about a university so fundamental that, if you changed them, everyone would

See Benefits, Page 9

# Improved PAWS coming in July

by JENNIFER WEBBER FORREST

There are big changes in store for PAWS, and those changes are much more than skin deep. This July, the university's web portal will launch a dramatically different layout that will change how the U of S community accesses information and completes online tasks.

"This is not just a 'prettification,'" said Medbh English, content and communications specialist with the PAWS team. "It's a completely different approach to how we deliver content."

In fact, when designer Colin Skrapek unveiled the demo version to the PAWS team, English's first reaction was, "Wow. This is going to be good."

Not only is the new user interface cleaner and less cluttered, said English, the whole previous structure – which

“It's a completely different approach to how we deliver content.”

Medbh English

saw boxed channel content appear on multiple tabs such as Employee or Admin Services – is gone altogether.

Instead, all content will be accessible from the new PAWS homepage. Task-based channels such as registration and employee vacation time reporting will be a click away. Timely content will appear in a prominent centre column, making it easier to see announcements, bulletins and news feeds. One-time tasks like



Medbh English, PAWS content and communications specialist JERROD DIETRICH

voting or Aboriginal self-declaration will show up at the top of that centre column and remain there until either completed or dismissed.

"You won't have to go

searching around to find things," said English. "It's a more intuitive site."

The changes are largely the result of a response from PAWS users, said English. Overwhelm-

ingly, staff and students said they wanted things easier to find; cleaner and more streamlined were common themes in a user survey conducted this past year.

The PAWS team within Information and Communications Technology (ICT) set as a goal to deliver relevant, timely and useful content, said English, and to make it work on a variety of different formats, from desktop to hand-held devices. For English, the team effort was a success: "It not only looks a lot better, it works better."

She added the PAWS team is also working closely with the ICT Help Desk and ICT Training Services to ensure a smooth transition for users. ■

*Jennifer Webber Forrest is communications specialist in ICT.*

# Starting the day with a healthy stretch

From head to toe, University Library employees are getting a good stretch in before the workday starts with the launch of a six-week pilot program called Stretch to De-stress.

"This is for our health and wellness," said Anna Gersher, a copy cataloguer who, as a member of the library's learning and development committee, got the stretching program started for library employees. "I've been thinking about some type of program like this for a few years. A lot of us (in the libraries) sit out our desks anywhere from 80 to 90 per cent of the day, so this program recognizes the impact that has on us physically."

Library administration was very supportive of the program, so Gersher got in touch with Tim Black, a university consultant with Health and Safety Environmental Management System, who set her up with David Kobylak, a kinesiology grad and fitness trainer who offered to lead the program.

"When you have a sedentary job that has you sitting so much, your posture really slips," explained Kobylak. "You go from sitting to slouching and this causes all sorts of problems, especially with your back."

So every Tuesday and Thursday morning for about 30 minutes, a group of employees gathers in a staff lounge on the sixth floor of the Murray Library where Kobylak leads them through a series of stretches, working everything from the ankles and calves, up through the back, shoulders and neck.

"Even just a bit of stretching helps posture, releases stress, increases energy and helps relaxation," said Kobylak.

"I love it," said Gersher. "I'm hooked and I already look forward to it even after a couple sessions.



Gersher

David is not paid much for the learning we are getting from him ... and we are learning to do the stretches properly by a professional. My hope is that we will learn and be comfortable doing

this in the work environment."

The response has been positive from library employees too, Gersher continued, with each session having more people attend than the previous.

"I think some of us are surprised at how much better we feel after," she said. "I challenge the entire campus community to this type of health and wellness activity. My hope is that we will apply what we have learned in the six weeks, and bring back a similar program later in the fall." ■



Library employees stretching for health and wellness. KRIS FOSTER



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# Gallery caters to emerging artists

by LANA HAIGHT

A new art gallery with University of Saskatchewan connections is all about accessibility for those creating the art and those wanting to purchase it.

"We don't show work that we couldn't afford ourselves," said Michael Peterson, one of three owners of the new gallery called void. "It's not free but it's accessible in concept and in price."

Peterson graduated from the U of S in 2009 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in printmaking and again in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in mathematics. He has worked in the Department of Art and Art History in a number of positions including as a printmaking technician and sessional lecturer.

Peterson recognizes how difficult it is for emerging artists to find an inviting space in Saskatoon to show their work.

"How do you get a gallery to sell your work without a sales history and how do you get a sales history unless you get a gallery to sell your work? The commercial

“We help the students learn professional practices that would be required by a commercial gallery. We're a soft landing space for them.

Michael Peterson

galleries want to know they're going to be able to make sales," said Peterson.

"We decided that we can start showing the works and selling the works and help (students and other emerging artists) establish a sales history while at the same time we help the students learn professional practices that would be required by a commercial gallery. We're a soft landing space for them."

Because Peterson, along with his partners Kris Kershaw and Nelson Fraser, want art to be accessible to the general public, they have also established off-site

galleries in some Saskatoon businesses. Peterson said it is less intimidating for art buyers who may not be comfortable going to an actual gallery and it provides the artists greater exposure.

And he loves working with Saskatoon's emerging artists.

"They have so much energy. A lot of exciting and interesting work is coming out of (the U of S) program."

The main gallery's current exhibition, *Fair & Square*, features new works by Ink Slab Printmakers. The month-long show runs until June 2 with a reception May 24 from 7 to 9 pm. Most of



Michael Peterson, co-owner of void gallery

KRIS FOSTER

the members of the printmakers collective are current or former University of Saskatchewan students who no longer have access to university equipment. Last year, they established their own studio with a printing press so they can continue creating art.

Located at the corner of 8th Street East and Clarence Avenue,

void is open Thursdays and Fridays from 6 to 9 pm, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm, and by appointment. Off-site galleries include the Little Market Store at the Saskatoon Farmers' Market. ■

Lana Haight is a Saskatoon freelance writer.

## Wheat alliance aims to improve crop yields

by KIRA GLASSCOCK

The U of S will play a key role in the effort to improve wheat quality and productivity with the announcement of a new partnership made May 16 on campus.

"Each partner brings a unique area of expertise to the table," said President Ilene Busch-Vishniac of the new Canadian Wheat Alliance. "Combined, these complementary areas of knowledge—in wheat breeding, genomics, biotechnology and pathology—set the Canadian Wheat Alliance up for long-term and continued

success."

As part of the alliance, the U of S will work to improve Canadian yields by developing new and improved varieties of wheat that are resistant to disease and extreme weather conditions, such as drought, heat and cold. University of Saskatchewan researchers will work with experts from the National Research Council of Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and the Government of Saskatchewan to ensure global competitiveness of Canadian wheat farmers and

boost the value of the Canadian farm economy by a cumulative total of \$4.5 billion by 2031.

Busch-Vishniac explained that there is already extensive research being done at the U of S to improve crops. Researchers will continue to develop more high-yielding crops that allow producers to grow more food on the same amount of land. They are also investigating how wheat can address health and diet issues.

"One focus is carbohydrates, a major source of calories in the

human diet," she said. "Our research aims to improve the profile of slow-digestible carbohydrates in cereal and pulses. Such carbohydrates provide protection against diabetes and cardiovascular disease."

The federal government will invest nearly \$85 million and make in-kind contributions to the alliance. The provincial government has committed an additional \$10 million to support wheat research in Saskatchewan over the next five years. Busch-Vishniac

indicated that the alliance would aid the university in continuing to develop and share knowledge with the agriculture and food industries.

"We are working to strengthen Saskatchewan's agricultural leadership with new science, technology and policies to help feed a hungry world adequately, safely and sustainably," she said. ■

Kira Glasscock is communications co-ordinator in the College of Agriculture and Bioresources

## Notice of U of S Alumni Association's Annual General Meeting

Date. June 19 / Time. 6:30 pm / Place. Convocation Hall

Volunteer recognition and reception to follow the meeting  
Reports and agenda will be made available online at [alumni.usask.ca/association/agm](http://alumni.usask.ca/association/agm)  
RSVP online at [alumni.usask.ca/events/registration](http://alumni.usask.ca/events/registration) or call 1-800-699-1907.

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
**ALUMNI**  
ASSOCIATION

# Spring Convocation 2013

➤ The word “convocation” arises from the Latin “con” meaning “together” and “vocare” meaning “to call.” The convocation ceremony is a calling together of new graduates.

The University of Saskatchewan’s Spring Convocation will take place June 3-6 and in addition to awarding thousands of degrees to students, a number of honorary degrees and awards will be presented to very deserving individuals. To read the full citations, visit [awards.usask.ca](http://awards.usask.ca)



**Honorary Doctor of Laws**  
Fred Carmichael

Fred Carmichael is a businessman, commercial pilot, political leader and Gwich'in Elder who exemplifies the spirit of Aboriginal Northerners. Born in Aklavik, Northwest Territories, he founded a number of aviation businesses and has almost 60 years of accident-free flying. Carmichael served as president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and CEO of the Gwich'in Development Corporation, and director of the Aboriginal Pipeline Group. He is dedicated to his goal of self-sufficiency for the Aboriginal people, through building an economic base for northern communities. He is passionate in his efforts to encourage young people to continue their education.



**Honorary Doctor of Laws**  
Ron Graham

Ron Graham graduated from the U of S in 1962 with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and that same year, joined the family construction business, P.W. Graham & Sons Ltd. in Moose Jaw. In 1978, he became president and CEO, and today, the company called Graham Group Ltd. is an industry leader. Over that same time, Graham has supported numerous athletic programs, academic programs and scholarships, including the Centre for Communication Studies in the College of Engineering and the Huskie Clubhouse expansion, demonstrating a life-long commitment to the University of Saskatchewan.



**Honorary Doctor of Laws**  
Otto Lang

The Honourable Otto Lang has made significant contributions to the legal, social, political and business development of Canada. Lang was a Rhodes Scholar, and at the age of 29, was appointed the dean of law at the University of Saskatchewan. He was elected to the Canadian House of Commons in 1968 representing Saskatoon-Humboldt and held various cabinet portfolios. He left politics in 1979 and served in executive positions with Pioneer Grain Co. Ltd., the Transport Institute at the University of Manitoba and Centra Gas Manitoba Inc.



**Honorary Doctor of Science**  
Gordon Keller

Dr. Gordon Keller is known around the world as a leading stem cell scientist in regenerative medicine, focusing his research on replacing or repairing damaged tissue. A graduate of the University of Saskatchewan, Keller is director of the McEwen Centre for Regenerative Medicine in Toronto, holds the Canada Research Chair in Embryonic Stem Cell Biology, is a senior scientist at the Ontario Cancer Institute and a professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto. He works to understand how a unique stem cell called the pluripotent stem cell gives rise to specialized cell types and tissues in a Petri dish.



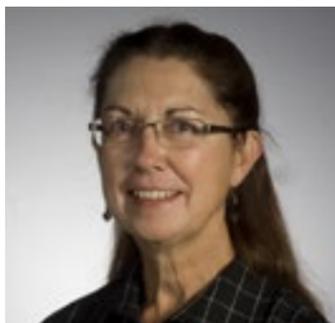
**President's Service Award**  
Laura Kennedy

Laura Kennedy, the university's vice-president financial services and controller, is well known for her personal and professional commitment to the U of S. Starting as budget director in 1993 and continuing to her current position, Kennedy has led multiple initiatives, many to accommodate changes in financial reporting, others to enhance the university's financial practices, all vital in the day-to-day activities of a modern public organization. Her work as chair of the Canadian Association of University Business Officers' finance committee earned her that organization's Outstanding Contribution Award in 2009.



**Master Teacher Award**  
Norman Sheehan

Norman Sheehan is an associate professor of accounting and a Grandey Leadership Scholar in the Edwards School of Business where he has taught in the commerce, professional accounting, business administration, special case PhD and executive education programs. Students credit Sheehan with creating an environment where they want to share their ideas and learn from one another, and they learn through hands-on activities that range from making and selling paper airplanes to analyzing business cases and creating personal codes of conduct. Sheehan also generously shares these innovations with instructors and practitioners around the world.



**Award for Distinction in Community-Engaged Teaching and Scholarship**  
Lou Hammond Ketilson

Lou Hammond Ketilson is a leading scholar, researcher, advocate and mentor for co-operative businesses and organizations. Her skills in building strong relationships have helped many co-operatives and enhanced the reputation of the U of S. Ketilson is director of the Centre for the Study of Co-operatives at the U of S and holds an academic position in the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Perhaps her greatest asset is her ability to integrate academic theory with practical application to benefit the people with whom she works.



**Award for Distinction in Outreach and Public Service**  
Bill Waiser

Bill Waiser has successfully melded scholarship and story telling as an historian. He has earned a reputation as an engaging and entertaining speaker who brings historical stories and characters to life. Waiser is a professor of history and A.S. Morton Distinguished Research Chair in the College of Arts and Science. He has served as head of the Department of History and as graduate director. Prior to joining the U of S, he was Yukon historian for the Canadian Parks Service. His most recent books is *Tommy's Team: The People behind the Douglas Years*.



**Distinguished Researcher Award**  
James Waldram

James Waldram, professor in the Departments of Psychology, and Archaeology and Anthropology, is trained in medical and psychological anthropology. He is recognized internationally for his community-based research and has established an extraordinary research program that advances knowledge of Aboriginal health and healing, cultural epidemiology, environmental risks and rights, and institutional ethnography. A prolific researcher and author, he is invited to speak at events around the world and his work has been recognized with a number of awards, most recently the Weaver-Tremblay Award from the Canadian Anthropology Society.

# Stress and the art of memory making

by MICHAEL ROBIN

In John Howland's lab, a lot of effort has gone into entertaining rats and putting them to work – all the better to understand how stress affects memory making and thinking.

"What we're interested in is looking at how memory might be disrupted under certain conditions," explained Howland of the Neural Systems and Plasticity Research Group in the College of Medicine. "Stress has complex effects – it can facilitate or impair memory and cognition."

Howland and his team are studying how the brain adapts to changing circumstances to understand its "executive

functions" like working memory, planning, attention, problem solving and reasoning.

The rats in question spend their work days in boxes that resemble mini-video theatres, complete with small screens. They learn to touch the screen when they see "image A" to get a food reward, while touching "image B" gives them nothing. Once they've mastered the task, the researchers switch it up so that image B now gives the reward – and they add a stressor such as mild foot shock.

"What we've found is if you give the stress right before you ask them to change the contingency to go from A to B, it

“Stress has complex effects – it can facilitate or impair memory and cognition.

John Howland

actually improves performance. So they're faster," Howland said. "It's like an exam. You need to be a little scared of the exam. That's when you perform your best. You don't perform your best when you're perfectly prepared, and you have no arousal at all."

While the extra stress may give the rats an edge, it does not necessarily mean the knowledge will make it into long-term memory.

"You learned something yesterday, but it doesn't really matter today because you just experienced more stress. It's a totally different world now. You're much more interested in what you have to do to get out of the stressful situation, not what happened yesterday. So you've suppressed that memory."

In another project, the researchers mapped out some of the chemistry behind how stress affects memory.

Stress reduces activity in the hippocampus – the part of the brain where memories are formed. Once the stress is removed, activity returns to normal. Howland has found that by using a drug to block certain chemical channels in the brain called glutamate receptors, this effect can be turned off.

"That type of change in brain activity seems to be critical for the memory retrieval problems," he said. "We've really narrowed in and specified that change as being critical and that relies on glutamate receptors."

Howland explained these short-term stress effects are part of the body's emergency response system, originally evolved for immediate action such as escaping a predator. The brain sends a signal to the



Howland

adrenal glands; the adrenal glands flood the body, including the brain, with stress hormones to respond to the threat. Ideally, everything returns to normal when the danger has passed.

Problems arise when, in effect, the alarm does not shut off – a common occurrence for humans in the fast-paced, stress-filled modern world.

"When the lion is about to chew your arm off, the stress response is absolutely essential. It's how you run away and survive. But you can't be in a cage with that lion forever."

Chronic stress has been linked to clinical depression, and while he specializes in the immediate stress response, Howland said there is a lot of overlap, and in fact some of the drugs used in his lab have gone on to become antidepressants. He hopes that understanding the short-term stress response will be valuable to other researchers working on chronic stress. ■

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## Applications for Graduate House now open



[livewithus.usask.ca](http://livewithus.usask.ca)

## 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)



Prostate cancer researcher **Joyce Davison** joined the College of Nursing in August 2010 from British Columbia, where she was director of the Patient Education and Research Center at the Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital.

The clinician and researcher, who grew up near Pelly, Sask., specializes in tools and strategies to help men decide what to do when diagnosed with prostate cancer. "They (men) basically have four main things they want to know at the time of diagnosis," she said. "They want to know about prognosis – how long are they going to live? How far has this cancer progressed? What are my treatment options, and what are the side effects of these treatment options?"

Davison is providing input to the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health on standardizing care for prostate cancer patients, and is working on an online program to help cancer patients and their partners work through treatment options. Right now, she is recruiting patients to test the program.

"If it is a good project and good internet program like I think it is – and I think it's going to be – then if I could get patients faster, the faster this can be implemented so people can actually use it." ■

# Benefits, risks inherent in change

From Page 4

agree that what you have left is no longer a university. That's really important to think about and that is about the values of the institution and some of the structures that are really closely related to those values.

■ **OCN: Are you saying that neither the values nor the structures that make a university what it is should change?**

BF: Not exactly. I view the values and the commitments of a university as more permanent and the actual structures as being more changeable. I think what's really permanent are the values, the mission, the relations with community – the ideas that are in the minds of the public and the participants. All the other stuff, in times like this, we realize is more ephemeral. You can change how the parts of a university are organized and fit together without changing what it means to be a university.

■ **OCN: Can you describe what you mean by structures?**

BF: When I think about structures, I think about how jobs are defined, to whom people report, how people are organized into units, with whom they work on a daily basis, how those units are funded, governance, decision making, the framework for all the personal and social things that people do. What I'm not thinking about is any unit in particular.

■ **OCN: You mentioned we've been somewhat sheltered from the forces of change and have the luxury of being able to prepare but we still have to deal with short-term realities like budget deficits.**

BF: A couple of thoughts. I don't think change is only about public policy and budgets. It's also about things we choose to do based on our environment and on our values and goals. For example, our commitment to research intensiveness, to being a member of the U15, is not because anyone told us, "you must do this." That was generated from within as a way of charting our course in the 21st-century environment. Similarly, our commitment to First Nations, Métis and Indigenous education and research – again, we are choosing that commitment for very good reasons. We're doing it with our eyes open but it's us choosing to do it.

■ **OCN: Universities are, at their heart, communities of people. What does change mean for them?**

BF: What it means for people in the university is similar to what it means for people in any organization. Every person in the university will have changes in their job, in

their work environment, in their relations with their co-workers as a result of all these things that are going on. I certainly do in my job. One of the things that I think is really interesting is seeing the growing emphasis on collaboration in the university.

■ **OCN: Why is collaboration so important?**

BF: It means that for me, and for every employee, there's more possibility, there's openness and there are other people to share work with. But it also makes the institutional environment more complicated in some ways.

■ **OCN: How?**

BF: The advantage of a silo organization is that to do my job, I only really need to know what's inside my silo. In the new environment, to do my job I have to know more about what everyone else is doing so that's actually a pretty significant change.

■ **OCN: Can you talk a bit about the role of leadership during times of institutional change?**

BF: The leadership piece is critical. Leadership is more demanding and is changing in this environment. The basic functions and roles aren't changed from what they were before – deans are still accountable for what they were accountable for previously – but in a time of change, there's a lot more weight on that role. Often I think people in leadership roles have to dig deeper and come up with more creativity, with more inspiration, with more persuasion in order to help keep everything working the way it needs to.

■ **OCN: Is there anyone untouched by the kinds of change we're seeing at the U of S?**

BF: One of the things that we hope for is that there will be as little change, or change only of the positive kind, for students, and as much as possible, everyone is working to ensure as much as possible that is the case.

■ **OCN: Speaking generally, how do you see the process of change unfolding at a university?**

BF: Innovation or change usually looks like a long, long, long build-up period when things change slowly. You can think of it as momentum. There's a period of rapid change and a period of consolidation and preparation for what comes next.

■ **OCN: Where is the U of S at in that cycle?**

BF: We've been, for at least a decade, in this long build-up period and I think we're getting into a period of rapid change. It doesn't go on forever and that's

important for people to think about. I believe there's probably a period of at least five years of really rapid change and one of the things that can be exciting about that is it's a time when people can make a big difference to the institution.

■ **OCN: How?**

BF: If you were going to put time into improving processes or programs, reorganizing, trying out new forms of teaching and learning or new approaches to research and you had a choice about whether to do it now or five years from now, my advice would be do it now. Because there's so much in motion, that's actually an opportunity for people to step forward and shape the institution for how it's going to be in the future.

■ **OCN: What are the risks inherent in change for a university?**

BF: There are always risks. Some people underestimate the risks and jump into fundamental change too lightly. Others overestimate the risks and are too cautious. By and large, it isn't very common that we've jumped in too quickly. We think very carefully in universities because we usually have time to do so. Sometimes that means we study the risks to death instead of actually trying things.

■ **OCN: What should we be particularly aware of?**

BF: Usually the biggest risks the institution faces are the flip side of our biggest goals. We think about engaging with First Nations and Métis people as an opportunity. The risk that goes with it is that if we fail to do so, the university won't be

performing its mission and outcomes for society will be less. The risk is often just failing to do what is important to us. Doing nothing has big risks too.

■ **OCN: So there are risks and benefits to change. How do you think about it?**

BF: I'm certainly focused on potential. When I think about change, it has mostly positive associations for me so that excites me. That's partly because I have great faith in our community to protect the things that shouldn't change. We have lots of people in whom the values of the university are really strong. If you trust the people and the values, I think you can be really positive about the opportunities that change brings.

■ **OCN: On a personal note, what keeps you awake at night?**

BF: Not much. I sleep well.

■ **OCN: There's nothing you worry about?**

BF: I try to do my job really well because it involves supporting so many other people. The part that I find really awkward is how many different threads there are to keep track of in this job so I worry about forgetting one of them. If there are 30 things that need doing at once and I only remember to do 29 of them, occasionally I will wake up at night and often I'll make a note and just go back to sleep. That's okay for the things that I can personally do or influence. I also have hopes and fears for the university as a whole and all its people. For the most part, if I'm going to worry, I only worry about the things I can change. ■

Financial Services | **FSD**  
Division

## Web Browsers and UniFi Self-Service

For employees creating Journal Vouchers (JVs) or Purchase Requisitions in UniFi Self-Service, do not use Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) as your web browser. FSD has had numerous reports of duplicate documents being created when IE9 is being used. There has been a similar case for Google Chrome, as well.

Instead, since IE9 is not yet a supported browser for UniFi Self-Service:

- Create JVs and Purchase Requisitions using UniFi Plus.
- Use Firefox or IE8 as your web browser if you prefer to use UniFi Self-Service.

## PCard Reminders

### Basics

- used for purchase of goods and *select* services—some restrictions apply
- card applicants attend a mandatory information session, where they typically receive their card
- there are only two ways to buy goods and services at the university: with a PCard or purchase requisition leading to a purchase order (PO)
- PCard transaction limit: \$5,000 (including taxes, shipping charges, currency exchange, etc.)
- for purchases of goods and services over \$5,000, a PO must be completed
- a PO is required for purchases under \$5,000 that are ineligible for PCard use if ordering by fax, use the PCard Fax Order Form found on FSD's website (*Forms* page)

### Ordering Outside Canada

- fax the Shipping to Canada Instructions for Credit Card Purchases form to the supplier(s)
- fax the PCard Fax Order Form to both the supplier and the university customs broker

### More Information

- consult the PCard Guidelines on FSD's website, accessible at either the *Buying Goods & Services* page or *Guidelines & Procedures* page
- PCard holders can attend a refresher session anytime by emailing [payment\\_inquiries@usask.ca](mailto:payment_inquiries@usask.ca)
- for purchase-related inquiries: 306-966-6704 or [purchasing.services@usask.ca](mailto:purchasing.services@usask.ca)
- for all other inquiries: 306-966-8323 or [payment\\_inquiries@usask.ca](mailto:payment_inquiries@usask.ca)

## Upcoming Training

UniFi – Fast Finance Reporting  
1:30–3:30pm, May 28  
RM 281, John Mitchell Building  
**To register:** [training.usask.ca](http://training.usask.ca)

[usask.ca/fsd](http://usask.ca/fsd)

**Need help with UniFi?**  
Call 306-966-8783 or email [unifisupport@usask.ca](mailto:unifisupport@usask.ca)

UNIVERSITY OF  
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**FSD**



**Financial Town Hall #5**  
Operating budget adjustments update

Provost and Vice-President Academic **Brett Fairbairn** and Acting Vice-President Finance and Resources **Greg Fowler** will provide an update on **operating budget adjustments** and answer your questions.

Join us from 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm in Convocation Hall on **Thursday, June 13.**

Everyone is encouraged to attend.

For more information and to watch live online, visit [usask.ca/finances](http://usask.ca/finances)

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

# Coming Events

## ■ Courses/Workshops

### 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

- 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

- Skills-focused classes for summer term July-August: writing, reading, listening, speaking and pronunciation. To register or for more information, call 306-966-4351 or visit [ccde.usask.ca/PTESL](http://ccde.usask.ca/PTESL)

### 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 27, June 3, July 24 and Aug. 15, 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: June 10, June 25 and July 25, 1-4 pm; Aug. 14, 8:30-11:30 am
- Safety Orientation for Supervisors: June 17 and July 10, 1-4 pm; Aug. 22, 9-noon
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods (Receiver): June 17, 11-noon

### Continuing Education and Development for Nurses

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

- 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 - 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, June 5 and 12, 6-9 pm OR July 23 and 25, 1:30-4:30 pm, \$125 students; \$150 staff and faculty; \$185 others

- Adobe Photoshop - Intermediate, June 25 and 27, 1:30-4:30 pm \$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
  - ArcGIS – Introduction, May 27 and 29, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$0 students, staff and faculty; \$185 others
  - BbLearn / U of S Course Tools - Instructor Workshop, May 24, 1:30-4 pm, \$0 staff and faculty; n/a 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
  - SAS for Windows - Introduction, May 28 and 30, 6:30-9:30 pm, \$0 students, staff and faculty; \$185 others
  - Security: Network Penetration Testing and Countermeasures, July 22-26, 9 am-4:30 pm, \$2250 students, staff and faculty; \$3800 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.

## ■ Miscellany

### Brown Bag Lunch Series

Student Health Services presents Craving Change™, a how-to workshop about relationships with food. The six, one-hour lunch sessions (noon-1 pm) run June 4, 6, 11, 13, 21 and 23 in Room 323 Place Riel Student Centre. The cost is \$65 or \$50 for a full-time student. To register or for more information, contact Cathy Langdon at [clangdon2@shaw.ca](mailto:clangdon2@shaw.ca)

### 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)

### Breakfast with the President

Ilene Busch-Vishniac will host a final President's Breakfasts at the University Club May 31 starting at 7:30 am. Call 966-7775 to make a reservation.

## ■ The Arts

### Creatures in translation

A solo exhibition of new sculpture and prints by Saskatoon artist and Dept. of Art and Art History head Susan Shantz entitled *Creatures in translation* can be seen until Aug. 30 in the Kenderdine Art Gallery in the Agriculture Building.

### 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.

### College Art Galleries – Main Level

On view May 28 and continuing throughout the summer in the College Art Galleries is *William Pehudoff: 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. A public reception will be held May 31 at 7:30 am.

### College Art Galleries – Lower Level

Opening May 28 is *Zip the Bright*, an exhibition of animated gifs by Sara Ludy, Lorna Mills, Nicolas Sassoon and Rick Silva. A reception will be held May 31 starting at 8 pm and the exhibition continues until Aug. 30.

### 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.

## ■ Seminars/Lectures

### Gender and Health

- June 5, 1:30-2:30 pm, Room A226 Health Sciences, Dr. Joy Johnson, scientific director of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Gender and Health, will present a public information session about the institute.

### Libraries Conference Speakers

The Canadian Health Libraries Association annual conference in Saskatoon includes a presentation that is open to the public with a \$25 admission fee. It takes 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 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.

## ■ 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

Information for Coming Events will be accepted until 5 pm on deadline day.

Next OCN: Friday, Aug 30, 2013  
Deadline: Thursday, Aug 22, 2013

[ocn@usask.ca](mailto:ocn@usask.ca), fax 966-6815  
or use web submission form at [www.usask.ca/ocn](http://www.usask.ca/ocn)

# Decision-making lab hosts multi-disciplinary research

✍ MICHAEL ROBIN

A trio of researchers at the new Experimental Decision Laboratory is striving to better understand how individuals, groups and even nations make decisions about innovation that affect health care, food, business, and even personal lives.

"The socio-economic world is inextricably linked to the political and policy space," said Peter Phillips, professor with the Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, explaining that decisions are made at all stages of innovation, from early development and evaluation, to public approval and acceptance.

The lab, located in the Social Sciences Research Laboratory in the Arts Building, is unusual

in that it combines research in three disciplines – public policy, psychology and economics. This is a powerful combination, said Phillips, who co-leads the lab with James Nolan, associate professor in the Department of Bioresource Policy, Business and Economics, and Valerie Thompson, professor and head of the Department of Psychology.

"Being able to test for the full array of effects, separately, and then jointly, will help us understand more completely the challenges of generating optimal innovation," Phillips said.

Phillips explained that the three disciplines are all interested in decision-making, but from different angles. Psychologists are often

interested in cognitive capacity, economists in transactions and exchanges, and policy analysts in how individual decisions affect others.

In particular, the researchers will be looking at how people's biases affect decision-making in areas like expert-lay relationships (as in health care), markets for new products and regulation of new technologies and innovative products.

Phillips cites research that shows that all decisions will be biased, but context is everything. In general, the more comfortable people are, the less risk they will accept.

"If people start from a happy place, people are risk averse; if

they start from a point of crisis, they can be induced to take a lot more risk," he said. "That generates conflict in decision systems."

Complexity is also a factor. For example, regulators and politicians, when faced with ever-more complicated evidence and decision criteria, may simply opt to "go with their gut."

"This can lead to too many good ideas being rejected, while at the same time accepting too many high-risk options," he said.

The lab features computer cubicles, where participants are isolated and given various tasks to complete. Video captures non-verbal cues like posture and how participants' eyes move as

they make decisions.

He said a mobile version of the lab will allow research to move into the field, "to doctor's offices, to farms, to professional conferences and inside firms, NGOs and government agencies" to see if real-world results match those from the main lab.

Finishing touches on the lab are being completed, and the researchers are designing experiments to be conducted once it opens this summer.

"Ultimately, we anticipate we can work with key partners in industry, government and civil society to help them construct more effective 'choice architecture' to improve their own decision making." ■

## Around the Bowl

**Mary Ellen Andrews** has been appointed to the position of acting associate dean of the College of Nursing's North and Northwestern Saskatchewan Campus and Rural and Remote Engagement for a one-year term starting July 1.



**Andrews**



**Murphy**

**Shaun Murphy**, a faculty member in the Dept. of Educational Foundations, has been awarded the American Educational Research Association Narrative Research SIG's Early Career Award. The award recognizes narrative research by early career national and international scholars.

Starting in July, **Ray Spiteri**, professor in the Dept. of Computer Science, will take on the position of president of the Canadian Applied and Industrial Mathematics Society (CAIMS), an organization with a growing presence in industrial, mathematical, scientific and technological circles both inside and outside of Canada.



**Spiteri**



**Sawhney**

Plant scientist and biology professor **Vipen Sawhney** has been awarded the 2013 Award of Innovation for developing a commercially viable male-sterile line of tomato that promises to reduce the cost of hybrid seed production by at least 40 per cent for one of the world's most valuable crops. The award is co-sponsored by Innovation Place and the Industry Liaison Office.

**Fred Phillips**, professor and Baxter Scholar in the Edwards School of Business, will be awarded the Canadian Academic Accounting Association (CAAA) 2013 Teall Award for innovation in accounting education as well as the association's 2013 accounting case writing award. The presentations will be made at the CAAA's annual conference in late May.



**Phillips**

**MORE STORIES, PHOTOS AND COMMENTS ONLINE**

[news.usask.ca](http://news.usask.ca)

**Gardening at the U of S**  
Centre for Continuing & Distance Education  
Sponsored by the Master Gardener Program



# Hort Week

## July 6 to 12

**Over 30 gardening workshops and free horticulture tours across campus. Whether you're a beginner or experienced gardener, you'll discover new ways to make your yard look beautiful.**

**Hort Week Workshops include:**

- **Free Presentation:** 10 Tips You Didn't Know about Landscaping, by Award Winning Horticulturist Egan Davis
- Planning Your Landscape Project
- Reducing Pests Without Chemical Pesticides
- Veggie Gardening in Small Spaces
- Hands-on Plant Propagation
- Weed Identification and Control
- Stained Glass Birdbath
- South African Flowers for the Prairie Garden

**For up-to-date info visit [ccde.usask.ca/hortweek](http://ccde.usask.ca/hortweek)**

# Children's Activity Camps

## July 8 to August 30

- Fun, safe, non-competitive activity camps for children ages 5-12
- Certified and experienced instructors
- Week-long, half-day or full-day camps available
- A variety of activities to choose from, including soccer, basketball, sports and water mania, rock climbing and many more!

There's something for everyone.

**Register now at 1 (306) 966-1001.**



For more information, please visit [kinesiology.usask.ca/community-programs](http://kinesiology.usask.ca/community-programs)

# 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.



## Inside world headquarters

We thought a fitting conclusion to our year of Sneak Peeks would be right here, in the world headquarters of *On Campus News*. While we're not behind locked doors, we certainly are off the beaten path, located as we are in rental accommodation at Innovation Place.

It doesn't look like much but the space—actually just Colleen MacPherson's desk, credenza and filing cabinet—is the OCN editorial office, advertising office, circulation office, layout office and office of just about everything thing newsy at the University of Saskatchewan. Located close by are desks, credenzas and filing cabinets belonging to writers Kris Foster and Michael Robin as well as to other members of the strategic communications team.

Although it does have great views of campus, of Circle Drive North and of all flights using primary runway 09/27 in or out of the Saskatoon airport, the great advantage to the office's location is its proximity to what we call The Creative Suite, home to the designers who make us look good with every edition of the paper.

We've enjoyed sneaking around campus this year, peeking into rarely seen places. Thanks to everyone who unlocked the doors for us.



The view to the northwest from OCN world headquarters

KRIS FOSTER



Colleen MacPherson will provide a video tour of OCN world headquarters in the May 31 issue of *On Campus Now*.